



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

Web: www.pacathletics.org

FOR RELEASE: June 23, 2011

Finley, Bell named PAC SAAC Scholar-Athletes of the Month for June, 2011

WEXFORD, Pa. – The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) announced today that **Desiree Finley (Nanticoke, Pa./Hanover Area H.S.)** of Bethany College and **Ryan Bell (New Wilmington, PA/ Wilmington Area H.S.)** of Westminster College have been named Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Scholar-Athletes of the Month for June 2011.

Finley just completed her collegiate career as a student-athlete at Bethany as a member of the track & field, swimming, and cross country teams and was named the school's Female Senior Athlete of the Year for 2011. As a four-year member of the track program, she earned seven All-PAC honors in her career, including four as a senior. Finley broke school records in the pole vault and 400 hurdles. In 2011, she qualified for the ECAC Championships in the 100 and 400 hurdles. Overall, she qualified for ECACs on nine separate occasions during her career. Finley set five school records in swimming and won three PAC Diving Championships in her career (1-meter and 3-meter in 2007/1-meter in 2008). She also earned Honorable Mention All-PAC laurels in the 3-meter dive in 2008. A four-year member of the cross country team, she finished 15th at the PAC Championships in 2007.

Finley is a physical education major who posted a 3.08 cumulative grade point average (GPA) and was on the PAC Academic Honor Roll one semester. She is also a member of Phi Delta Psi Physical Education Honor Society and the International Education Honor Society. Finley also served as member of the Bethany SAAC for one year.

Ryan Bell is a junior student-athlete at Westminster and a member of the track & field team. Bell is an NCAA All-American in the javelin after placing fourth overall at the 2011 NCAA Division III championships. He was also an All-PAC honoree in the javelin after placing second overall at the 2011 PAC Championship. Bell also placed first in multiple invitation meets this spring.

Academically, Bell is a business administration major at Westminster, where he holds a 3.67 cumulative grade point average (GPA). He is also a member of the Chapel Staff and has been active with Habitat for Humanity.

Each month, SAAC members at a PAC school nominate a student-athlete to highlight based on academic and athletic accomplishments. Honorees must be a varsity member in their respective sport(s) and in their junior or senior year. Scholar-Athletes of the Month must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and be actively involved on his or her campus community.

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).