BARUCH’S MATT SOJA NAMED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

CITY TECH FRESHMAN DARIO ROSALES NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR;

JOHN JAY’S TONY PHILLIPS TABBED COACH OF THE YEAR

Flushing, NY - - -Baruch junior Matt Soja (Clifton/Clifton, New Jersey) has been named the 2006 Cross Country Athlete of the Year and City Tech’s Dario Rosales (Newtown/Corona, NY) was selected as the Rookie of the Year. In addition, John Jay head coach Tony Phillips was also chosen by his peers as the Coach of the Year.

Soja was named the Most Outstanding Athlete at the CUNYAC Championships after he captured the individual race title with a time of 29:00 at Van Cortlandt Park. The result was his best time of the season as he captured his fifth gold medal of 2006. During the regular-season, Soja won the Baruch Invitational, York Invitational, Lehman Invitational, and the City Tech Invitational. “I am happy to receive such a great recognition award from the CUNY Athletic Conference,” said Soja, a native of Clifton, New Jersey. “We have a great team that is only in its first season as a varsity sport, so to win this is special. I want to thank my team and coaches for all of their support.” Soja has also enjoyed a tremendous career in the classroom as the economics major currently owns a sensational 3.95 grade point average. He was named the CUNYAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month for September.

The outstanding debut season exhibited by New York City College of Technology freshman Dario Rosales earned him Rookie of the Year honors. The accolade is the first in school history by a cross country student-athlete. “I am not surprised that he has earned the Rookie of the Year,” said head Men’s & Women’s Cross Country Coach John Strickland. “Week in and week out, he was the top freshman at Van Cortlandt Park, each Sunday. He’s a poised and determined young runner. He has the vision necessary to compete at the top level, and he will be a force here at City Tech for a number of years.” Rosales topped his own school record with a time of 30:00.3 in the five mile (8K) race at the CUNYAC Championships in the Bronx. Rosales finished in third place in the race, his top finish in his final showing of the short season. He led the Yellow Jackets in each of his four meets this season, finishing in the top seven in each race.

Phillips led John Jay to their first CUNYAC title in the sport since 1990 as the Bloodhounds edged York by just two points at the CUNYAC Championships on October 22nd at Van Cortlandt Park. He also led the squad to the City Tech Invitational on Oct.8th. “This award is really not about me,” said Philips. “We would not have had the success we had if it wasn’t for the athletes themselves and my fantastic coaching staff (Pete Dodehoff, and two volunteer assistants, former John Jay cross country standout Jorge Rosales, and fellow volunteer assistant Brandon McCloud)."

--CUNYAC--