

POINT BY POINT

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BASEBALL ALUM JOINS PRO RANKS

Mike Rampone '15, who starred for the NJIT baseball program for four seasons ending in 2015, has signed a professional contract for 2016 with the Tucson Saguaros, a first-year team in the Pecos League.

Rampone, who ended his career with 197 games played and 197 games started – both school records – received a B.S. in business from NJIT's Martin Tuchman School of Management. His career-best .317 average as a senior left him with a .295 career average in 753 college at-bats. His 222 career hits are a school record and he also scored 130 runs and hit 47 doubles, three triples and nine home runs, while producing 102 RBI. With 87 career walks and 16 hit-by-pitch, his on-base percentage was an impressive .377. ■





Martina Matejcikova



Nicole Maticka



Rayven Johnson

BASKETBALL ALUMNAE MAKE WAVES OVERSEAS

Martina Matejcikova '15 and Nicole Maticka '15 have signed professional contracts to continue playing basketball overseas for the next year while Rayven Johnson '13 is back in Hannover, Germany, in her third year as a professional player with TK Hannover.

Matejcikova is playing in Manchester, England, for the Manchester Mystics, whose team competes in the highest league in the Women's British Basketball League (WBBL). She is pursuing her master's degree in Procurement Logistic and Supply Chain Management at the University of Salford and will also play for the university and serve as an assistant coach for the team.

Maticka, NJIT's school leader in career, single-season and single-game blocks, is playing in Oberhausen, Germany, for the evo New Basket Oberhausen, whose team competes in the

Damen-Basketball Bundesliga (DBBL) premier league. She closed out her four-year career as NJIT's school leader in career blocks (238), single-game leader with nine blocks versus Colgate University (2/15/13) and Longwood University (2/26/12) and single-season leader with 83 blocks in 2011-12.

Johnson, who led NJIT to the 2013 women's basketball championship of the Great West Conference in her final college game, is in her third season with TK Hannover in Germany. Last year, Johnson ranked second in four categories for Hannover — scoring (11.4 ppg), free throws

made (75), three-pointers made (22) and rebounding (5.6). The website Eurobasket.com named Johnson to its all German 2.Bundesliga (national league) North 2nd team and German 2.Bundesliga (national league) North All-Imports team following the 2013-14 season. Johnson was named 2013 Great West Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player following NJIT's title win and completed her college career with 1,248 points (second all-time in NJIT's Division I era and fourth overall for a program that competed in Division II and Division III before moving to the NCAA's top level in 2006-07). Her 852 career rebounds are tops in the Division I era and second overall. ■

FIRST-EVER ECAC CHAMPIONSHIP AND CSCAA ALL-AMERICA TEAM HONORS FOR MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The NJIT men's swimming and diving team captured its first-ever ECAC Championship in program history at the ECAC Winter Championships held at the Nassau County Aquatic Center. The Highlanders finished first among 11 men's teams in the three-day event and the gap between NJIT and second-place Pace (1,436 points to 1089.50 points, 346.50 points) was the largest between any two consecutive spots in the team standings.

Sophomore Scott Quirie* was honored as Swimmer of the Meet, while Michael Lawson '10, '11, coach of the Highlanders and a former NJIT swimmer as an undergraduate, was named Coach of the Meet. During the third and final day of competition, Quirie broke yet another NJIT school record in the 200 individual medley, finishing first with a time of 1:53.70.

The 400 freestyle relay team of freshman Edward Parks, junior Maxim Tillman, junior Michael Sungurov and senior Brian Capozzola placed first and broke

the NJIT school record, finishing in 3:07.23. In the 500 freestyle, senior Richard Seffrin placed first, finishing in 4:43.14, while Capozzola placed first in the 50 freestyle with a time of 20.77. The 400 medley relay team of Quirie, freshman Alex Danielson, sophomore Collin Moore* and Parks finished in second place, swimming in 3:31.26.

Additionally, the team was honored by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) as a Scholar All-America team for academic excellence during the 2015 spring semester. To be selected as a CSCAA Scholar All-America Team, programs must have achieved a grade-point average of 3.00 or higher over the spring semester.

One of 65 Division I men's swimming and diving teams named to the All-Academic team, the Highlanders finished the spring semester with a 3.10 GPA. Eighty percent of the swimming and diving team was involved in a STEM major, 13 team members received honor roll and five enrolled in

NJIT's Albert Dorman Honors College.

The Highlanders finished the 2014-15 season 8-4 overall, their best record as a Division I program (first season 2006-07). The team completed an undefeated home season (4-0) in 2015 and placed fourth at the CCSA Championships, breaking 16 school records.

Founded in 1922, the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) — the oldest organization of college coaches in America — is a professional organization of college swimming and diving coaches dedicated to serving and providing leadership for the advancement of the sport of swimming and diving at the collegiate level. ■

** Dorman honors scholars*



NJIT ATHLETICS DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED BY ECAC

Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Lenny Kaplan was recognized by the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) as its 2015 Division I Male Administrator of the Year. Kaplan, who has led NJIT's division of physical education and athletics since August 2000, has been instrumental in guiding the program's growth, first at the NCAA Division II level and, since late 2002, through its successful reclassification to NCAA Division I and, most recently, into membership in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Throughout Kaplan's tenure, NJIT has enhanced the athletics program, particularly in areas that benefit the student-athletes directly. Today, the university's sports offerings have expanded to the current 19 varsity programs.

NJIT's growing success in Division I competition has been accompanied by a continued commitment to excellence in the university's rigorous academic environment. The combined grade-point average of Highlander student-athletes has been above 3.0 for 12 straight semesters through spring 2015. ■

Photos: Larry Levanti



Richard Seffrin



Brian Capozzola