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## **Mesa Teen Returns to Sports After Injury, Awarded PCH Sports Medicine Comeback Student Athlete of the Week**

(PHOENIX, Ariz.) January 29, 2010 – Dallin Parker, of Mesa, has been selected as the [PCH Sports Medicine Comeback Student Athlete of the week](#). Dallin is also eligible for the PCH Sports Medicine Comeback Student Athlete of the Year and Fan Fave Comeback Student Athlete of the Year awards, which will be handed out at an April, 2010 banquet. The awards honor outstanding young athletes who have returned to athletic competition after receiving treatment for an injury, illness, or physical limitation.

Winners of the two end-of-year awards – the PCH Sports Medicine Comeback Student Athlete of the Year and the Fan Fave Comeback Student Athlete of the Year – will receive \$2,500 and \$2,000 respectively in scholarship money. The winners' athletics program will also be given a cash prize of \$1,000.



Dallin, 17, is a senior at Mesa High School who has been involved in sports for over a decade. His favorite sport to play is football, but when he became wracked with pain in his feet the spring of 2007 his love for sports was put on hold. Dallin's growth spurt his freshman year made it difficult for his soft tissues and ligaments to keep up with the bones in his feet.

"He was in so much pain after playing any sports he had to literally be carried to my car after games and practices," said Carol Parker, Dallin's mother.

For a year and a half, Dallin slept with splints on and endured shock treatment on his heels and arches. Dallin's diagnosis of severe plantar fasciitis required surgery on both of his heels. Following the surgery he underwent intense physical therapy. He made a long and painful recovery through his sophomore year.

Dallin's dedication never wavered as he was forced to stay off his feet for six weeks, four of which were spent in a wheelchair. "I learned to appreciate healthy bodies and modern medicine," said Dallin.

Though he could not return to football right away, nothing could stop Dallin from participating in sports. As a sophomore, Dallin joined his school's swimming team and won Mesa High's Swimmer of the Year award and placed 6th at State in the 50 freestyle.

He continued to swim until the end of his junior year when he decided to return to football. In the spring of 2009, and with the support of his fellow players, Dallin asked his coach if he could try out for quarterback. Dallin excelled at summer camp and had soon earned the position as back-up quarterback. By the sixth game of the season, Dallin was in the starting line-up of every game and recently lead Mesa High to the state championships.

Upon graduating from high school, Dallin plans to leave for a mission with his church then work towards a college degree. After his experience having foot surgery, Dallin hopes to one day become a podiatrist. "I just love sports. Playing sports have taught me a lot. It has taught me hard work, dedication, loyalty, responsibility, character – and I made a lot of new friends," says Dallin. "I just love to play!"

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Dallin's Comeback story was featured on KPNX Channel 12's Friday Night Fever which follows The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien. [Click here to check out Dallin's Comeback video.](#)

***Editors Note: Digital images available upon request.***

**About the Comeback Student Athlete of the Week**

[Phoenix Children's Hospital Sports Medicine Program](#) has launched the [Comeback Student Athlete of the Year Award](#) which honors outstanding young athletes between the ages of 8 and 18 who have returned to athletic competition after receiving treatment for an injury, illness, or physical limitation. Nominees have the chance of being chosen as the "Comeback Student Athlete of the Week" and be highlighted on KPNX Channel 12's Friday Night Fever or 12 Sports Tonight. Nominees are also eligible for the PCH Sports Medicine Comeback Student Athlete of the Year and Fan Fave Comeback Student Athlete of the Year awards, which will be handed out at an April 2010 banquet. For information or to nominate yourself or someone you know visit [www.comebackathlete.azcentral.com](http://www.comebackathlete.azcentral.com). Nominations will be accepted from now through February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**About Phoenix Children's Hospital**

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's only licensed, freestanding children's hospital, providing world-class care in more than 40 pediatric specialties to our state's sickest kids. Though Phoenix Children's is one of the ten largest children's hospitals in the country, rapid population growth in Arizona means the Hospital must grow as well. Phoenix Children's recently announced 50 percent completion of a \$588 million expansion plan to bring its special brand of family-centered care to even more patients and families. The plan includes a significant upgrade to the Hospital's current campus, an aggressive physician recruitment effort, and new satellite centers in high growth areas of the Valley. For more information, visit the Hospital's Web site at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).