

# GRIDIRON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GROVE CITY COLLEGE  
WOLVERINE FOOTBALL TEAM

## Grove City wins CUP in 2013 season finale

Grove City finished the 2013 season with a victory in the 30th annual Mercer County Cup game, by pulling out a 50-44 overtime win at Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) rival Thiel at Alumni Stadium. It's the first time Grove City

scored 50 or more points on the road since a 63-6 win at Bethany in 2004. The Wolverines improved to 21-9 in the 30-year history of the game, while it also marked the 100th meeting between the schools. The Wolverines have won seven straight in the series.

Senior quarterback Brian Pell (Streamwood, Ill./Wheaton Academy) sealed the victory by scoring on a 13-yard option scamper around the left end in overtime. Thiel squandered their first possession in overtime when senior free safety Joe Diani (West see **CUP** on page 2



Wolverine seniors with the Mercer County Cup, as well as Head Coach Chris Smith, Athletic Trainer Kay Mitchell Emigh, and Equipment Manager Larry Freeman.

## Five earn Academic All-District; Gibbs All-American

Senior free safety Joe Diani (West Leechburg, Pa./Leechburg), junior wingback Sam Ivan (Whitehouse, Ohio/Toledo Christian), senior wide

receiver Anthony Ritchie (Big Rock, Ill./Wheaton Academy), and sophomore defensive lineman Ryan Hickey (Murrysville, Pa./Franklin Regional) all earned Capital One/

CoSIDA Academic All-District and advanced to the nationwide CoSIDA Academic All-America ballot while Gibbs was selected to the Academic All-American First Team.

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## GRIDIRON

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GRIDIRON is the official  
newsletter of the Grove City College  
Wolverine Football Team.



## Ritchie lauded for season finale performance

Grove City College senior wide receiver Anthony Ritchie earned weekly honors from the Eastern College Athletic Conference, the Presidents' Athletic Conference, as well as the PAC Sports Network in recognition of his performance in the Wolverines week 10 victory at Thiel.

He accounted for four total touchdowns in Grove City's 50-44 overtime win over Thiel in the 30th Mercer County Cup game.

Three of Ritchie's four scores came in the second quarter of Saturday's game. He threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to senior tight end Pat Donoughe on the first play of the quarter to give Grove City a 14-7 lead. Moments later, Ritchie hauled in a 42-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Brian Pell to put the Wolverines up 21-7. Ritchie then scored Grove City's final touchdown of the first half with when



Senior wide receiver Anthony Ritchie accounted for four total touchdowns in Grove City's 50-44 overtime win over Thiel in the 30th Mercer County Cup game.

he caught a 22-yard pass from Pell out of the "Swinging Gate" formation.

With the game tied at 37 in the fourth quarter, and with a critical fourth down, Head Coach Chris Smith once again put the ball in Ritchie's hands. He raced 22 yards on an end around to give the Wolverines a 44-37 lead with 3:17 remaining. He finished the day with six catches for 114 yards. He became the first Grove City player since Andrew DiDonato to throw a

touchdown pass, run for a touchdown and catch a touchdown pass in the same game. DiDonato accomplished that feat November 4, 2006 in a 40-33 win over Case Western Reserve.

With his two touchdown catches Saturday, Ritchie tied Rick Sems' school record of 17 career touchdown catches. Sems caught 17 touchdowns from 1989 to 1992. Ritchie ranks third all-time in program history with 144 receptions and 1,801 receiving yards.

**HELP US RECRUIT!** Do you know of a talented student athlete who would be a good fit for our football program? Please pass along his name to us so that we can include him in our recruiting process. We are looking for students who can make a difference on the field and in the classroom. The athlete must have strong board scores and at least a 3.0 GPA to be considered. Please forward this information to Coach Chris Smith, Box #3069, 100 Campus Drive, Grove City PA 16127, email [cwsmith@gcc.edu](mailto:cwsmith@gcc.edu), or contact by phone at 724-458-2126.

### CUP (continued)

Leechburg, Pa./Leechburg) intercepted a pass to end Thiel's drive.

Grove City trailed 37-30 midway through the fourth quarter but tied the game with 8:04 left in regulation when senior wide receiver Khalil Ervin (Malvern, Pa./Phoenixville) hauled in a 30-yard touchdown pass from freshman wingback Zach Gazdacko (Uniontown, Ohio/Lake) on a halfback option.

The Wolverines then surged ahead 44-37 with 3:17 left when senior wide receiver Anthony Ritchie (Big Rock, Ill./Wheaton Academy) raced 22 yards to the end zone on a reverse.

Ritchie also caught two touchdown passes and threw a touchdown pass in the win. His 16-yard touchdown

pass to senior tight end Pat Donoughe (Summerhill, Pa./Forest Hills) on the first play of the second quarter gave Grove City a 14-7 lead.

Grove City pushed its lead to 21-7 just minutes into the game when Pell threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to Ritchie on an out-and-up route. The Wolverines took over at the Thiel 42 after senior linebacker Ben Manwaring (Lisle, N.Y./Whitney Point) recovered a fumble.

Grove City reclaimed a 27-14 lead on its next possession by driving to the Thiel 22. On fourth down, the Wolverines lined up in the "Swinging Gate" and after receiving the snap, Pell threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Ritchie.

Grove City opened the second half with

a 14-play, 69-yard drive. The drive stalled at the six, though, and freshman kicker Ryan Stewart (Indiana, Pa./Indiana) booted a 24-yard field goal.

Grove City finished the game with 26 first downs and 439 yards of offense. Maskrey ran for 117 yards and a touchdown while Pell added 54 yards. Pell completed 13 of 23 passes for 192 yards. Ritchie had six catches for 117 yards while Ervin pulled in six balls for 91 yards.

Manwaring had 12 tackles while junior defensive tackle Robert Rollick (Woodland, Pa./Saint Marys) recorded a sack.

## All-District (continued)

Gibbs was a four-year starter in Grove City's defensive backfield, starting nine games this season. Gibbs earned his second award after earning Second Team recognition last year. He is the first Grove City football player to become a two-time Academic All-American.

Gibbs started all four seasons in the secondary for the Wolverines. In 2013, he started nine games at strong safety and recorded 80 total tackles. He led all Presidents' Athletic Conference defensive backs in total tackles and forced fumbles. Gibbs has ranked in the top two tacklers for the Wolverine defense since his sophomore season. He was also selected to play in the Tazon de Estrellas, but opted not to play due to injury. He also earned Academic All-District in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Gibbs has earned a 3.93 cumulative GPA as a biology/pre-med major.

The college's Presidential Scholarship recipient has appeared on both the Dean's list as well as the PAC Academic Honor Roll. This past summer, he spent 10 weeks working in genomic research at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

A four-year letterman and three-year starter at safety, Diani led the team with four interceptions, while also compiling 51 tackles in 2013. Diani owns a 3.67 GPA in mathematics, is a Dean's List student, has been named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll, is a Presidential Scholarship recipient and has been inducted into the Kappa Mu Epsilon math honorary.

Ivan was the starting wingback in the Wolverine backfield, and the third leading rusher in 2013. Ivan has compiled a 3.77 GPA as a molecular biology/pre-med major. He is a Dean's List honoree and has also earned a spot

on the PAC Academic Honor Roll. Ivan is a Presidential Scholarship and Trustee Scholarship recipient.

The mechanical engineering major and four-year letter winner, Ritchie led Grove City with 899 all-purpose yards, as well as 55 receptions for 755 yards and five touchdowns. Ritchie also served as the team's punt returner. Ritchie holds a 3.57 GPA in mechanical engineering. He is a Dean's List student and has also been named to the conference Academic Honor Roll.

Hickey started six games at defensive tackle this year, before a season ending injury. He collected 15 total tackles, including three for a loss. Hickey owns a 3.80 GPA while majoring in mechanical engineering. He has been named to both the Dean's List and the PAC Academic Honor Roll.



From Left: Ben Manwaring (53), Pete Polesnak (65), Anthony Ritchie (84) and Ethan Martin (56)

## Wolverines represent both sides in 2013 Bowl of the Stars

Seniors Ben Manwaring, Anthony Ritchie and Ethan Martin represented the Wolverines as members of, and helped, Team Stars and Stripes to a 29-7 victory against a team of Mexican college all-stars from CONADIEP, the national conference of private schools, in Mexico at the 36,000-capacity Estadio Tecnológico on the Tec de Monterrey campus.

Late in the second half, Ben Manwaring came up with an

interception to flip the field for the Americans. A trick play opened a 16-0 lead for Team Stars and Stripes as a lateral pass was tossed to a wide open Richie for a touchdown. Strong offensive line play was seen on both sides of the field as Ethan Martin helped guide the strong American offensive attack, while 2011 GCC alum Pete Polesnak played along the line for the Mexican offense. Polesnak is finishing his graduate work and

playing football at University of Las Americas Puebla. He played for the CONADIEP against his former Wolverine teammates.

Three Grove City players participated in the Tazon de Estrellas predecessor, the Aztec Bowl. Brock McCullough played for the United States in 2000, while Aaron Margo (2005), and Matt Gregg (2007) also played in the Aztec Bowl.

## Wolverines named to PAC Honor Roll

A total of 439 student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Academic Honor Roll for the Fall 2013 semester.

The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes varsity student-athletes who have earned a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale during their semester of competition.

The following are representatives from the football team this season.

NAME	POSITON	YEAR	MAJOR	HOMETOWN/HS
Brandon Berringer	MLB	So.	Electrical Engineering	Pittsburgh, Pa./Shaler
Joe Diani	DB	Sr.	Mathematics	West Leechburg, Pa./Leechburg
Chris Gibbs	DB	Sr.	Molecular Biology	Akron, Ohio/Revere
Ned Hull	DB	Fr.	International Business	Jenkintown, Pa./Jenkintown
Sam Ivan	RB	Jr.	Molecular Biology	Whitehouse, Ohio/Toledo Christian
Zach Kepple	OL	Jr.	Special Education	Chicora, Pa./Karns City
Ben Manwaring	MLB	Sr.	History	Lisle, N.Y./Whitney Point
Brian Pell	QB	Sr.	Communication Studies	Streamwood, Ill./Wheaton Academy
Anthony Ritchie	WR	Sr.	Mechanical Engineering	Big Rock, Ill./Wheaton Academy
Jason Skyrn	OLB	Jr.	International Business	Harleysville, Pa./Souderton
Mitch White	MLB	Sr.	Communication Studies	Clinton, Ohio/Norton



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