

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**December 14, 2016**

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE EAST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL RED RAIDERS BOYS SOCCER TEAM**

#### **2016 ESSEX COUNTY CHAMPIONS**



Freeholder Rolando Bobadilla (right) presented Commendations to the East Side High School Boys Soccer Team, the Red Raiders, for winning the 2016 Essex County Championship. Freeholder Patricia Sebold (rear left) and Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano (rear right) were also present.

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the East Side High School Boys Soccer Team, the Red Raiders, for winning the 2016 Essex County Championship.

Freeholder Rolando Bobadilla began the presentation with opening remarks, saying, “Today, I could only tell you that, as a resident of Newark, we are really proud of you representing Newark. I know that your coaches, your head coach, your principal, and your assistant coaches have worked really hard with you guys, not only to get your skills up to where you need them, but to actually take advantage of those skills that you were born with to achieve what you guys have achieved this season.”

The Red Raiders won the Championship when it defeated Seton Hall Prep., 4-0 on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey.

The team received their first Essex County Championship win since 1978, the second county championship in East Side High School’s history. The team has an outstanding overall record of

17 victories, 2 losses and 1 tie, during which it scored 61 goals and allowed only 15 with 8 shutouts.

The team was also crowned Champion of the Newark Public Schools Tournament for the 12<sup>th</sup> time in 13 years. The Red Raiders earned final rankings by *The Star-Ledger* (NJ.com), as the #10 team in New Jersey, the #4 team in Group 4, and the #2 team in Essex County.

Principal Mario Santos shared his gratitude, adding: “It’s the vision of the coaches that actually allowed the students, allowed the athletes, to excel in their talent, and every time I see the championship where there’s a celebration of a win, I always look at who’s in front, who had that particular vision and saw the talent of the players and was able to, through a lot of hard work and practice, was able to actually bring out that talent and demonstrate it on the field. So, to that, I give a big round of applause to my coaches here for being those legendary leaders.”

Coach Jose Paulo also shared remarks: “I want to thank my coaches, and for the players, all the hard work, not only this year, but a lot of your friends have come and gone. They haven’t been forgotten because their hard work has sort of been a motivation for the future teams, and there’s no better time than the present. And with this year’s achievement, we can only set our standards higher, and the hard work and preparation that’s going to go in the off-season, it’s what’s going to dictate next year. So, the sky is the limit and we’re just going to keep working to achieve new heights. Thank you and continue to work hard.”

The team was coached by Jose Paulo Pereira, Felipe Oliveira, Leandro Da Silva and Pedro Marques and received administrative support from Superintendent Christopher Cerf, Principal Dr. Mario Santos, Vice Principal Anthony Tavares, Head of Athletics Adrian Bosolasco, Athletic Trainers Carolina Castro and Nicole Johnson, Team Manager Joana Silva and Team Photographer Nicole Oliveira.

The Board’s Commendation was sponsored and presented by District 1 Freeholder Rolando Bobadilla of Newark.

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