

Northeast Conference

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For Immediate Release

June 17, 2009

Northeast Conference Announces 2009 Spring Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Somerset, NJ -- Two student-athletes from Fairleigh Dickinson, along with one apiece from Long Island, Monmouth, Quinnipiac, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, St. Francis (NY), Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner make up the 2009 Northeast Conference (NEC) Spring Scholar-Athlete award winners. In addition to the Scholar-Athletes, the NEC also announced its spring academic honor roll, consisting of 752 student-athletes with a 3.20 grade point average or higher, a 14 percent increase from last spring. Likewise, a total of 144 student-athletes were named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll, which honors those with a 3.75 or better grade point average. All Scholar-Athlete award winners must have earned a minimum of 60 semester hours, maintained a minimum cumulative grade-point-average of 3.20 and participated with distinction as a member of a varsity team.

Fairleigh Dickinson senior outfielder **Matt Maher (Peekskill, NY/JFK Catholic)** claims the Scholar-Athlete award in baseball for the second straight season. Maher was recently named to the *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-America first team, a year after earning third team honors. This past season, the Peekskill, NY product was tabbed second team All-NEC and second team All-New Jersey Collegiate Baseball Association after hitting .339 with a team-high 45 runs scored. His 30 stolen bases ranked him first on the Knights, second in the league and 19th in the nation. Maher concluded his career holding program records for hits (201), at-bats (651) and stolen bases (71). At the FDU Athletics Awards Banquet, he received the George Braun Alumni Leadership Award for his success on the diamond and in the classroom, as well as the Robert Metz Award, given to the male senior student-athlete sporting the highest cumulative grade point average upon graduation. An active member of the Communication Honor Society and intern in the Department of Athletic Communications, Maher also is a budding screenplay writer. He co-wrote the script and developed an original score for the film "Awake," which won the Campus Movie Festival's "Best Drama" category and advanced to the Northern Regional Finale at the Tribeca Grand Hotel Screening Room in New York City. Maher, a Communications major, sports a 3.95 grade point average.

Sacred Heart senior **Matthew Belize (North Salem, NY/North Salem)** earns Scholar-Athlete plaudits in men's golf. Belize helped lead the Pioneers to a second straight NEC Championship in May, tying for individual runner-up honors with a one-under par 215. On the final day of the event held in ChampionsGate, FL, he carded the low round of the day with a four-under 68, as Sacred Heart pulled away for a 26-stroke victory. Belize was subsequently tabbed to the All-NEC second team. On the year, the North Salem, NY native compiled five top-10 finishes and a 74.9 stroke average, including a low round of 66 in a second place effort at the ECAC Championships. He also won the NEIGA Fall Championship in a playoff after shooting a three-over 147. Belize is a Business major who has compiled a 3.66 grade point average.

Fairleigh Dickinson junior **Eva Mayr (Schwendi, Germany/Gebhart-Mueller-Schule)** makes it back-to-back Scholar-Athlete honors in women's golf. Mayr finished third at the NEC Championships in Hershey, PA this past April to spark the Knights to their second consecutive conference title and NCAA Tournament berth. She finished 11-over-par, firing a 227 over the three rounds. Mayr has now recorded three straight top-four NEC Championship finishes and is a three-time All-Conference honoree, including first team accolades in 2009. A two-time NEC Golfer of the Week in 2008-09, she won the Yale and Columbia Invitationals, and finished second at the Hawk Invitational during the regular season. Mayr, who hails from Schwendi, Germany, posted a 78.8 stroke average on the year. She was also tabbed to the *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-District At-Large first team. Mayr has registered a 3.97 grade point average as a Management major.

(2009 Northeast Conference Spring Scholar-Athlete Release; 1-of-3)

Bryant University (2012-13) • Central Connecticut State University • Fairleigh Dickinson University
Long Island University • Monmouth University • Mount St. Mary's University • Quinnipiac University
Robert Morris University • Sacred Heart University • St. Francis (NY) College
Saint Francis (PA) University • Wagner College

Robert Morris senior defender **Mary Kate Egan (Lynch, MD/Kent County)** is this year's women's lacrosse Scholar-Athlete. Following her selection to the All-NEC second team in 2008, Egan was voted to the first team this past season after she helped guide the Colonials to their first winning campaign (9-8) and best-ever NEC finish (tie for fourth). Starting all 17 games, she ended the season tied for fifth on the club with 17 caused turnovers and 25 ground balls. In her four years, the Lynch, MD native set a new school record with 70 caused turnovers and ranks sixth in program history with 83 ground balls. A dual sport athlete, Egan was named team Most Valuable Player in both lacrosse and field hockey this past year. She was named to the *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-District At-Large first team and has registered a 3.95 grade point average as a Nursing major.

Wagner senior first baseman **Andrea Lazzari (Reno, NV/Wooster)** collects the Scholar-Athlete prize in softball, the latest in a string of honors for the Reno, NV product. In addition to back-to-back NEC Player of the Year awards, Lazzari was named Wagner's Student-Athlete of the Year and was just recently honored as an *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA First Team Academic All-American. In 2009, she won the NEC Triple Crown with a .412 average, league record 16 homers and 51 RBI. Lazzari also established single-season school marks with 70 hits and 338 putouts, and leaves Wagner as the career recordholder in home runs (34), doubles (50), hits (238), total bases (390) and putouts (1,124). A former NEC Rookie of the Year and three-time first team All-NEC pick, she was named to the *Louisville Slugger*/NFCA Division I All-Region first team at year's end. Lazzari carries a 3.83 grade point average with a double major of Sociology and Education.

Monmouth senior **Benjamin Evenden (Cresco, PA/Ridgewood (NJ))** and St. Francis (NY) senior **Jindrich Chaloupka (Sumperk, Czech Republic)** share Scholar-Athlete honors in men's tennis. A gifted student off the court, Evenden was nominated for the prestigious Rhodes Scholar Award and was recently named to the *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-America At-Large third team. In April, he helped lead the Hawks to their second NEC finals appearance in the last three years, manning the #1 singles spot. Evenden finished 2008-09 with four singles wins and teamed with Ian Terpilowski for six victories at #1 doubles. A member of the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society and associate of the Economics and Finance Club, Evenden's Scholar-Athlete award is the second of his career, having also been honored in 2007. A native of Cresco, PA, Evenden is a Business Finance major who maintains a near-perfect 3.99 grade point average. Chaloupka became the first player in St. Francis (NY) history to attain first team All-Conference status when he was named the NEC Player of the Year after closing out 2008-09 with a 15-3 record at #1 flight singles, including a perfect 7-0 mark in league play. In helping the Terriers boost their win total from one to seven, Chaloupka posted the NEC's top winning percentage (.833) for the third year in a row. He also vaulted into the ITA national rankings, reaching as high as 106th in March. Chaloupka finished his three-year career with a perfect 17-0 record against conference opposition and a 38-6 overall mark. Named the St. Francis (NY) Men's Athlete of the Year, he has earned a spot on the Dean's List and NEC Honor Roll in every semester of attendance. Hailing from Sumperk, Czech Republic, Chaloupka has posted a 3.52 grade point average majoring in Economics.

Quinnipiac junior **Nicole Adams (New Windsor, NY/Newburgh Free Academy)** collects her second straight Scholar-Athlete award in women's tennis. She teamed with classmate Kasey Rosenberger to claim first team All-Conference honors at #3 doubles, finishing with a league-best seven wins in the flight for the NEC runner-up Bobcats. Adams also earned eight singles victories on the year, including a 2-0 mark against league opposition and a 6-6 record in #6 flight play. A native of New Windsor, NY, she concluded her career with 53 wins and was part of three NEC championship teams. Adams is an International Business major who carries a 3.86 grade point average.

Long Island senior **Andre Marciano (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago/Queen's Royal College)** is the recipient of his first Scholar-Athlete award in outdoor track and field. Marciano raced to the 100 meter title at the NEC Outdoor Championships in May, crossing the tape in 10.75. He ran a season-best 10.59 en-route to a fourth place finish at the IC4A Championships, then clocked in with a 10.66 at the NCAA East Regionals. Earlier in the year, he won the 100 meters at the Metropolitan Championships with a 10.65 and in that same meet ran a career-best 22.01 in the 200 meters. Marciano also ran a leg on Long Island's 4x100 meter relay team that finished second at the IC4A Championships with a season-best time of 40.70. An NEC Academic Honor Roll member throughout his career, the native of Trinidad & Tobago serves as a member of the LIU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Marciano maintains a 3.44 grade point average majoring in Mathematics.

After claiming Scholar-Athlete accolades over the winter in women's indoor track and field, Saint Francis (PA) junior distance runner **Anna Hoffman (Enon Valley, PA/Mohawk)** concludes her outstanding year with a second Scholar-Athlete award in women's outdoor track and field. Hoffman captured the sixth and seventh individual titles of her career this past May, crossing the tape first at the NEC Outdoor Championships in both the 1,500 meters (4:42.93) and 5,000 meters (ECAC qualifying time of 17:22.68). She is now a four-time league champion in the 5,000 meters (indoor and outdoor in both 2008 and 2009), and has also won titles in the 3,000 meters (2009 indoor) and 3,000 meter steeplechase (2007 outdoors). Hoffman, who hails from Enon Valley, PA, enters her senior season as a ten-time All-NEC performer and four-time NEC Athlete of the Week. She is a two-time member of the *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA Academic All-District first team and has made the Saint Francis (PA) Dean's List each semester. Hoffman, who is active on campus as a member of the Saint Francis Leadership Council and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, majors in Elementary/Special Education. Her grade point average is 3.87.

2009 Northeast Conference Spring Scholar-Athletes

Sport	Name	School	GPA	Major
Baseball	Matt Maher	Fairleigh Dickinson	3.95	Communications
Men's Golf	Matthew Belizze	Sacred Heart	3.66	Business
Women's Golf	Eva Mayr	Fairleigh Dickinson	3.97	Management
Women's Lacrosse	Mary Kate Egan	Robert Morris	3.95	Nursing
Softball	Andrea Lazzari	Wagner	3.83	Sociology & Education
Men's Tennis	Benjamin Evenden	Monmouth	3.99	Business Finance
	Jindrich Chaloupka	St. Francis (NY)	3.52	Economics
Women's Tennis	Nicole Adams	Quinnipiac	3.86	International Business
Men's Outdoor Track & Field	Andre Marciano	Long Island	3.44	Mathematics
Women's Outdoor Track & Field	Anna Hoffman	Saint Francis (PA)	3.87	Elementary/Special Education