



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference

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MWC, PAC Commissioners Announce "Wager" on Outcome of Super Bowl XLV

WEXFORD, Pa. – With Super Bowl XLV approaching between the Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers this weekend, two NCAA Division III conference commissioners with ties to the two participating teams will have a personal stake in the outcome.

Chris Graham, commissioner of the Midwest Conference (MWC) based in Ripon, Wisconsin, and **Joe Onderko**, executive director of the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) based in the north hills of Pittsburgh, have reached an agreement on a friendly "wager" based on the Super Bowl outcome. The commissioner whose local team loses the Super Bowl on Sunday will have to wear the winning team's jersey to the NCAA Division III Commissioners summer meeting in Indianapolis this June. A Pittsburgh win will result in Graham sporting a Steeler jersey at the meeting, while a Green Bay victory means that Onderko will don Packer green and yellow this summer.

"I have a tremendous amount of professional respect for Joe and Steeler fans, but his underestimation of the Green Bay Packers demonstrates his lack of sound judgment," stated Graham. "One must appreciate that championship-caliber professional football originates in the one-and-only Titletown. We will be happy to provide a cheesehead for Joe to wear to accent his jersey this summer."

"While Steeler fans certainly appreciate and respect the great history of the Packer franchise, there is little doubt in the minds of Pittsburghers who will prevail this Sunday," retorted Onderko. "I have every confidence that my good friend and colleague Chris Graham will look tremendous wearing his black and gold ensemble this summer. For good measure, we may even throw in a "Terrible Towel" for him to twirl during critical points of our meeting."

The commissioners each have an additional reason beyond geography to support their local team, as each Super Bowl finalist holds training camp annually at a member institution of the respective conferences. The Packers have held camp annually at MWC member Saint Norbert College in DePere, Wisc., since 1958. Meanwhile, the Steelers have called PAC member Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., home for training camp since 1966, making the Catholic, liberal arts colleges the two oldest continuously operating training camps in the National Football League.

The Midwest Conference is an NCAA Division III organization comprised of 10 private, liberal arts institutions in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin which sponsors 20 championship sports for over 3000 student-athletes annually. The modern-era Midwest Conference was created in the spring of 1994 with the merger of the Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference, which had been sponsoring men's championships since 1921, and the Midwest Athletic Conference for Women, which was formed to conduct women's championship competition in 1977. Conference members believe that intercollegiate athletics provide unique and valuable experiences in the total educational program, contributing significantly to the development of the individual students and providing excellent opportunity for their growth, self-realization, and the fulfillment of personal potential.

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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