



Today's Scholar-Athletes ~ Tomorrow's Leaders

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Navy's Zahalka Voted Patriot League Women's Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Zahalka joins two other Mids as academic award winners.

Center Valley, Pa. – Navy sophomore Kelly Zahalka was selected as the 2006-07 Patriot League Women's Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year it was announced on Wednesday by Patriot League Executive Director Carolyn Schlie Femovich. Zahalka is the third Mid to win this award in Patriot League history.

Zahalka has obtained a 4.00 grade-point average in all three semesters she has completed at Navy, ranking second in her class. The history major has been named to the Superintendent's List in each of her first three semesters and was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars in the fall of 2006.

After winning three individual events and two relay titles at the 2007 Patriot League Swimming and Diving Championship, Zahalka was named the Patriot League Women's Swimmer of the Meet. She was victorious in the 200-yard individual medley (IM), 400-yard IM and the 200-yard butterfly, swimming the latter two events in Patriot League meet record times. Both of her gold medal relay teams, 400-yard and 800-yard freestyle, set Patriot League meet record times as well. Her times in both the 400 IM and 800 freestyle relay were also Patriot League overall and Navy school records.

During the regular season, she won nine of her 11 butterfly races and posted a 12-0 record in the individual medley events.

Other Mids that have won the Patriot League Women's Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year award were Heather Davies (1993) and Allison Moon (2004).

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 awards given out over the summer. One male and one female are selected for this honor.

"Today's Scholar-Athletes, Tomorrow's Leaders" – The Patriot League continually demonstrates that student-athletes can excel at both academics and athletics without sacrificing its high standards. The Patriot League's athletic success is achieved while its member institutions remain committed to its founding principle of admitting and graduating student-athletes that are academically representative of their class. Participation in athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of a well-rounded education.

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