



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference

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Grove City College to Host 2012 PAC Swimming & Diving Championship on February 15-18

WEXFORD, Pa. - The **2012 Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Swimming & Diving Championships** will take place at the James E. Longnecker Competition Pool on the campus of Grove City College in Grove City, Pa., this **Wednesday-Saturday, February 15-18, 2012**. The championship is part of the 2012 Grove City Longnecker Invitational, an 11-school event that includes both the PAC Championships (six schools) as well as the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Championships (five schools).

The championships begin on Wednesday evening (Feb. 15) with diving preliminaries beginning at 7:30 p.m. On both Thursday and Friday (Feb. 16-17), preliminary rounds will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the consolation and championship finals beginning at 6 p.m. On Saturday (Feb. 18), the preliminary rounds will again begin at 10 a.m., followed by the consolation and championship finals beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Grove City is the four-time defending champion for men's swimming & diving and the three-time defending champion for women's swimming & diving in the PAC, as the Wolverines of head coach **Dave Fritz** are again the favorites entering the event. The GCC women's team has been ranked 12th in the most recent TYR/Collegiate Swim Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Division III Top 25 Poll, while the GCC men received votes in the poll. Top Wolverine returnees include a pair of 2011 All-PAC first team honorees and the 2011 PAC Men's & Women's Swimming Most Valuable Performers, senior **Ben Bowser** and junior **Kait Riesmeyer**.

Westminster placed second in the men's team standings and third in the women's team standings a year ago and will again battle their local rivals for the top spot. Head coach **Rob Klamut's** women's team boasts NCAA Division III All-American and three-time 2011-12 PAC Swimmer of the Week senior **Caitlin Lehberger**. On the men's side, senior **Mike Barringer**, a 2011 All-PAC first team honoree and 2011-12 PAC Swimmer of the Week, leads a talented squad.

Washington & Jefferson will join Grove City and Westminster in the running for the top spot. Earlier this year, **Mike Orstein** earned his 400th victory as head coach of the President program. Leading the W&J women will be senior **Bethany Haver**, the 2010 & 2011 PAC Women's Diving MVP and a NCAA Division III All-American. The President men are paced by senior **Michael Boutwell**, a 2011-12 PAC Swimmer of the Week.

Saint Vincent, Chatham and Bethany will all look to move into the PAC "top tier" this week with strong performances. The Bearcats will be aiming to improve upon the fourth-place finish they achieved last year. Top swimmers for head coach **Josh Gurekovich** include sophomore **Alyssa Taylor** and freshman **Joe Woodman**. The Cougars of interim head coach **Gina Mattucci** are led by senior **Lyndsay Minnich**. New Bison head coach **David Dow** will look to senior **Sara Reass** and freshman **Austin Williams** as top point scorers.

For the fourth consecutive year, the PAC Swimming & Diving Championships will be broadcast live via video webcast. Links to the free video webcast, as well as for live results and for the invitational psych sheet, will be available on the PAC website at www.pacathletics.org and the Longnecker Invitational website at www.gccinvitational.com. Admission to the PAC Championship Longnecker Invitational is \$6 for finals, \$4 for preliminaries and \$4 for heat sheets. No conference passes are accepted at PAC Championship events.

Founded in 1955, the Presidents' Athletic Conference continues its mission of promoting intercollegiate athletics and the pursuit of academic excellence. Consisting of 12 select private institutions (10 full members, two football affiliate members) in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, 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.

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