



Today's Scholar-Athletes - Tomorrow's Leaders

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Patriot League Announces Golf Scholar-Athlete Of The Year

Billy Hurley Is The Second-Straight Navy Player To Capture The Honor

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Navy senior **Billy Hurley** (Leesburg, Va.) continued to add to his trophy case when he was selected by the Patriot League sports information directors as the 2004 Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Hurley is a four-time All-League performer who was medalist honors at the 2004 PL Championship. He finished second in the PL Championship three-straight years prior to winning Player of the Year honors this season.

A senior quantitative economics major with a 3.71 cumulative grade point average, Hurley also recently earned second team Academic All-America recognition by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). He is the second-straight Midshipman to win the PL Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, joining 2003 honoree **Brian Crum**. Hurley is one of 24 golfers named to the 2004 Patriot League Spring Academic Honor Roll.

This season, Hurley boasted a 70.53 stroke average in 13 tournaments. He captured medalist honors six times and finished in the Top 10 in 11 events. He competed in the NCAA East Regional championship at Yale, finishing in a tie for 14th place with a four-over-par 214. During his career, he won seven of 50 tournaments, finished in the Top Five 25 times and in the Top 10 31 times.

He won the 2004 Byron Nelson Award, presented to a graduating senior for excellent play during his career, character and integrity. He has also been named to the 2004 Palmer Cup team, which is a competition against top European collegiate players similar to the Ryder Cup. Hurley was also on the watch list for the 2004 Ben Hogan Award, presented to the top collegiate player.

On campus, Hurley was presented the Thompson Trophy Cup for the Midshipman who has done the most to promote athletics at the Naval Academy. He is also competing in several national amateur championship tournaments this summer prior to his six-month deployment at sea aboard the USS Gettysburg.

To be nominated for the Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore starter or significant reserve on his team with a 3.20 cumulative grade point average.

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.

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