

Men's cross country had their best team finish ever, placing ninth and running over two minutes faster than last year on the same course.



PHOTOS: LARRY LEVANTI

Franco Gamero

ALL-CONFERENCE AND ACADEMIC SOCCER HONORS

Student-athletes Franco Gamero and Timothy Hojnacki were honored as All-Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC) players in awards presented at the annual season-ending ASC awards banquet. The teams were chosen based on regular season play and were selected by the five conference head coaches.

Gamero, an ASC first-team honoree, is the NJIT team leader in goals (4) and points (8), appearing in all 17 matches, starting 13. He scored the game-winning goal in NJIT's

2-1 win over Virginia Tech – the first win for NJIT in any sport over an Atlantic Coast Conference team. The junior forward scored two goals in NJIT's 3-2 win at VMI and also scored the team's only goal in a 2-1 loss at St. Francis, New York.

Hojnacki earned second-team honors. The senior is the Highlanders team captain and has started every game this season on defense. Completing his third year at NJIT after spending his

freshman year at Saint Francis, Pennsylvania, Hojnacki started 12 matches for NJIT as a sophomore in 2009 and made 13 starts in 2010. He registered one assist each year in 2009 and 2010.

Trevor Nye*, Nils Warfving and Luqman Olawin* were named to the 2011 ASC All-Academic Team. Nye, an architecture major, held a 3.77 GPA; Warfving, a biomedical engineering major, a 3.55 GPA; and, Olawin, a mechanical engineering major, a 3.74 GPA at the time of their selection. ■



Brian Mendez



Ewelina Marut

WINNING CROSS COUNTRY WRAP-UPS

The men's and women's cross country teams wrapped up very successful seasons in November contests at Van Cortlandt Park in New York.

The men stood out in the IC4A championships. They had their best team finish ever, placing ninth and running over two minutes faster than last year on the same course. Brian Mendez topped off a fantastic year, gaining All-East recognition for the second year in a row with his 13th-place finish in 26:23.

Mendez was followed by Christian Baumbach in 26:59 and Scott Rizzo*, who moved up into the fourth best place (top 10) at Van Cortlandt Park with his personal best of 27:11. Senior co-captain Joseph Ju* closed out his NJIT cross country career with a time of 29:14, good enough to notch his name one more time in the SUB30 Club record book.

*Dorman honors scholars

The women tied their best team place at the ECAC Championships while improving 49 seconds over last year's performance. Ewelina Marut broke her own course record, set last year, by 30 seconds, finishing with a time of 19:16. Also running a personal best on this course was Ybranhina Cohen, who improved her time by 19 seconds running a 21:08.

Freshman Maryam Haque* joined the SUB25 Club by running a 21:28. Other Highlanders setting personal records for this course were Esther Alfaro (22:26), Aya Elsekhely (22:49) and Alexandra Arnold (22:50). Senior co-captain Amanda Hefferan closed out her NJIT cross country book with a 22:00, good enough to notch her name one more time in the SUB25 Club record book. ■

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