

PRESS RELEASE

June 21, 2017

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE CEDAR GROVE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2017 NJSIAA NORTH 1, GROUP 1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE NJSIAA GROUP 1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Essex County Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano, Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold and Freeholder At-Large present the Board's Commendation to the Cedar Grove High School Softball Team. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Caldwell, NJ) – During a special presentation held at the Caldwell Town Hall in Caldwell, New Jersey, on June 21, 2017, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Cedar Grove High School Softball Team for winning the 2017 NJSIAA North 1, Group 1 State Championship and the NJSIAA Group 1 State Championship.

Freeholder At-Large and Vice President of the Board Brendan W. Gill, Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold, and District 4 Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano presented the team with Commendations in celebration of their championship win, sharing how proud they were of the team for successfully completing the season and bringing the championship title to Cedar Grove. Cedar Grove Councilman Harry Kumburis, Superintendent Mike Fetherman, and Athletic Director Rob Gogerty also joined the Freeholders to honor the team.

Coach Nicole Velardi accepted the Commendation on behalf of the team and thanked the Freeholders for their support. She shared how proud she was of the team for their dedication. She added that the team practiced from January to June, and their hard work has certainly paid off.

The Cedar Grove High School Softball Team won the 2017 NJSIAA North 1, Group 1 State Championship and the NJSIAA Group 1 State Championship after defeating Paterson Charter (11-0), Butler (3-0), North Warren (4-0), Verona (2-1), Roselle Park (2-0), and Metuchen (4-0). The softball team won the Group 1 State Championship, its 4th Group 1 State Title and 14th Sectional Championship, after finishing the season with an overall record of (23-8).

Cedar Grove was further recognized through honors bestowed upon several individual players, including: Super Essex All Conference 1st Team Rianna Marinelli and Mia Faieta; 2nd Team Daniella Cordasco; and Honorable Mentions for Kelly Toomey and Gianna Kubu.

The softball team is comprised of the following members: **Seniors:** Samantha Brancato, Daniella Cordasco, Rianna Marinelli; **Juniors:** Olivia Spinella, Resham Jariwala, Micaela Kennedy, Ava Mandala, Allison Kelly, Ava Fernandez, Kali McCabe, Kelly Toomey, and Kelly Zaccaria; **Sophomores:** Mia Faieta, Gianna Bocchino, Blaire Adams, Arianna Weling, Emily Faziola, and Sophie Hradil; and **Freshmen:** Brittney Taylor, Alyssa Coletta, Gianna Kubu, Chloe Weinstein, Lauren Cap, and Julianna Cicala.

The Freeholders also presented Sophomore Mia Faieta with a Commendation for pitching the perfect game during the team's championship win. Mia, who also has a 4.15 grade point average, achieved 384 strikeouts and has pitched 4 perfect games and 3 more no hitters this year. She was also invited to throw the first pitch during a Yankees game. The Freeholders presented Mia with a Commendation to celebrate her record-breaking achievements alongside her teammates.

The team was coached by Nicole Velardi, Sara Lipman, Pete Velardi, Adriana Durso and Athletic Trainer Katie Hanlon. The team also received administrative support from Superintendent Michael J. Fetherman, Principal Richard Mangili, Vice Principal Steve Gallagher, and Athletic Director Rob Gogerty.

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