



# 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](mailto:onderko@pacathletics.org)

Web: [www.pacathletics.org](http://www.pacathletics.org)

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## **Washington & Jefferson to Host 2012 PAC Wrestling Championship on Friday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.**

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – The Henry Memorial Center in Washington, Pa. will serve as the site of the 2012 PAC Wrestling Championships, hosted by Washington & Jefferson College this Friday, Feb. 10, beginning at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for non-W&J students, while Washington & Jefferson students are admitted free with a valid college ID.

Two-time defending PAC champion Waynesburg University will look to defend its conference crown, but will face stiff competition from 2011 runner-up Thiel College and the host Presidents. The Yellow Jackets, led by 2011 PAC Coach of the Year **Ron Headlee**, enters the championship coming off a thrilling 18-17 PAC dual victory over the Tomcats in Greenville on Wednesday, Feb. 1. The two teams actually finished the match tied at 17-17, but WU earned the win via Criteria 2 (most falls), based on a pin fall by senior 157-pounder **Garett Johnston**.

In addition to Johnston, a three-time PAC Wrestler of the Week this season who enters the championship with a 29-3 overall record, Waynesburg will be led by junior 125-pounder **Alex Crown**, who captured the PAC 125-pound title in each of his first two seasons and is 21-6 overall in 2011-12. Junior 184-pounder **Cody Catalina** (20-9 in 2011-12) and sophomore 165-pounder **Sam Lombardo** (21-8) are also expected to make an impact for the Yellow Jackets as they seek their third straight PAC championship.

Prior to Waynesburg's current two-year run, Thiel had won 10 consecutive PAC wrestling titles and would like nothing better than a return to the PAC pinnacle. Veteran head coach **Craig Thurber**'s squad will be paced by senior 133-pounder **Corey Brown**, a three-time defending PAC champion and NCAA Division III All-American who was ranked first in the nation at his weight earlier this season by the [D3Wrestle.com](http://D3Wrestle.com) website. Brown enters the meet with a 27-1 overall record. Other Tomcats to watch include senior 184-pounder **Patrick Morris** (21-7) and the freshman duo of 174-pounder **Jacob Lowry** (21-5) and 141-pounder **Sean Byham** (19-13).

Washington & Jefferson, while lacking the overall team depth of the top two programs, nonetheless boasts several individuals capable of claiming weight class titles and All-PAC honors. First-year President head coach **Tommy Prairie** will see his squad paced by senior heavyweight **Taylor Potts** (31-10), who was a PAC champion as a freshman and became just the fourth W&J wrestler in history to win 30+ matches in a season in 2011-12. Sophomore 165-pounder **David Dibenedetto** (24-11) is joined by freshman **Josh Etzel** (19-3) at 141 pounds and senior 133-pounder **Zach Cecchetti** (15-15), a former PAC champion at 125, as the top W&J challengers.

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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