



# SPORTS NEWS

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## **W&J Men, Thomas More Women Picked to Capture 2008-09 PAC Basketball Titles**

PITTSBURGH, Pa. - The Washington & Jefferson College men and Thomas More College women were picked to capture 2008-09 championships in the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC), according to the preseason poll released at the 2008-09 PAC Basketball Media Day at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh today. Voters in the polls included conference head coaches, sports information directors, and members of the media present at the conference media day.

In the men's poll, the Presidents of head coach **Glenn Gutierrez** narrowly finished on top of a poll which saw six of the seven teams PAC championship-eligible teams receive first place votes. W&J finished with 159 points, just in front of defending PAC champion Bethany (153), followed by Grove City (133), Thomas More (120), Thiel (96), Westminster (87) and Waynesburg (36).

"It is nice to get recognition and respect from our peers, but when you get right down to it, there is a lot of work to be done. Anyone can win this championship," said Gutierrez.

The women's poll has the Saints of fifth-year head coach **Brian Neal** comfortably ahead of the rest of the league. Thomas More, which was ranked as high as third in the nation during a 29-1 campaign last year, finished with 27 of 31 first place votes and 244 points, ahead of Washington & Jefferson (216), Bethany (175), Westminster (151), Chatham (106), Grove City (94), Thiel (86) and Waynesburg (44).

"Preseason rankings are great publicity for our program and we are humbled to be thought of so highly by the PAC coaches and media representatives," said Neal. "However, we know that this season will be a tremendous challenge and hope that we can live up to such lofty standards."

Finally, media day attendees selected the number of wins against PAC teams for the Geneva and Saint Vincent men's & women's basketball teams. The Saint Vincent and Geneva men were tabbed to win 11 and nine games, respectively, while on the women's side Geneva was tabbed for 12 wins and Saint Vincent for nine. Geneva and Saint Vincent will play a full PAC schedule in 2008-09, but as provisional members of NCAA Division III they are ineligible for the PAC title this season.

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### **Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) 2008-09 Preseason Men's Basketball Poll**

		07-08	07-08
	Points	Record	PAC
1. Washington & Jefferson (11)	159	14-14	8-4
2. Bethany (7)	153	17-11	9-3
3. Grove City (4)	133	17-10	9-3
4. Thomas More (1)	120	11-16	5-7
5. Thiel (4)	96	10-15	4-8
6. Westminster (1)	87	7-19	5-7
7. Waynesburg	36	8-17	2-10

(xx) - first place votes

Predicted record vs. PAC: Geneva - 9-7; Saint Vincent - 11-5

### **Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) 2007-08 Preseason Women's Basketball Poll**

		07-08	07-08
	Points	Record	PAC
1. Thomas More (27)	244	29-1	14-0
2. Washington & Jefferson (3)	216	23-7	11-3
3. Bethany	175	15-11	10-4
4. Westminster	151	17-11	7-7
5. Chatham	106	10-16	5-9
6. Grove City	94	11-16	5-9
7. Thiel (1)	86	7-18	4-10
8. Waynesburg	44	1-25	0-14

(xx) - first place votes

Predicted record vs. PAC: Geneva - 12-6; Saint Vincent - 9-9