



# SPORTS NEWS

**Presidents' Athletic Conference**

8500 Brooktree Road, Suite 130

Wexford, PA 15090

Phone - (724) 933-4630

Fax - (724) 933-4635

E-Mail: [onderko@pacathletics.org](mailto:onderko@pacathletics.org)

Web: [www.pacathletics.org](http://www.pacathletics.org)

FOR RELEASE: January 9, 2011

## **PAC Women's Basketball Teams Wearing Patches in Memory of Kristen Zawacki**

WEXFORD, Pa. – The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) will honor the memory of late Saint Vincent College women's basketball coach **Kristen Zawacki** by having all 10 PAC women's basketball teams wear memorial patches on their uniforms for the remainder of the 2010-11 season.

The patches, which were first worn by the Lady Bearcats on Thursday against Geneva, employ the letters "KZ". The Saint Vincent patches are in black & white, while the rest of the conference sports patches in the Saint Vincent school colors of green & gold.

"This has been an extremely difficult time for everyone at Saint Vincent, so our athletic directors and women's basketball coaches felt this would be an appropriate way to honor Kristen's memory while also supporting our conference partner," said PAC executive director **Joe Onderko**. "We hope having all 10 PAC teams wear these patches for the remainder of the season will be a reminder for everyone to continue to keep the Zawacki family, the Lady Bearcat program and the entire Saint Vincent community in their thoughts and prayers."

Zawacki, who was found dead in her home on December 25, 2010 at the age of 52, was the only head coach in the 28-year history of the Lady Bearcat basketball program. She amassed a 512-276 career record, one of just 13 coaches in the nation to enter the 2010-11 season with at least 500 career wins. In addition to her achievements on the basketball sidelines, she was also integral in establishing the school's softball team in 1985, while she successfully guided the school's athletic department during her tenure as Associate Athletic Director.

Zawacki's achievements with the basketball program included being named NAIA District 18 Coach of the Year seven times, as well as the top coach in the American Midwest Conference three times. She was selected to the Saint Vincent College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

As Associate Athletic Director, Zawacki oversaw day-to-day operations of 17 of the school's varsity sports, and the athletic department blossomed. Ten new varsity sports were added to the campus under her watch, while she was integral in the complete 2004 remodeling of the Robert S. Carey Center. Along with Athletic Director Fr. Myron Kirsch and Assistant AD Sue Hozak, Zawacki also played a large role in helping the school successfully complete the transition from the NAIA to the NCAA Division-III level, as Saint Vincent was granted full NCAA membership in 2010.

Founded in 1955, the Presidents' Athletic Conference continues its mission of promoting inter-collegiate 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).

#jmo#