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Northeast Conference Announces 2018-19 Winter Scholar-Athletes, Academic Honor Roll & Commissioner's Honor Roll

Somerset, NJ -- The Northeast Conference (NEC) today honored an exceptional group of student-athletes with the announcement of its 2018-19 Winter Scholar-Athlete award winners.

Sacred Heart and Saint Francis U each claimed a pair of awards, with one each going to student-athletes from Bryant and LIU Brooklyn.

All scholar-athlete award winners must have earned a minimum of 60 semester hours at their institution, maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.20 and participated with distinction as a member of a varsity team.

Along with the scholar-athletes, the NEC announced its Winter Academic Honor Roll, consisting of 609 student-athletes with a 3.20 or better grade point average, a 1.5 percent increase from 2017-18. There were also 202 student-athletes named to the Winter Commissioner's Honor Roll, recognizing those superior student-athletes with a 3.75 or better grade point average. The Commissioner's Honor Roll figure represents a 8.6 percent increase from a year ago.

Saint Francis U junior **Keith Braxton (Glassboro, NJ/Delsea (Lawrenceville School))** took home the men's basketball scholar-athlete award. Named the 2018-19 NEC Player of the Year, he led the circuit with 9.8 rpg and 13 doubles-doubles for the regular season champion Red Flash. Braxton also ranked in the top-10 in scoring (16.0, sixth), assists (3.8, seventh) and steals (1.5, sixth). The three-time NEC Player of the Week from Glassboro, NJ was the only player in the nation this season and one of just five since the 1992-93 season to average at least 16 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 3.5 apg and 1.5 spg. A three-time All-NEC first team honoree, Braxton was also named first team All-NEC and first team NABC All-District this past winter, and is on pace to become the league's all-time rebound leader and the first 2,000-point, 1,000-rebound player in conference annals. Braxton majors in Accounting, carries a 3.37 grade point average and is a three-time NEC Academic Honor Roll honoree.

Sacred Heart graduate student **Erin Storck (Commack, NY/Long Island Lutheran)** was named the women's basketball scholar-athlete award winner. Storck put an exclamation point on her career when she was voted to the All-NEC third team this past season. She started all 32 games for the Pioneers and ranked in the NEC top-15 with 10.9 ppg (14th), 2.8 apg (ninth) and 0.9 bpg (ninth). Storck reached double digits 19 times, led all NEC guards with 28 blocks and topped the Pios with 39 steals as SHU made its third WNIT appearance in the last five seasons. The Commack, NY native is a four-time member of the NEC Commissioner and Academic Honor Rolls. Storck recorded a 3.95 grade point average as an undergraduate majoring in Marketing and posted a 3.97 GPA during the fall semester as she pursues her MBA.

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Sacred Heart junior **Victoria Boughton (Brick, NJ/Brick Memorial)** was the recipient of the women's bowling scholar-athlete award. Boughton was named to the NEC All-Tournament team after sparking the Pioneers to their fourth conference title this past March. In the championship match, she converted the first 7-10 split in NEC and program history, and compiled a 20.35 baker frame average and 50 percent strike percentage for the tournament. Over the course of the season, she averaged 19.51 pins per frame and recorded 488 strikes and 417 spares. Boughton also earned distinction as SHU's nominee for the Elite 90, an award presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating in the NCAA Championship. A Health Science major, Boughton maintains a 3.95 grade point average. The Brick, NJ product has attained NEC Academic & Commissioner's Honor Roll status in each of the first three years.

Saint Francis U senior **Jeremie Venne (Greenly, Ontario/Ecole Secondaire Catholique Franco-Cite)** claimed men's indoor track and field accolades. Venne finished first in the mile at the NEC Indoor Track & Field Championships in February with a personal-best time of 4:11.06 that ranks sixth all-time at SFU. He also anchored the runner-up Red Flash to a third place finish in the distance medley relay. Venne wrapped his career with 39.75 points in NEC meets, ranking him 31st on the SFU all-time scoring list. An Exercise Physiology major from Greenly, Ontario, Venne maintains a 3.79 grade point average. He has been named to the NEC Academic Honor Roll four times and the NEC Commissioner's Honor Roll on three occasions.

LIU Brooklyn senior **Eugenie Hue (Cherbourg, France/Cherbourg (Essex CC))** collected women's indoor track and field scholar-athlete honors. Hue was named the Most Outstanding Track Performer (Distance) following wins in the mile (5:03.13) and the 800 meter run (2:14.16) at the NEC Indoor Track & Field Championships in Staten Island. The Cherbourg, France native provided the third place Blackbirds with 20 distance points at the conference meet after posting the NEC's top times in the 400 meter and 500 meter dashes during regular season competition. She also helped LIU score points in the 4x400 and distance medley relays. Hue has been named to the NEC Academic and Commissioner's Honor Roll lists in each of her two years at LIU. She sports a 3.94 grade point average and majors in Sports Science.

Bryant senior **Jillian Rice (Trumbull, CT/Saint Joseph)** earned her second straight women's swimming and diving scholar-athlete award. In leading the Bulldogs to their second straight title, Rice won gold in every event she competed in to claim NEC Swimmer of the Meet honors at the conference championships in February. She took home individual gold medals in the 50 free (23.24), 100 free (50.21) and 200 free (1:49.84), along with four relay golds, anchoring the 200, 400 and 800 freestyle teams and the 200 medley quartet. Rice, a Trumbull, CT native who majors in Applied Psychology, was also a three-time NEC Swimmer of the Week. She has been named to the NEC Academic Honor Roll in each of her four years and maintains a 3.61 grade point average.

2018-19 Northeast Conference Winter Scholar-Athletes

Sport	Name	School	Cl	GPA	Major
Men's Basketball	Keith Braxton	Saint Francis U	Jr.	3.37	Accounting
Women's Basketball	Erin Storck	Sacred Heart	Sr.	3.95 (under) 3.97 (grad)	Marketing MBA
Women's Bowling	Victoria Boughton	Sacred Heart	Jr.	3.95	Health Science
Men's Indoor T&F	Jeremie Venne	Saint Francis U	Sr.	3.79	Exercise Physiology
Women's Indoor T&F	Eugenie Hue	LIU Brooklyn	Sr.	3.94	Sports Science
Women's Swimming & Diving	Jillian Rice	Bryant	Sr	3.61	Applied Psychology

About The Northeast Conference

Now in its 38th year, the Northeast Conference is an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 10 institutions of higher learning located throughout six states. Media coverage of the NEC extends to four of the largest markets in the United States - New York (#1), Pittsburgh (#22), Baltimore (#26), and Hartford/New Haven (#30). Founded in 1981 as the basketball-only ECAC Metro Conference, the NEC has grown to sponsor 22 championship sports for men and women and now enjoys automatic access to 15 different NCAA Championships. NEC member institutions include Bryant, Central Connecticut, Fairleigh Dickinson, LIU Brooklyn, Mount St. Mary's, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Brooklyn, Saint Francis U and Wagner. Merrimack will join the NEC as a full-time member in July, 2019. For more information on the NEC, visit the league's official website (www.northeastconference.org) and digital network (www.necfrontrow.com), or follow the league on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat, all @NECsports.