



NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STOCKTON'S DESMOND & ROWAN'S KEEGAN NAMED NJAC VOLLEYBALL PLAYER AND DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Pitman, NJ—Stockton University senior right-side hitter **Allie Desmond (Ellicott City, MD/Marriotts Ridge)** and Rowan University senior outside hitter **Erin Keegan (Fairfield, NJ/West Essex Regional)** have been named the New Jersey Athletic Conference Women's Volleyball Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year respectively for the 2018 season. In total, 22 student-athletes garnered all-conference recognition in NJAC women's volleyball in 2018. All selections were determined by a vote of the league's nine head coaches and were based on conference-only statistics.

A two-time NJAC Player of the Week selection this season, Desmond finished her NJAC campaign as the league-leader in both conference-only kills (4.36 per set) and conference-only points (4.61 per set). Desmond also ranked ninth in conference-only hitting percentage (.320) and 19th in conference-only blocks (0.46 per set).

The selection of Rowan outside hitter Keegan as the NJAC Defensive Player of the Year marks the first time in the 15-year history of the award that it has been garnered by a player at a position other than libero. Keegan finished her senior NJAC campaign ranked fourth in conference-only digs (4.57 per set).

Montclair State University freshman outside hitter **Carly Waterman (Verona, NJ/Verona)** was selected as the NJAC Rookie of the Year. A five-time NJAC Rookie of the Week honoree this season, she finished her first NJAC campaign ranked fourth in both conference-only kills (3.39 per set) and conference only points (3.84 per set). The only freshman named to the league's first or second-team all-conference squads, she also ranked 15th in conference-only aces (0.36 per set) and 18th in conference-only digs (2.71 per set).

Rowan University head coach **Deana Jespersen** was selected as the NJAC Joy Solomen Coach of the Year by her peers. Picked to finish fourth in the 2018 NJAC preseason coaches' poll, Jespersen guided the Profs to a second-place NJAC finish with a 6-2 mark in conference. Now in her fifth season at the helm of the Rowan program, Jespersen has guided the Profs to 65 wins while her career collegiate victory total stands at 249.

Please find attached a complete list of the 2018 Women's Volleyball All-Conference Selections

2018 NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ALL-CONFERENCE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Allie Desmond, Stockton

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Erin Keegan, Rowan

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Carly Waterman, Montclair State

JOY SOLOMEN COACH OF THE YEAR: Deana Jespersen, Rowan

FIRST TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Allie Desmond	SR	RS	Stockton	Ellicott City, MD/Marriotts Ridge
Kailey Gallagher@	JR	OPP	Rowan	Bayonne, NJ/Bayonne
Jesse Larkin^%	JR	MH	Kean	Redwood City, CA/Woodside
Vikki Stec*\$	SR	OH	Kean	Elmwood Park, NJ/Elmwood Park Memorial
Emily Sullivan\$	SO	S	Stockton	Bridgewater, NJ/Bridgewater-Raritan
Alyson Toman	JR	OH	William Paterson	Secaucus, NJ/Secaucus

SECOND TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Megan Jacobi^%	JR	OH	Rowan	Nazareth, PA/Nazareth Area
Julie Kohlhoff	SO	MH	Stockton	West Islip, NJ/West Islip
Natalia Majkut@	SR	RS	Montclair State	Cherry Hill, NJ/Cherry Hill East
Morgan Ridgway	JR	OH	Ramapo	Barnegat, NJ/Barnegat
Jamie Shirtz	SR	MH	Rowan	Mendham, NJ/West Morris Mendham
Carly Waterman	FR	OH	Montclair State	Verona, NJ/Verona

HONORABLE MENTION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Brianna Calvano@	JR	S	Kean	Williamstown, NJ/Williamstown
Kendall Caruso	SR	S	William Paterson	Secaucus, NJ/Secaucus
Ashley Griffith	SR	S	Montclair State	Westwood, NJ/Westwood
Franceska Gustave	SO	MH	Stockton	Edgewater, NJ/Leonia
Brett Harper	SR	OH	Kean	Vero Beach, FL/St. Edwards
Leah Higgins	FR	OH	Montclair State	Leonia, NJ/Leonia
Amanda Lembo	SR	OH	William Paterson	North Haledon, NJ/DePaul Catholic
Natalie Miller%	JR	DS	Stockton	Pittsburgh, PA/Thomas Jefferson
Zoe Strozewski	SO	MH	Kean	Mount Prospect, IL/John Hersey

Key:

\$ - First Team All-Conference 2017

% – Second Team All-Conference 2017

@ - Honorable Mention 2017

* - First Team All-Conference 2016

^ - Honorable Mention 2016