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## The Bethany College Connection:

*Written by Wes Enns, Athletics Director, Bethany College*



### The Tradition Continues

Bethany College has a long and illustrious history of quality athletics teams, and this year we continued to develop that tradition, especially in our indoor soccer and hockey teams. All of these teams represented Bethany College in Saskatoon leagues this year, often playing against more mature players. However, even in these challenging conditions, the Eagles played with great character and determination.



2012 PAC Provincial Champions & SAS League Champions

Due to the scheduling of Service Learning Trips for early fall, outdoor **soccer** was not offered this year. However, our soccer players transferred their passion for the sport to the gym, and continued to develop their individual and team skills. Both the Women's and Men's Indoor Teams played in the Saskatoon Adult Soccer League (Women in Division 3, Men in Division 4) - a new experience for both teams. As well, these teams competed in the PAC Championship Tournament.

For the **Women's team**, this was a challenging year. Being placed in a very tough division, in order to be competitive the girls had to be fit, motivated, and mentally tough. Even though they did not have a winning season according to their win/loss record, overwhelmingly team members reported that they had a great year learning, growing and coming together as a team. This team effort kept them in good spirits and working hard all year long, and it paid off as they competed against other college athletes in the PAC Championships. The Eagles ended up playing for the Gold in the finals against Millar, and fell just short of taking home the big prize. A second place finish for the Eagles team capped off a great season for the women.

Bethany's **Men's Indoor Soccer team** had an exceptional year as well - exhibiting their strengths in team play and skill in both the SAS League and PAC Championships. The boys started their city-league season with multiple victories, eventually stretching their winning streak to 20 games before recording their first loss. These winning ways continued throughout the season, with the squad finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place in their division after league play. After some tough matches in the championship playoffs, the Eagles ended up in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in their division. To add to this feat, the Men's Team was nominated for the Grassroots Team of the Year award for the Saskatchewan Soccer Association, and was awarded the "Finalist" certificates to commemorate the honour. The team also competed in the PAC Championships, coming away victorious once again, and claiming the PAC Indoor Soccer title. At this tournament, Kendell Wiens earned MVP honours for the PAC league.

Turning to **Hockey**, it can easily be seen through the enthusiasm of the fans and players alike that Bethany College has continued to support and encourage its ice-hockey program. Since the early 1970's, Bethany athletes have been competing against other colleges and recreational hockey teams. This year, as has been the case for many years, Bethany's hockey team participated in the Saskatoon Church Recreational Hockey League. With regular games in the city, and a few at the home ice in Hepburn, the sport has grown in its ability to attract athletes and fans at the college. This year, the men's team was set to once again be very competitive in the league. Against familiar foes, the guys worked hard. In practice, under the coaching of Brent Block, they were challenged to develop strength, fitness, team play, and Christian character. At the conclusion of the season, the Eagles had earned a solid 3rd place standing in league and playoff competition - another solid effort by the team. Although to some of the athletes this result seemed to be a disappointment, overall, team members concluded that this was yet another great season of hockey at Bethany - one that carried on the traditions of pursuing excellence and growth in character that have been the hallmarks of the Bethany Athletics program.

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