



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference
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Westminster's Ackerman, Thiel's Brown Named PAC SAAC Scholar-Athletes of the Month

WEXFORD, Pa. – The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) has selected **Emilee Ackerman (Greensburg, Pa./Hempfield H.S.)** of Westminster College and **Kyle Brown (Meadville, Pa./Meadville H.S.)** of Thiel College as PAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Scholar-Athletes of the Month for December, 2006.

Ackerman, a junior on the Westminster College women's basketball team, finished the month averaging 18.0 points per game and 5.5 rebounds per game. In December she shot nearly 60% from the field and 75% from the free throw line, as the Titans went 4-1 overall and 1-0 in PAC play. Ackerman also earned PAC and ECAC Player of the Week honors for the month. In the classroom she holds a 3.459 cumulative grade-point average as an elementary education major, and has been to the PAC Academic Honor Roll. On campus, she is a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, Student Life and Athletic Council, the varsity golf team and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Ackerman also volunteers at East Lawrence Elementary School and Westminster Preschool.

Brown, a senior on the Thiel College wrestling team, is a three-year starter at heavyweight. He has posted a 23-5 record this season and is a three-time PAC Wrestler of the Week. Brown was 10-2 in December, and is ranked eighth in the latest Brute-Adidas National Wrestling Coaches Association Division III individual rankings. Academically, Brown maintains a 3.3 cumulative GPA majoring in physics, and has been named to the Dean's List three times and has also been selected as a three-time National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) as a Scholar All-American.

Other nominees included junior swimmer **Erin Staniech** of Bethany, senior basketball player **Chris Stephens** of Bethany and senior swimmer **Ryan Trunk** 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 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). 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.

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