



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference

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Westminster College to Host 2011 Men's & Women's Cross Country Championship on October 29

WEXFORD, Pa. – Westminster College will serve as the host institution and site of the 2011 PAC Men's & Women's Cross Country Championships, to be held this Saturday, October 29 in New Wilmington, Pa. The women's race begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the men's race at 11:30 a.m. Admission is free.

On the men's side, the Saint Vincent Bearcats snapped Grove City's 19-year run as PAC champion at the 2010 PAC Championship hosted by Waynesburg and are again the favorites heading into Saturday's race. The Bearcat harriers of head coach **Andy Herr** are currently ranked seventh in the most recent NCAA Division III Mideast Region rankings by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). Top Saint Vincent runners to watch Saturday include senior **Kevin Wanichko** (PAC Runner of the week on September 19) and sophomore **Chansler Poole** (2010 NCAA Division III national qualifier).

In the race for the men's individual title, two runners expected to be at or near the front of the pack are Thiel senior **Richard Peterson** and Washington & Jefferson junior **Scott Ryan**. Peterson earned PAC Runner of the Week laurels twice, on September 6 after capturing the Geneva 5-kilometer event and on October 6 after a sixth-place finish in a 133-runner field at the Carnegie Mellon Invitational in Pittsburgh. Ryan is a three-time PAC Runner of the Week honoree who captured the 96-runner Waynesburg Invitational on September 10 as well as the 85-runner Pitt-Greensburg Invitational on October 1.

The women's team race has every team gunning for perennial power Grove City, as the Wolverines won their 24th consecutive conference crown at the 2010 PAC championship at Waynesburg. GCC, led by head coach **Sean Severson**, is currently ranked eighth in the NCAA Division III Mideast Region by the USTFCCCA. The Wolverine women's harriers will be led by junior **Ella Smith**, who placed second overall at the 2010 PAC Championship.

In individual competition, Saint Vincent senior **Ivette Mejia** closes her stellar conference career Saturday as the overwhelming favorite to beat. Mejia captured the 2010 PAC individual title by nearly 30 seconds and is a four-time PAC Runner of the Week this season with multiple invitational individual titles to her credit. Other top runners to watch include Washington & Jefferson freshman **Kristen Galligan**, a two-time PAC Runner of the Week this fall, and Westminster senior **Jennifer Krueger**, who broke Westminster school records in the 5K and 6K this season.

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) as a member of NCAA Division III.

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