



Today's Scholar-Athletes - Tomorrow's Leaders

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Date: April 26, 2006
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American's Thiel named Patriot League Women's Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Sophomore holds a 3.50 grade point average in Language and Area Studies.

Center Valley, Pa. - American sophomore swimmer **Meghan Thiel** (Arlington, Va./Yorktown) was named the Patriot League Women's Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year as voted on by the League's media relations directors.

Thiel is a Language and Area Studies major and owns a 3.50 cumulative grade point average.

In 2006 Thiel was named the Swimmer of the Meet at the conference Championship and to the Patriot League Swimming and Diving All-League First-Team. During the Championship the sophomore won the 200, 500 and 1,650-yard freestyle events. She also qualified for the NCAA Championship in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle events, while setting new Patriot League records. This season also saw Thiel set new American school records in all three events.

Thiel was also named the Co-Swimmer and Rookie of the Meet at the 2005 Patriot League Championship.

To be eligible for the Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade point average and be a starter or key player in his/her sport. Freshmen are not eligible for this honor.

The Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year for each individual sport comprises the pool of nominees for the Patriot League Male and Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year given out in the summer. One male and one female are selected for this honor..

Others nominated for this award were: **Chelsea Haviland** (Army), **Rebecca Schefter** (Bucknell), **Laura Gray** (Lehigh) and **Jamie Call** (Navy).

The Patriot League, which was founded on the principles of admitting athletes who are academically representative of their class, is in its second decade of academic and athletic excellence. Participation in athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of the undergraduate experience. The Patriot League, which began as a successful Division I-AA football conference in 1986 and became an all-sport conference in 1990, includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy as full members and three associate members. These institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation and their alumni have played leadership roles in the shaping of our country. In the most recent NCAA Graduation Rate Report of student-athletes, the Patriot League ranked FIRST among NCAA Division I conferences.