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Bucknell's Wible honored as Patriot League Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Junior first baseman continues to earn recognition for the 2005 season

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Bucknell junior **Lauren Wible** (Dover, Pa./Dover) earned this year's Patriot League Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year honor after an outstanding season in the classroom and on the field. Wible adds the award to her many other recognitions she earned this year and joins four former Bison as softball scholar-athletes.

Wible holds a 3.76 cumulative grade point average and is a Patriot League Honor Roll member. The English major has made the Dean's List every semester of her college career and is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She was also placed on the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America Second Team.

The junior first baseman etched her name in both the Patriot League and NCAA record books this season, coming up with an amazing 2005 campaign. She was crowned the League's and NCAA's batting champion for her .524 average, which is the best single-season mark in the Patriot League and 11th-best Division I batting average of all-time. She also set Bucknell single-season records for doubles (15) and home runs (8) and is currently her school's career leader in long balls with 14. In the final NCAA statistics she was second in doubles and third in slugging percentage (.903) and ended the season with a 16-game hitting streak intact.

Wible was named Patriot League Player of the Year, as well as a First Team All-League, after collecting 54 hits, batting in 31 and scoring 29 runs. She was also named to the NFCA All-Mid-Atlantic First Team, representing Bucknell for the first time since 1999.

To be eligible for this 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, 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.