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Men's Basketball

1998-99 ALL-PAC TEAMS

Thiel senior Rich Williamson, the nation's third-leading rebounder, has been voted PAC Most Valuable Player by the league's coaches committee. Williamson, a leading candidate for all-American honors, led the conference in rebounding (12.3 rpg) and shooting (50.4%) and ranked third in scoring (17.2 ppg), second in steals (2.6 spg) and second in blocked shots (2.4 bpg). Grove City's first-year head coach Steve Lamie was named Coach of the Year after leading the Wolverines to a 16-8 overall record, their first PAC title in eight years and a spot in this week's ECAC championship tournament. Waynesburg, the league's runner-up, placed a conference-high three players on the PAC first and second teams.

MVP: Rich Williamson, Thiel

Coach of the Year: Steve Lamie, Grove City

Related Link

[NCAA Statistics](#)

PAC First Team	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Rich Williamson, THI	C	Sr.	6-5	Warren, OH/Warren G. Harding
Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	G	Sr.	6-2	Wellsburg, WV/Brooke
Dave Pifer, GRO	G	Jr.	6-0	Sarver, PA/Freeport
Michael Cratsley, GRO	F	Sr.	6-3	Temecula, CA/Temecula Valley
Erik Smith, WAY	C	Sr.	6-6	Greensboro, PA/Mapletown
PAC Second Team	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Mark Keener, WAY	F	Sr.	6-4	Masontown, WV/Preston County
Keith Schubert, BET	C	Fr.	6-4	Girard, OH/Girard
Ray Robinson, WAY	G	Fr.	5-10	Uniontown, PA/Uniontown
Eduardo Carrera, W&J	F	Sr.	6-2	Carolina, Puerto Rico
Brandon Ross, THI	F	Jr.	6-4	Pittsburgh, PA/Langley

WOLVERINES FALL IN ECAC QUARTERFINALS, 64-44

Penn State Behrend outshot Grove City 58% to 28% in the second half to turn a two-point halftime lead into a 20-point victory in the quarterfinal round of the ECAC Southern Championship in Erie, PA.

Senior Michael Cratsley (Temecula, CA/Temecula Valley) fired in a team-high 16 points on 7-for-12 shooting in his final game as a Wolverine. Senior Bob Ayton (Warminster, PA/William Tennent) hit 3 of 6 from the floor in his finale, including 2 of 3 from outside the arc, to finish with eight points. The rest of the squad was held to 23% shooting (7-31).

Behrend was guided by Jason Paloskey's 16 points, which included three three-pointers.

The Presidents' Athletic Conference champion Wolverines closed the season at 16-9 overall, while the Lions improved to 19-7 and advanced to the ECAC semis Saturday against Albright in Gettysburg, PA.

FINAL STANDINGS

League

Overall

	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Grove City	7	1	.875	16	9	.640
Waynesburg	6	2	.750	17	8	.680
Thiel	4	4	.500	15	10	.600
Bethany	2	6	.250	5	20	.200
Wash. & Jeff.	1	7	.125	5	17	.227

GROVE CITY CAPTURES PAC TITLE

Freshman Justin Sheppard's (Pittsburgh, PA/North Hills) reverse layup with three seconds left in regulation gave Grove City a 69-67 win at Bethany and its first Presidents' Athletic Conference title since 1990-91.

Grove City rallied from 14-point deficit (53-39) at the eleven-minute mark of the second half, outscoring the Bison 30-14 the rest of the way. A loss would have forced a tiebreaker-playoff game against Waynesburg to decide the PAC champion.

The Wolverines regained the lead with three minutes remaining after Brent Steineman's (Pickerington, OH/Wadsworth) blocked shot resulted in a three-point bucket by David Stiansen (Telford, PA/Souderton), giving Grove City a 62-61 edge. Steineman then stole the ball back from the Bison and raced the length of the court to put the Wolverines ahead by three, 64-61. Bethany's Todd McGuinness (Monroeville, PA/Gateway) converted one of two from the free-throw line before Shane Meling (Slippery Rock, PA/Slippery Rock) drilled a 12-footer to give the Wolverines a 66-62 lead. Meling's ensuing block of a Bison shot resulted in Steineman making the back end of a two-shot foul, opening the margin to 67-62 with one minute left. Bethany cut the deficit to three when Zach Graebe (Benwood, WV/Bishop Donahue) drilled two free throws with 43 ticks showing and tied the game 67-67 on Keith Schubert's (Girard, OH/Girard) three-pointer at 0:16.

Steineman finished with a team-high 14 points on 5-for-8 shooting and added four rebounds and two assists. Meling contributed 12 points, all in the second half, and grabbed five boards. Sheppard's game-winner gave him 10 points to go with five caroms. Michael Cratsley (Temecula, CA/Temecula Valley) and Dave Pifer (Sarver, PA/Freeport) also tallied 10 points apiece. Stiansen chipped in with eight points and four assists, including the game-winning dish to Sheppard.

Bethany's Jimmy Sperlazza (Wellsburg, WV/Brooke) poured in a game-high 26 points, including 22 in the second half.

Grove City, who led 25-24 at halftime, outshot the Bison 52% (26-50) to 35% (19-54).

The Wolverines, led by first-year head coach Steve Lamie, closed the regular season 16-8 overall and 7-1 in the PAC, following a 9-13, 5-5 campaign. The championship marked their fourth overall and first since winning three straight in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Last Week's Scores

Tuesday, February 23

GROVE CITY 69, BETHANY 67

Wednesday, February 24

Carnegie Mellon 95, Bethany 69

Thiel 87, Hilbert 78

Saturday, February 27

Thomas More 92, Bethany 80

PAC MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTES

NATION'S BEST: The following PAC teams and individuals rank among the best in the NCAA Division III through games of February 28:

Name/Team	Stat	D-III Rank
Rich Williamson, THI	Rebounding	3rd
Michael Cratsley, GRO	Free-Throw Percentage	7th
Andy Lazzor, WAY	Blocked Shots	8th
Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	Scoring	41st
Grove City	Field-Goal Pct. Defense	1st (all NCAA divisions)
Grove City	Scoring Defense	10th
W&J	Three-Point Shooting Pct.	10th
Waynesburg	Field-Goal Pct. Defense	11th
Waynesburg	Rebound Margin	13th

PAC Men's Basketball Team Statistics**(FINAL)**

SCORING OFFENSE	G	PTS	AVG
WAYNESBURG	25	2018	80.7
THIEL	25	1866	74.6
WASH. & JEFF.	22	1618	73.6
BETHANY	25	1803	72.1
GROVE CITY	25	1691	67.6

SCORING DEFENSE	G	PTS	AVG
GROVE CITY	25	1500	60.0
WAYNESBURG	25	1722	68.9
THIEL	25	1771	70.8
WASH. & JEFF.	22	1669	75.9
BETHANY	25	2100	84.0

SCORING MARGIN	G	AVG
WAYNESBURG	25	+11.8
GROVE CITY	25	+7.6
THIEL	25	+3.8
WASH. & JEFF.	22	-2.3
BETHANY	25	-11.9

FIELD-GOAL PERCENTAGE	G	FGM	FGA	PCT
WAYNESBURG	25	793	1630	48.7
GROVE CITY	25	615	1423	43.2
BETHANY	25	632	1500	42.1
WASH. & JEFF.	22	532	1273	41.8
THIEL	25	677	1648	41.1

FIELD-GOAL % DEFENSE	G	FGM	FGA	PCT
GROVE CITY	25	533	1469	36.3
WAYNESBURG	25	599	1576	38.0
THIEL	25	657	1484	44.3
WASH. & JEFF.	22	620	1340	46.3

BETHANY	25	764	1487	51.4
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FREE-THROW PERCENTAGE	G	FTM	FTA	PCT
GROVE CITY	25	318	444	71.6
BETHANY	25	381	560	68.0
WASH. & JEFF.	22	269	427	63.0
WAYNESBURG	25	328	523	62.7
THIEL	25	340	588	57.8

3-PT FIELD-GOAL PERCENTAGE	G	3-FGM	3-FGA	PCT
WASH. & JEFF.	22	122	295	41.4
GROVE CITY	25	143	383	37.3
BETHANY	25	160	460	34.8
THIEL	25	172	540	31.9
WAYNESBURG	25	104	341	30.5

3-PT FIELD GOALS MADE	G	3-FGM	3-FGA	AVG
THIEL	25	172	540	6.9
BETHANY	25	160	460	6.4
GROVE CITY	25	143	383	5.7
WASH. & JEFF.	22	122	295	5.5
WAYNESBURG	25	104	341	4.2

REBOUND MARGIN	G	OWN REB	OWN AVG	OPP REB	OPP AVG	MAR
WAYNESBURG	25	1163	46.5	944	37.8	+8.7
GROVE CITY	25	1008	40.3	891	35.6	+4.7
THIEL	25	1061	42.4	969	38.8	+3.6
BETHANY	25	695	27.8	885	35.4	-7.6
WASH. & JEFF.	22	694	31.6	863	39.2	-7.6

PAC Men's Basketball Individual Statistics

(FINAL)

SCORING	G	TFGM	3-FGM	FTM	PTS	AVG
Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	25	162	84	124	532	21.3
Ray Robinson, WAY	24	183	35	43	444	18.5
Rich Williamson, THI	25	173	7	76	429	17.2
Keith Schubert, BET	25	147	5	95	394	15.8
Mark Keener, WAY	22	120	21	42	303	13.8
Michael Cratsley, GRO	25	110	11	70	301	12.0
Erik Smith, WAY	25	120	0	52	292	11.7
James Smolko, THI	24	89	61	27	266	11.1
Andy Lazzor, WAY	25	122	0	33	277	11.1
Jason Fedash, W&J	22	86	10	52	234	10.6
Jeff Culp, THI	25	103	1	53	260	10.4
Eduardo Carrera, W&J	21	72	21	41	206	9.8
Brandon Ross, THI	25	87	0	59	233	9.3
Wes Edwards, W&J	22	70	35	30	205	9.3
Dave Pifer, GRO	25	79	48	24	230	9.2
Rob Strcula, WAY	19	56	26	35	173	9.1
Shane Meling, GRO	25	72	27	44	215	8.6
Brent Steineman, GRO	25	81	2	36	200	8.0
Seth Combs, BET	25	77	1	41	196	7.8
Ian Versaw, W&J	22	64	0	40	168	7.6
Lee Huffman, GRO	25	75	0	37	187	7.5

FIELD-GOAL PERCENTAGE	G	FGM	FGA	PCT
Rich Williamson, THI	25	173	343	50.4
Mark Keener, WAY	22	120	247	48.6
Ray Robinson, WAY	24	183	381	48.0

Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	25	162	346	47.0
Keith Schubert, BET	25	147	328	44.8

3-PT FIELD-GOAL PERCENTAGE	G	3-FGM	3-FGA	PCT
Nevada Smith, BET	25	39	91	42.9
Wes Edwards, W&J	22	35	84	42.0
James Smolko, THI	24	61	164	37.2
Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	25	54	149	36.2
Dave Pifer, GRO	25	48	141	34.0

3-PT FIELD GOALS MADE	G	3-FGM	AVG
James Smolko, THI	24	61	2.5
Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	25	54	2.2
Dave Pifer, GRO	25	48	1.9
Wes Edwards, W&J	22	35	1.6
Nevada Smith, BET	25	39	1.6
Ray Robinson, WAY	25	35	1.5

FREE-THROW PERCENTAGE	G	FTM	FTA	PCT
Michael Cratsley, GRO	25	70	79	88.6
Jimmy Sperlazza, BET	25	124	162	76.5
Keith Schubert, BET	25	95	139	68.3

REBOUNDING	G	REB	AVG
Rich Williamson, THI	25	307	12.3
Erik Smith, WAY	25	208	8.3
Keith Schubert, BET	25	200	8.0
Lee Huffman, GRO	25	194	7.8
Andy Lazzor, WAY	25	180	7.2
Seth Combs, BET	25	152	6.1
Mark Keener, WAY	22	125	5.7
Jeff Culp, THI	25	138	5.5

BLOCKED SHOTS	G	BLK	AVG
Andy Lazzor, WAY	25	71	2.8
Rich Williamson, THI	25	59	2.4
Erik Smith, WAY	25	35	1.4
Lee Huffman, GRO	25	29	1.2
Dean Crawford, WAY	22	16	0.7
Keith Schubert, BET	25	17	0.7
Mark Keener, WAY	22	14	0.6

ASSISTS	G	AST	AVG
Vince Manzella, THI	25	142	5.7
Rob Strcula, WAY	19	103	5.4
Mark Keener, WAY	22	80	3.6
Jon Albert, W&J	21	67	3.2

STEALS	G	STL	AVG
Vince Manzella, THI	25	71	2.8
Rich Williamson, THI	25	66	2.6
Jon Albert, W&J	21	42	2.0
Ray Robinson, WAY	24	48	2.0
Rob Strcula, WAY	19	36	1.9

[1998-99 Composite Schedule](#)

[1997-98 Final Statistics](#)

[1997-98 All-PAC Men's Basketball Teams](#)

[Back to PAC Home Page](#)