

West Chester University AD Dr. Edward Matejkovic Honored



NACDA 2009 AD OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ORLANDO, Fla. – The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) announced the 29 winners of the Under Armour AD of the Year Award (ADOY) today. Among the winners was West Chester University athletics director Dr. Ed Matejkovic, who was named the Division II Northeast AD of the Year.

The winners will be recognized during the 44th Annual NACDA Convention at the James J. Corbett Luncheon on Saturday, June 20 at the World Center Marriott Resort in Orlando, Fla. Among the other winner to be recognized is West Chester University graduate, Pat Meiser (Univ. of Hartford), who is the Division I Northeast winner.

“It certainly is an honor to be recognized by your peers,” Matejkovic said. “I would like to thank the Honors and Awards Committee for this humbling acknowledgment.”

West Chester University has finished 12th in the nation in the NACDA Cup standings each of the past two years. During the 2008-09 academic season, West Chester University's 24 intercollegiate varsity athletic programs brought home three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championships, sent eight teams to their respective NCAA Tournament – with one finalist (baseball) and one quarterfinalist (women's soccer) – and another 22 individual NCAA Tournament participants.

Under his guidance, the Coatesville, Pa., native and 1969 graduate of West Chester University has guided his alma mater's athletic program to unprecedented heights, accomplishing goals never before imagined. The Golden Rams captured five PSAC team titles during both the 2006-07 and 2007-08 campaigns and landed two programs (women's soccer, women's lacrosse) in the NCAA national semifinals. As a result, West Chester claimed runner-up plaudits in the Dixon Trophy standings, recognizing overall athletic program success with the conference.

In the spring of 2008, West Chester's women's lacrosse squad won its second national championship in the last seven seasons, reaching the title game for the fifth consecutive year. The men's swimming squad also matched its highest finish at the 2008 NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving championships with a third-place showing.

NACDA Executive Director Mike Cleary explained the ADOY Award is essential because it highlights the efforts of athletics directors at all levels for their commitment and positive contributions to campuses and their surrounding communities.

"Our Honors and Awards Committee recognized a need for an award such as the AD of the Year," said Cleary, who oversaw implementation of the program to allow all NACDA Officers and Honors and Awards Committee members to participate in the awards process, should they be elected.

"The program brings to light the exceptional jobs done by athletics directors across the country. These 29 winners exemplify that, providing us with a group of outstanding athletics directors who excel at their jobs."

There are four geographic regions - northeast, southeast, central and west; while the membership is separated into seven categories - Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A); Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA); Division I (formerly Division I-AAA); Division II; Division III; NAIA; and Junior/Community Colleges, along with one International winner. One winner was selected in each of the seven categories, for a total of 29 honorees. Winners will receive their awards during the James J. Corbett Awards Luncheon at NACDA's 44th Annual Convention at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort.

All NACDA-member directors of athletics in the United States, Canada and Mexico who met the criteria were eligible for the award. Among the criteria were service as an AD for a minimum of five academic years; demonstration of commitment to higher education and student-athletes; continuous teamwork, loyalty and excellence; and the ability to inspire individuals or groups to high levels of accomplishments. Additionally, each AD's institution must have passed a compliance check through its appropriate governing body (i.e., NCAA, NAIA, etc.), in which the institution could not have been on probation or cited for a lack of institutional control within the last five years during the tenure of the current athletics director.

Nominators were NACDA-member directors of athletics, institutional presidents and conference commissioners. Special Selection Committees composed of current and former directors of athletics, present and past NCAA and NAIA presidents, current and former commissioners and other key athletics administrators voted on nominees for the award. A complete listing of Selection Committee members can be found on NACDA's Web site at www.nacda.com.

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About NACDA: NACDA, now in its 45th year, is the professional and educational association for more than 6,500 college athletics administrators at more than 1,600 institutions throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. More than 2,300 athletics administrators annually attend the NACDA Convention. Additionally, NACDA administers 11 professional associations for the separate business units that report directly to the athletics director.