

PRESS RELEASE

April 28, 2016

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

**2015 Essex County Tournament of Champions and Super Essex Conference
American Division Championship**



Freeholders Patricia Sebold (right corner) Leiby C. Jones, (rear right corner) and Cynthia D. Toro (left corner) presented the Board's Commendation to the Belleville High School Boys Volleyball Team with Head Coach John Spina (rear left corner) PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, April 27th meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Belleville High School Boys Volleyball Team for winning the 2015 Essex County Tournament of Champions and Super Essex Conference, American Division Championship.

Freeholder Cynthia D. Toro began the program with opening remarks, stating: “Today, I am thrilled to recognize Belleville High School Boys Volleyball Team, who were the winners of the 2015 Essex County Tournament Championship and Super Essex Conference, American Division Championship, and also being named the Essex County Team of the Year by the Star Ledger.”

Freeholder Leiby C. Jones and Freeholder Patricia Sebold were also on hand for the presentation.

Freeholder Patricia Sebold shared remarks, adding: “I know how important volleyball is because we’ve talked about it all the time, and I think this is just so wonderful that you have such a great team at Belleville High School. I am proud that you are here receiving this award for being such a terrific volleyball team.”

Freeholder Jones added, “I know very little about sports, but what I will say, when you’re a winner, regardless of what it is, it makes you feel good. It pumps up your adrenaline, but you are the future of your community and with that you have a future ahead of you for the pros. Keep up the good work.”

The Belleville High School Boys Volleyball Team defeated Livingston High School 2-0 (25-18, 25-20), to capture the school’s first ever Essex County Tournament Championship. The tournament opened with wins over Montclair High School and North 13th Street Technical High School.

The team also captured the Super Essex Conference (SEC), American Division Championship, with an 11-1 win in conference record, the school’s first boys’ volleyball conference championship. The 27 wins were also the highest single season win total in school history, as well as the highest win percentage (90%) for the season.

The Belleville High School Boys Volleyball Team advanced to the North Jersey Section 1 State Finals and finished runner-up. The team did not lose a single match on their home court and finished the season ranked #8 in New Jersey and #2 in North Jersey.

The team was also named Essex County Team of the Year by the *Star Ledger* and Team Captain PJ Gencarelli was named 1st Team All State, SEC Player of the Year, First Team All North NJ, First Team SEC American, and the Observer Newspaper’s Player of the Year (the first player ever selected in any sport from Belleville H.S.). PJ Gencarelli also finished the season with 450 Kills and 1,045 Career Kills (both school records, ranking 14th in state history totals). Team Captain Marlon Rodriguez was named 2nd Team All SEC American; Team Captain Kevin Vicente earned 2nd Team All SEC American; and Team Member Edward Edghill earned Honorable Mention All SEC American.

The Belleville High School Boys Volleyball Team is comprised of the following members: **Team Captains** PJ Gencarelli, Marlon Rodriguez, Ammar Rahim and Kevin Vicente; **Team Members** Douglas Fonseca, Joseph Almasri, Jeffer Rubio, Lukas Luna, Christian Matos, Marcus Kodare, Alcides DosReis, Fidel Barraza, Joseph Murante, Edward Edghill, Gabriel Diaz, Berwin Villorin, Peter Yacoub, Bart Cagandahen, Ethan Luarca, Michael Feneque, Andy Jiang, Mayck Calle, John Calderon, Christopher Marquez, Mark Michael, Reinaldo Payne, Joshua Yilmaz, and Akeem Thomas.

The team was coached by Head Coach John Spina and Assistant Coaches Ryan Sheridan, and Nicolina Veneziano. The team also received administrative support from Superintendent Richard D. Tomko, Ph.D., Principal Russell Pagano and Athletic Director Daniel Sanacore.

Head Coach John Spina thanked the Freeholders for the Board’s Commendation and for acknowledging the team. The team was honored to be there and is looking forward to next year’s season.

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