

May 17, 2012 – News Release:

## The Bethany College Connection:

Written by Wes Enns, Athletics Director, Bethany College

Photos by Cora Lynn Carey, Graphic Designer, Bethany College



### Eagles Athletics: Rising to the Challenge

The sports of Volleyball and Basketball have long histories at Bethany College, as decades of students have participated in various leagues and tournaments across Saskatchewan and Alberta, representing the college in competition and sportsmanship.

This year, Bethany's **Volleyball** teams competed in the Prairie Athletic Conference League ([pacsask.ca](http://pacsask.ca)), against college teams from around Saskatchewan. The much sought after prize is the PAC Provincial Championship - this year, held in Swift Current, hosted by Great Plains College, in November 2011. Going into this event, both the Men's and Women's Eagles teams were strong competitors, starting the year slowly, but gaining momentum throughout league play. The Men's team finished 2nd in regular season play, ending up with 7 wins and 3 losses. The Women finished 3rd, finishing their season with a 5 win - 5 loss record.



Andrew Reddekopp: All-Star Volleyball player

The provincial tournament was a tough test, with all league teams attending, bringing out the best in the athletes as they fought for every advantage and point that could be gained. On the Men's side, the Eagles progressed to the Provincial Finals, but fell in close sets to the Great Plains Sundogs, ending up with a solid 2nd place result in the PAC league. The Women's Eagles team made it to the Bronze Medal game, and went on to defeat their opposition, claiming 3rd place in PAC. Jaymie Baumann, Craig Pudlas, Kendell Wiens, and Andrew Reddekopp were honoured as All-Stars for the league. Many thanks go to Danielle Klassen and Shelley Dueck for coaching the Women's team, and Rob Braun and Wes Enns for leading the Men's squad. Thanks for a great season!

Bethany **Basketball** was strong this year as well, with more student athletes participating this year than in the recent past. This year saw the Eagles competing in two leagues: the Saskatoon-based leagues - the Men's team joining the



Chad Braun, Ellaina Brown, Braydon Jordheim

Saskatoon Senior Men's Basketball League ([srml.ca](http://srml.ca)), and the Women playing in the Saskatoon Senior Women's Basketball League ([srwl.ca](http://srwl.ca)) - and the PAC League, which consisted of a single Provincial Championship Tournament hosted by Bethany College. Saskatoon League play began in October, and continued throughout the school year, ending in late March. Due to the fact that Bethany's teams had not officially played in the city leagues before, the league placed the teams in divisions based on little information, the men ending up in the "D" division, and the women in "B1". The men's team, coached by Brendon Johnston, was very competitive in their division, and rose to the top, finishing league play in first place with a record of 12 wins and 2 losses. They continued their winning ways throughout the playoffs, and eventually succeeded in winning the SRML Championship for "D" Division. In the PAC Championships, the Eagles also won Gold, besting their rivals from Millar College in the final game to cap off a tremendous winning season. Cory Braun received MVP honours for this tournament.

Coach Tasha Fehr led the Bethany Women's team, and saw the team progress and grow into a solid unit throughout the year. In SRWL play, the women had tough match-ups for each game, playing older and more seasoned opposition.

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Still, the women fought hard, with determination and persistence. Though their record in the city league doesn't show it, the women played better and better as the season progressed, finishing strongly and competently. In the PAC Championships, however, their season of hard work paid off, allowing the girls to see and sense their growth and development as a team. With each game, the Eagles gained confidence, leading them to the Gold Finals. Though they fell to a strong Millar team, the Bethany Eagles' season can be counted as a success as well - both in terms of their result in PAC (2nd place), and their overall sense of accomplishment as a team.

In summary, the Eagles Volleyball and Basketball teams at Bethany College have had excellent seasons, and have seen tremendous and varied competition. It has been very rewarding to see the athletes grow and mature in their skills, both as team members, and as sports enthusiasts. If this year is any indication of the future of these sports at Bethany, the Eagles are poised for a bright and exciting future.

We are looking forward to hosting our summer **Bethany Sports Camps**, where athletes will continue to grow in their volleyball and basketball skills. To learn more about BSC (which is held in July), visit our camp website at [www.bsc.bethany.sk.ca](http://www.bsc.bethany.sk.ca). **Space is limited, so apply soon!**

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