



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference

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PAC SAAC Honors Pair as September 2005 PAC Scholar-Athletes of the Month

NEW WILMINGTON, Pa. - The Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) of the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) has honored a pair of conference student-athletes as PAC SAAC Scholar-Athletes of the Month. Bethany senior cross country runner **Ken Hopper (Charleston, WV/George Washington H.S.)** and Westminster junior volleyball player **Katie McDermott (Austintown, OH/Austintown Fitch H.S.)** are the men's and women's honorees for September 2005.

Hopper was the top runner for the Bison in three of the team's four invitationals in September. He was named PAC Men's Runner of the Week on Sept. 12 after finishing as the top Division III runner (ninth in a 71-runner field) at the Thiel Invitational on Sept. 10. Academically, Hopper maintains a 3.67 grade-point average majoring in economics.

McDermott led the Lady Titan volleyball team to an 11-8 record (1-0 PAC) in September, posting totals of 163 kills, 27 assists, 18 service aces, 81 digs and a team-high 71 blocks. In the classroom, she holds a 3.54 grade-point average majoring in history.

The PAC SAAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month award is given monthly to one male and one female conference student-athlete for their academic and athletic accomplishments. One nomination is allowed from each of the seven current PAC schools: Bethany, Grove City, Thiel, Thomas More, Washington & Jefferson, Waynesburg and Westminster. The awards are then voted on by PAC SAAC representatives from each institution.

Founded in 1955, the Presidents' Athletic Conference continues its mission of promoting intercollegiate athletics and the pursuit of academic excellence. 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 2004-05, the conference had 18 teams represent the conference in postseason play, including 12 in NCAA championship events. The conference is scheduled to receive automatic qualification (AQ) status for NCAA championships in the 2007-08 academic year.

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