

POINT BY POINT

The latest news about NJIT sports:
www.njithighlanders.com

NEW COACHES TAKE CHARGE IN SOCCER

The 2011 season brings new leadership to both women's and men's soccer at NJIT, with Sergio Gonzalez on board as head women's coach and Cesar Markovic as head coach for the men. Each brings a championship background to Newark.



Sergio Gonzalez



Cesar Markovic

An all-state high school goalkeeper in New Jersey and an all-conference college goalkeeper at Salve Regina in Rhode Island, Gonzalez comes from the University of Dayton. At Dayton, he was an assistant on teams that advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament in both 2009 and 2010. Dayton's combined record in his five years was 71-21-15, including 19-3-1 in 2010 and 16-1-6 in 2009.

Gonzalez was Dayton's goalkeeper coach and recruiting coordinator, and two of his students were voted Atlantic 10 Conference Defensive Player of the Year. In 2009, Dayton notched a school-record 15 shut-outs and was second nationally in goals against average.

Prior to Dayton, Gonzalez coached six seasons at Division II Slippery Rock in Pennsylvania. There, he coached teams that won multiple conference championships. In 2001, his second season, Slippery Rock advanced to the Division II Tournament Round of 16, and in 2003 The Rock also made the NCAA field.

Markovic has been a college head coach for 15 seasons, beginning with his alma mater, Hunter College in New York and continuing at Saint Peter's in Jersey City, and then at Stony Brook on Long Island. He led Saint Peter's to its first-ever NCAA Division I College Cup bid in 2003 and did the same with Stony Brook, taking that school to its first

Division I College Cup appearance in 2005, before leading the Seawolves back to the 2009 College Cup field. In both 2003 and 2005, his teams advanced to the second round of the NAACAs with opening road wins.

In both cases, he took over downtrodden programs. When he went to Saint Peter's, the team had gone 10 years without a winning record and Stony Brook finished last in the America East Conference the year before he was hired. Before he joined the Division I ranks, his Hunter teams won five conference titles and played in the 1999 NCAA Division III tournament. ■

Ten students were named Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athletes for 2010-11.



ALL-ACADEMIC TENNIS HONORS

For the third straight year, the NJIT men's and women's tennis teams have both been awarded ITA All-Academic Team honors by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Individually, ten students were named ITA Scholar-Athletes for 2010-11.

To earn the ITA All-Academic Team Award, a squad must have a cumulative team GPA of 3.20 or above. ITA Scholar-Athlete honors are awarded to varsity letter-winners who have a GPA of at least 3.50 for the current academic year and who have been enrolled at their present school for at least two semesters.

The women's tennis scholar-athletes are Monika Graff,* Megan Guidry,* Ksenia Kuzmenko, Ana Lidon, Jana Luste and Hannelore MacDonald.* This is the fourth straight women's team to earn the ITA All-Academic Team Award under head coach Mike Sowter. The men's tennis scholar-athletes are: Diego Abreu, Martin Cederqvist, Fraser Croad and Dan Salomon. This is the second straight year for Diego Abreu and Dan Salomon, both having received the ITA Scholar-Athlete Award in 2010. ■

*Dorman honors scholars



WITH THE RAYS FROM THE START

From the start of the 2011 baseball season, NJIT Vice President for Advancement Charles R. Dees, Jr. and President Robert A. Altenkirch have cheered enthusiastically for the Tampa Bay Rays – whose chairman emeritus/founder is longtime friend of NJIT Vincent J. Naimoli '62. In April, they joined one of the more colorful Rays' fans at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg for a contest with the Orioles and the annual gathering of NJIT alumni hosted by Naimoli. ■