



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference

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PAC To Award 2012 Championships in Men's Tennis, Men's & Women's Golf This Week

NEW WILMINGTON, Pa. – The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) will sponsor three spring sport championships at neutral sites during the coming week.

On Friday-Saturday (April 20-21), the **2012 PAC Men's Tennis Championships** will take place at the Pennbriar Athletic Club in Erie, Pa., with play beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day. On Monday-Tuesday (April 23-24), the **2012 PAC Men's & Women's Golf Championships** will take place at Cedarbrook Golf Club in Belle Vernon, Pa., with tee times beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday and 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday. There is no admission charge to either event. The team champions in both men's tennis and men's golf will each receive the PAC's automatic bids to the 2012 NCAA Division III Championships.

Grove City College is the overwhelming men's tennis favorite heading into the weekend event, which is a flighted tournament with scores based on singles and doubles victories by team members. The Wolverine netters of veteran head coach Joe Walters are in search of their 21st consecutive conference title. Grove City again rolled through the conference regular season schedule and enters the tournament with an overall mark of 10-2, including a perfect 7-0 mark against PAC competition. GCC will be led by freshman **Peter Riley** at first singles, followed by a deep, talented group led by senior **Scott Yanak** and junior **Caleb Fuller**.

Pushing the Wolverines will be Saint Vincent College, which was the PAC runner-up a year ago and finished 6-1 in league action this spring led by senior **Dan Chirdon** and a young but talented group of underclassmen paced by freshman **Tony Costantino**. Westminster was third in the PAC at 5-2 this spring and is led by senior **Drew Trifelos**. In individual competition, other players to watch include Thomas More senior **Andrew Hetzer** (the PAC first singles runner-up in 2011) and Waynesburg junior **Jon Anderson** (All-PAC second team at fourth singles last season).

Both the men's and women's golf championships are 36-hole events (18 holes each day), which added to the 36-hole results from the 2011 PAC Fall Golf Invitational will provide a 72-hole team score that will determine the 2011-12 PAC golf team champions. Individual All-PAC men's & women's golf honors will be determined exclusively by the top 36-hole scores at the championship this week.

On the men's side, defending PAC champion Washington & Jefferson led by head coach **Sean Dove** fired a 36-hole fall total of 305-295-600 at Oak Tree CC and leads second place Saint Vincent (294-311-605) by five strokes heading into the spring championship rounds. W&J is paced by sophomores **Colin Izzo** and **Brian Omslaer**, while the Bearcats are led by sophomore **Sam Cline**, who was medalist at the PAC Fall Invitational with a 68-77-145. Other players expected to be in the mix include **Bryan Smith** of Thiel (PAC Fall Invitational runner-up with 70-77-147) and freshman **Seth Johnston** of Grove City (PAC Fall Invitational third place with 70-78-148).

Women's golf remains very tight heading into this week's 36-hole event. Westminster fired a 36-hole fall total of 381-377-758 to lead perennial power Washington & Jefferson (383-377-760) by just two strokes heading into the spring, with defending PAC champion Grove City (393-390-783) still in the hunt. GCC freshman **Esther Durling** ran away from the field in the fall with an 81-82-163 to capture individual medalist honors by 17 strokes. Other top players to watch include **Jennifer Suder** of W&J, **Pam Bonneau** of Westminster and Waynesburg sophomore **Madison Presto**.

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) as a member of NCAA Division III.