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Bucknell's Freeman named men's swimming & diving Scholar-Athlete

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Patriot League Executive Director **Carolyn Schlie Femovich** announced Thursday that Bucknell University senior **Adam Freeman** (Barrington, Ill./Barrington) has been named the 2005 Scholar-Athlete of the Year for men's swimming & diving.

Freeman, a diver, competed for a Bucknell team that finished fourth at the Patriot League Championship this year. On the boards, he picked up a second place finish in the one-meter and a fourth place finish in the three-meter. Over the course of the regular season, he tallied seven first place finishes and set school records for both diving events. Freeman closed out the campaign with a 21st-place showing at the NCAA Zone "A" Diving Championship.

Freeman was named the Patriot League and ECAC Male Diver of the Week on Feb. 14, and he was also selected to the All-Patriot League second team.

This is his second Scholar-Athlete award, as he previously took home the honor in 2003.

He will return to Lewisburg, Pa., next year for his fifth year, made possible by a medical redshirt.

But it is primarily for his academic achievements that Freeman is being honored. The mechanical engineering/economics major holds a 3.60 grade-point average. Among some of his credentials are memberships with the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He has been chosen to three separate honor societies at Bucknell.

American's **Val Fomenko**, Army's **Ricky Babbitt**, Holy Cross' **Kevin Mullaney**, Lafayette's **Greg Van Volkenburg**, Lehigh's **Tom Gilbert** and Navy's **Kevin Teague** were also in contention for the award.

To be eligible for this award, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 grade-point average and be a starter or key reserve on his or her team. Freshmen are not eligible. Following a nomination process, the sports information directors at each of the eight institutions along with the Patriot League Media Relations staff vote to determine the winner.

The Patriot League will announce its winter and spring academic honor rolls following the conclusion of the spring semester. At that time, scholar-athletes for baseball, softball, men's & women's lacrosse, men's & women's tennis, men's golf, women's rowing and men's & women's outdoor track & field will be announced. The League's fall academic honor roll contained 501 student-athletes.

The Patriot League, an NCAA Division I athletics conference founded on the principle of admitting athletes who are academically representative of their class, is in its second decade of academic and athletic excellence. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of the undergraduate experience. A successful Division I-AA football conference since 1986 and an all-sport conference since 1990, membership includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy, while seven additional institutions hold associate membership. Patriot League member institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation, graduating alumni who are well prepared for life with the ability to make meaningful contributions to their community and society in general. In the most recent NCAA Graduation Rate Report of student-athletes, the Patriot League ranked FIRST among NCAA Division I conferences.