

Purr-fect Ten

Thiel wrestling claims 10th consecutive title



The Thiel College wrestling team nailed down its 10th consecutive Presidents' Athletic Conference title on February 14 at Waynesburg University. Thiel has now won 17 of the past 19 PAC titles.

The Tomcats captured six of the 10 weight classes en route to the victory.

"I'm just proud of our coaches and our guys for putting together a great night," said **Craig Thurber**, Thiel head wrestling coach. "It was special just to cap our season with a championship, but to earn our 10th title in a row is just a great accomplishment."

Freshman **Corey Brown** was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler after capturing the 133-pound title with a pair of victories. Coach of the Year honors went to Thurber.

Aside from Brown, Thiel's **Alec Miller**, **Greg Hogan**, **Matt Lowry** and **Patrick Morris** all won their respective weight classes with 2-0 nights.

The lone exception was **Mason Stewart**, who earned a victory thanks to NCAA bonus point criteria, after compiling a 1-1 record in the tournament.

Thiel's stranglehold on the league crown seemed precarious at best going into the 2009 PAC tournament. Waynesburg went 10-4 during the regular season, including a 22-15 win over Thiel in January. The Yellow Jackets also placed ahead of the 'Cats in the John Summa Memorial Tournament held earlier in the year. But the Tomcats laid any doubts to rest early regarding their PAC supremacy, as the blue and gold won four of the first five weight classes. Waynesburg earned wins at 174 pounds and 197 pounds.



Coach Craig Thurber (left) with Joe Onderko, executive director of the PAC, accepts Coach of the Year honors.

Five Student-Athletes Earn All-America Status

Five Thiel student-athletes were recognized among the best in the nation this winter when they achieved NCAA Division III All-America status. Four members of the Tomcat track & field team—**Alex Eaton**, **Dorran Coley**, **Deighton Williams** and **Ethan Rowe**—as well as wrestler **Corey Brown** represented Thiel well on their sports' biggest stages.

The men's track and field team capped off an impressive indoor season with four all-Americans and a ninth-place finish at the 2009 Division III Indoor Track and Field National Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., on March 14.

Headlining the group was junior 400-meter specialist Eaton, who took home second place with a time of 48.78, earning him his first indoor all-America recognition. Eaton finished behind defending 400-meter champion Hanneus Ollison from McMurry University.

National championship mainstay Coley placed third in the 55-meter high hurdles with a personal best and Thiel College record-breaking time of 7.48. Coley has earned all-America status in two out of his four trips to indoor nationals—the fifth time overall he has earned such an honor.

Eaton and Coley later joined forces with 4x400 relay teammates, Williams and Rowe, to earn more all-America recognition with a sixth-place finish.

Turning to the wrestling mat, freshman 133-pounder Brown earned a sixth-place finish in the NCAA championships on March 8, falling to top-seeded Travis Lang of Augsburg College by fall in 1:04. Brown finished with a 2-2 record in the tournament.

The loss put a cap on an impressive rookie season in which the Greenville, Pa., native compiled a 24-7 record and earned a Presidents' Athletics Conference championship—as well as the league's most valuable wrestler award and All-America status. He is the first Thiel first-year student to have earned the honor.

As a member of the 2008-09 Thiel wrestling team, Brown helped the Tomcats to a 10th-consecutive Presidents' Athletic Conference title as well as a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Midwest Regional.



Pictured above: Corey Brown receives MVP honors from Joe Onderko of the PAC. Pictured below: Dorran Coley, Deighton Williams, Alex Eaton, Ethan Rowe and Derek Workman (alternate) of the Thiel College track team.



Student-Athletes Earn Player-of-the-Week Honors

Thiel fans saw their fair share of outstanding team and individual performances over the course of the winter athletics season. This winter, three student-athletes had their efforts recognized with Player-of-the-Week accolades.

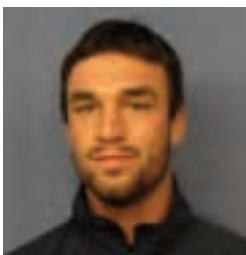


Rob Miller—Wrestling (2)

Rob Miller earned his first PAC Wrestler-of-the-Week nod of the season on November 17. Miller went 4-0 to win the 125-pound bracket at the Ursinus College Fall Brawl the previous day. The sophomore earned a pin

and a decision, leading up to a pin of Ethan Cohen of Williams College in the finals for the championship.

Miller earned his second Wrestler-of-the-Week on January 26 as he helped Thiel sweep the Mel Berry Duals on January 24. Miller turned in a four-victory performance during the event with three pins and a forfeit. That week, Miller also helped Thiel get off to a strong start against Waynesburg as he pinned Rico Borz in 2:36 before the team fell 15-22.



Alec Miller—Wrestling

Thiel freshman **Alec Miller** was named the Presidents' Athletic Conference's Wrestler of the Week on February 2. Miller's designation came a week after his brother, sophomore 125-pounder

Rob Miller, earned his second such award of the season. Miller garnered his first PAC Wrestler-of-the-Week award after earning an

8-5 decision over Washington & Jefferson College's Shaun Yackey. The win gave Thiel a lead they would not surrender in the conference win over W&J. It was Miller's eighth victory by decision on the year.



Amber Bodrick—Women's Basketball (2)

Senior forward/guard **Amber Bodrick** was named the Presidents' Athletic Conference's women's basketball Player-of-the-Week twice this season. For her December 15 appointment, Bodrick led the

Tomcats to a 2-0 week by averaging 20.5 points, 12.0 rebounds, 3.0 steals and 1.5 blocks per game in Thiel wins over PAC rival Chatham (61-41) and Hiram (51-37). She racked up a then-season-high 28 points while grabbing 13 boards in the PAC victory over the Cougars.

Bodrick earned her second PAC Player-of-the-Week honor of the season on January 26 after averaging 22.0 points, 8.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game in Tomcat wins over conference foes Grove City (54-44) and Waynesburg (57-56). She posted 23 points and seven boards in the GCC victory, then came one rebound shy of a double-double after recording 21 points and nine rebounds against the Yellow Jackets.

Bodrick Closes Out Standout Hoops Career

There are very few constants in this world, but seeing the name "Amber Bodrick" on the list of first-team, all-Presidents' Athletic Conference selections has become about as reliable as the sunrise. 2009 marks the fourth consecutive year that Bodrick has been named among the best in the PAC, the first player in Thiel history to receive such an honor.

In her 2008-09 campaign, Bodrick finished the season ranked first in the PAC in scoring (17.1 ppg) and fourth in rebounding (8.1 rpg) despite each being a career low. Those numbers, along with the fact that she is ranked sixth in steals (55) and fifth in blocked shots (31), makes it apparent that a Bodrick down year would be any other player's dream season.

If one was to open up the Thiel College women's basketball all-time record book, it would read almost

like a biography for the Ohio scoring dynamo with her name appearing in just about every top 10 list. Bodrick finishes her career with 1867 points (second all-time), 733 field goals (first all-time), 828 rebounds (tied for third), 96 blocked shots (third), 194 steals (sixth all-time) and 202 assists (ninth).

With all four of her single season scoring outputs ranking in the top 10 in Thiel College history, Bodrick is one of the most decorated scorers in Thiel College and Presidents' Athletic Conference history.

Bodrick capped off her career with a 26-point, 13-rebound explosion over the Grove City Wolverines in the first round of the PAC Tournament in February.

—Kellen Manning '07

Nypaver's Tale of Redemption

On a wintery Friday morning, most college students would still be sleeping in their beds, tired from the previous night's activities, but Dave Nypaver is not like most college students.

As I opened the doors to the desolate Paul Bush Memorial Center that Friday, I noticed a man in a baseball uniform pacing back and forth. He had beads of sweat dripping off his forehead, as if he just had the hardest workout of his life. I watched him and a few teammates begin their lifting for the day. Although the others were still working hard, I immediately noticed something different about Nypaver.

He began to walk into his own secluded corner, away from his teammates. I was baffled as to why he wouldn't want to be around them. I thought maybe he wasn't a personable guy, or he just didn't like them. But as I watched him for a few minutes I realized why he did this. Nypaver wasn't there because his coaches made him, he was there to improve. I watched him push himself to the limit with every weight he picked up.

Many people may know Dave Nypaver, but have no idea of his integrity and will. Nypaver is older than most students on Thiel's campus. The 28 year-old has already dealt with some experiences that his fellow college students won't endure for years. After high school, Nypaver attended Kent State University-Trumbull for the better half of a month. He dropped out because he felt that college wasn't right for him.

For the next six years, Nypaver bounced around from one job to the other, never finding something he truly enjoyed doing. He knew that if he didn't get a college degree his life would never change. In 2005, Nypaver enrolled at Thiel College in hopes of pursuing a career in education.

The word "dream" means to search and seek out. Nypaver has finally fulfilled his dream. He excelled since the day he stepped foot in the classroom by being recognized with *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America status. Nypaver also was named to the Dean's List eight times.

Nypaver attributes his academic success to his time management and preparation skills. For example, he usually studied for exams a week ahead, breaking every chapter into smaller sections.

Along with his academic work, Nypaver also served as senior captain for the baseball team. Last season, he earned All-PAC status, while leading the team in batting average. Nypaver managed to hit an incredible .428, which places him fourth on Thiel's



all-time list. He also hit five homeruns for the Tomcats, and batted in 42 runs, while also touching home plate 42 times.

"He is one of the hardest working men I've ever coached," says Joe Schaly, Thiel's head baseball coach. Nypaver's goals for this season are taking Thiel to a PAC championship, making a run into nationals and playing in the College World Series.

When I asked Nypaver what his biggest accomplishment at Thiel was, he simply replied: "Being here." He is so grateful for being able to come back to school and fulfill a dream he saw fading away. He takes college seriously for just that reason. He's worked hard every day for the past four years no matter the task. He truly lives life to the fullest and embraces every day like it's his last.

Nypaver will have a whole slate of honors next to his name when he graduates this year, but the only one that counts in the "real world" is his degree. Nypaver knows this well because he's been through it once already—he knows the feeling of disparity as well as greatness.

—Nina Gabrelcik '12

Editor's note: Nypaver graduated summa cum laude on May 3. He was named class salutatorian and earned departmental honors from the Education Department. The Thiel baseball team entered the PAC tournament on May 7 as the third seed, eventually losing to Washington & Jefferson College in the final.