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SUNY Brockport’s Ben Bellucci Named 2006 ECAC Division III Men's Upstate Basketball Player of the Year

Cape Cod, Massachusetts -- The ECAC has announced the 2006 Division III Men's Upstate Basketball All-Star team. The Brockport Golden Eagles’ senior guard Ben Bellucci has been tabbed as the ECAC Division III Men's Upstate Player of the Year by a vote of ECAC coaches. Bellucci, the SUNYAC Player of the Year, was honored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) as a second team All American selection. He averaged 22 points, 6.2 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game. In addition to leading the Golden Eagles to a 10-6 conference record, Bellucci was named to the D3hoops.com All-Region first team.

In addition to being named the ECAC Player of the Year, Bellucci also earns a spot on the first-team. Joining him is St. John Fisher’s Sean O’Brien. The Empire 8 Player of the year, O’Brien led his team and the conference in assists (169) and free throw percentage (0.902). O’Brien was named to the NABC All-American first team, earned the East Region Player of the Year award and tabbed D3hoops.com All-Region second team honors.

Also earning a spot on the first team is junior forward Ray Bryant of Utica College. Bryant earned NABC East Region first-team honors, D3Hoops.com East Region first-team honors and was named to the (NABC) Division III All-American Third Team. He averaged team-highs of 18.8 points and 8.1 rebounds on the year leading the Pioneers to a 23-7 overall record and a trip to the NCAA Sweet 16.

Rensselaer’s senior forward Tom Schneider and Rochester’s big man Jon Onyiriuka were also voted onto the 2006 ECAC first-team. Schneider, the Liberty League Player of the Year, earned a spot on the D3hoops.com All-East Region second team. On the year, Schneider averaged a double-double of 18.0 points and 10.7 rebounds per game to lead the team in both categories. Onyiriuka led the Yellowjackets in scoring at 12.8 ppg. and in rebounding at 7.9 rpg. He helped Rochester to a 16-9 overall record and a 7-7 finish in the University Athletics Association.

The ECAC honored five additional student-athletes on the second-team. Union’s John Cagianello, Cortland’s Frank Ranieri, Jim Bellis of Ithaca, Plattsburgh’s Kris Gibbs-Smith and Edane Barton of Potsdam have all been named to the second-team.

In 2005-2006, the ECAC honored more than 65 men's basketball players during the winter months. The Conference also hosted four Division III championships in the regions of New England, Southern, Upstate and Metro. The ECAC's membership includes 318 Divisions I, II, and III colleges and universities from Maine to Georgia and westerly to Illinois. The conference provides services to its constituents that include the administration of 110 championships and events in 32 men's and women's sports. The ECAC honors more than 3,000 student-athletes during the academic year through its all- star and player of the week program. Each week of the winter season, the conference has recognized five men's basketball athletes in Divisions II and III.