

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**December 15, 2017**

**ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR  
THE WEST ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM**



Essex County District 4 Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano (left corner) presents the Board's Commendation to the West Essex High School Football Team alongside Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold (right center). PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the West Essex High School Football Team for winning the 2017 North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 State Championship during a special presentation at the Hall of Records on December 14, 2017.

District 4 Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano along with Freeholder At-Large Patricia Sebold presented the team with Commendations for its championship win. During the presentation, Head Coach Chris Benacquista accepted the Commendation on behalf of the team. He expressed his thanks for the Freeholders' support and encouraged the team to continue to succeed.

The Knights first defeated Ridgefield Park High School (48-19) and went on to defeat Rahway High School (28-14) and Voorhees High School (28-14) to win the state title. The team became the #1 seeded school in its division and #19 in the State of New Jersey. The team also won the North Jersey Super Football Conference Patriot White Division for the second consecutive year.

Several of the team's players were further highlighted by the North Jersey Super Football Conference, including: **1st Team Offense:** Philip Lutz, Frank Lagreca, Will Perez, and Eamon Morrissey; **1st Team Defense:** Carmen Cucuzza, Anthony Sangillo, Vincent Scaglia, and Dorian Gashi; **2nd Team Offense:** Zacharay Lemanski and Patrick Delehanty; **2nd Team Defense:** Luke Dignazio; and **Honorable Mention:** Gerard Onorata.

The West Essex High School Football Team is comprised of the following members: **Seniors:** Carmen Cucuzza, Luke Garcia, Marco Gencarelli, Mark Lachenauer, Frank Lagreca, Eamon Morrissey, Gerard Onorata, Anthony Sangillo, Vincent Scaglia, William Styskal, and Zachary Zerance; **Juniors:** Wes Asche,

Andrew Campione, Nicholas Celentano, Michael Cuzzo, Joseph D'Albo, Patrick Delehanty, Elias Dias, Luke Dignazio, Thomas Egan, Michael Finetti, William Garofalo, Dorian Gashi, Zachary Lemanski, Philip Lutz, Will Perez, Peter Petronczak, Brandon Reo, Frankie Rizzo, Ryan Rusignuolo, Joshua Sanchez, and Jonathan Scrivo; **Sophomores:** Vito Benevenga, Christian Caronia, Samuel Carsillo, Cristian Cataldo, Nicholas Ciaglia, Ryan Coyle, Matthew Crummy, James DeMichele, Thomas Drago, Matthew Filippini, Bardhyl Gashi, Aaron Gonzalez, Christian Hiel, Joseph Lachenauer, Russell Lanzi, Christopher Lembo, Tyler Logan, Andrew Mongiello, Vincent Negri, Tanner Newby, James Perrone, Joshua Pisano, and Christian Styskal; and **Freshman:** Vincent Panzarino.

In addition to Head Coach Chris Benacquista, the team was coached by the following assistant coaches: Timothy Glenn, Ronald Rowe, Greg Vaccaro, Michael Llauget, Ryan Logan, Joseph Russo, Dominick Linsalato, and Michael Markey. The team also received assistance from Athletic Trainers John Mascola and Kevin Gramata and administrative support from Superintendent Barbara Longo, Principal Caesar Diliberto, Assistant Principals Damion Macioci and Juliann Hoebee, and Director of Athletics Anthony Minnella.

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