



February 24, 2012

## 2011-12 Men's Basketball All-Commonwealth Conference Teams

Annville, PA - The Middle Atlantic Conference has announced the 2011-12 men's basketball All-Commonwealth Conference teams. Widener's Perry Wright earns Player of the Year, Arcadia's Travis Saltus was named Rookie of the Year, and Messiah's Rick Van Pelt won Coach of the Year.

Wright once again played solidly with his great inside presence. He is third in the league with 16.2 points per game, ninth with 6.7 rebounds per contest, 14th with 2.1 assists per game, sixth with a 73.9 free throw percentage, fourth with 2.3 steals per contest and eighth with a 36.8 three-point percentage. Wright has five double-doubles this season and four in his last eight games. During that late run, he averaged 18.3 points and 8.6 rebounds. He is the first Widener men's basketball player to receive this honor since Charles Jones was picked in 2009.

From the on-set of the 2011-12 season, first year men's basketball player Travis Saltus was given the mighty task of engineering the Knight's offense as the team's starting point guard. The Teaneck, NJ native was one of four players to make all 25 starts for the Scarlet & Grey. He averaged 8.4 points per contest, shot 44% from the floor, and led the team with 63 assists. Saltus was team high scorer in 7 games this season, netting a career-high 19 points in the team's 70-58 victory over Rosemont College on Dec. 16. He scored 14 points in four games and had double-figures in ten. His lightning quick speed ignited numerous fast breaks for the Knights, and his ability to see the entire floor guided the team as they finished shooting nearly 44% from field goal range, a remarkable improvement from previous seasons.

Messiah's Rick Van Pelt is in his ninth season as head coach of the Falcons, holding a record of 141-90 over that time. Van Pelt has led the Falcons to winning records in all but two of his seasons on the bench. He guided the Falcons to their first-ever Commonwealth Championship and NCAA Championships berth in 2005-06. Messiah returned to the NCAA Championships in 2006-07. This season, Van Pelt has led the Falcons to a 13-1 conference record and #1-seed in the Commonwealth Championships. He's accomplished this with a roster that includes only three seniors and a junior, while with five sophomores and freshmen average double-digit minutes. A former player for the Falcons and assistant coach for six seasons prior to his appointment to head coach, Van Pelt's Coach of the Year award is his second such recognition after being named Co-Coach of the Year in 2006-07.

### First Team

Position	Name	School	Year	Hometown/High School
F	Danny Brooks	Lebanon Valley	Junior	Abington, MD/Edgewood
F	Derek Hall	Albright	Senior	Northampton, PA/Northampton
G	David Fernandez	Messiah	Sophomore	Miami, FL/Florida Christian
G	Joe Meehan	Lebanon Valley	Senior	Harleysville, PA/St. Joseph's Prep

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F Perry Wright \* Widener Senior Severn, MD/Cardinal Gibbons

\* = Player of the Year

Second Team

Position	Name	School	Year	Hometown/High School
C	Jack Brennan	Widener	Senior	Stratford, NJ/Sterling
F	Michael Bradley	Lycoming	Senior	Philadelphia, PA/St. Joseph's Prep
F	Derek Mosley	Messiah	Junior	Stafford, VA/Mountain View
G	Stefan Thompson	Alvernia	Senior	Philadelphia, PA/G.A.M.P
G	Jerald Williams	Lycoming	Junior	Riverdale, MD/Bladensburg

Rookie of the Year: Travis Saltus, Arcadia

Coach of the year: Rick Van Pelt, Messiah