



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference

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Three PAC Women's Volleyball Programs Earn AVCA Team Academic Award for 2011-2012

GREENVILLE, Pa. – The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) announced today that 533 teams have earned the AVCA Team Academic Award for the 2011-2012 season. Helping the AVCA achieve a new all-time high for the award are the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) women's volleyball programs at Geneva College, Thiel College and Westminster College.

The Team Academic Award, which was initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors collegiate and high school volleyball teams that displayed excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale or a 4.10 cumulative team GPA on a 5.0 scale.

For Geneva, the defending PAC champion under the direction of 13th-year co-head coaches **Wendy Smith** and **Curt Conser**, it's their fourth consecutive year being recognized by the AVCA for their program's academic achievement. Thiel and seventh-year head coach **Steve Brewer** also earned their fourth-straight appearance on the award list, while Westminster and 20th-year head coach **Tammy Swearingen** have earned the program's first AVCA Team Academic Award.

The Team Academic Award has become one of the AVCA's fastest growing awards programs, seeing an impressive surge in teams honored over the past several years. Since the 2000-2001 season, the number of recipients has increased every single year but one, while amassing an overall 200 percent increase over the span of the last decade. Since the award's inception in 1993, the award has risen by an astounding 760 percent.

NCAA Division I recorded their highest-ever total number of recipients, honoring 102 programs while Division II easily surpassed last year's record of 57 winners with 67 this year. Division III also set a new record with 90 winners and the high school division increased their all-time high of 192 recipients to 220.

Founded in 1955, the Presidents' Athletic Conference continues its mission of promoting intercollegiate athletics and the pursuit of academic excellence. Consisting of 10 select private institutions in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky, the PAC remains a unique organization in this day of high pressure intercollegiate athletics. With academics at the center of each member's philosophy, the PAC is built on the principle that an athletic program is a part of college life, but not an entity in itself. The PAC annually crowns champions in 19 sports (10 men, nine women).

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with a member of the PAC staff, please email or call **Kevin Fenstermacher** (fenstermacher@pacathletics.org, 724-456-7897).