



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference
Joe Onderko, Executive Director
8500 Brooktree Road, Suite 130
Wexford, PA 15090
(724) 933-4630 FAX (724)933-4635
E-mail: onderko@pacathletics.org
Web: www.pacathletics.org

For Immediate Release – March 16, 2007

Westminster's Thomas, W&J's Koch Named PAC SAAC Scholar-Athletes of the Month

WEXFORD, PA. – The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) has selected **Brittany Thomas** of Westminster College and **Jon Koch** of Washington & Jefferson as the PAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Scholar-Athletes of the Month for February, 2007.

Thomas, a senior on the Westminster women's swimming and diving team, finished the month by winning three individual titles at the 2007 PAC Championship. She took home conference titles in the 500, 1000, and 1650-yard freestyle events. Her 60 points at the championship helped the Titans win their second consecutive PAC team title. Academically, Thomas holds a 3.609 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) as an elementary education major, and has been named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, and is listed among *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.

Koch, a senior guard on the President men's basketball team, finished February averaging 17.4 points, 4.0 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game. After leading W&J to a berth in the PAC championship game, Koch was named the 2007 PAC Player of the Year and was an All-PAC First Team selection on February 26. In the classroom, he maintains a 3.16 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) majoring in business.

Other female nominees included junior basketball player **Lisa Mitchell** of Bethany and junior track and field athlete **Kelli Gee** of Washington & Jefferson. Other male nominees were junior basketball player **Brody Jackson** of Bethany and senior swimmer **Pat Smith** of Westminster.

Each month, SAAC members from each PAC institution are eligible to nominate two junior or senior varsity student athletes (one male, one female) from their school. All PAC Scholar-Athlete nominations must be in season, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and be actively involved in their campus community.

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). In 2005-06, the conference had 17 teams represent the conference in postseason play, including 15 in NCAA championship events. The PAC is scheduled to receive automatic qualification (AQ) status for NCAA team championships in the 2007-08 academic year.

#jmo#