

The fall athletic season proved especially strong

Women's soccer finished the season as the NCAA Division III national runner-up after falling 1-0 to Messiah College in the championship match. TCNJ has now appeared in the NCAA championship game six times in the program's 15-year history. Sophomores **Dana DiBruno** and **Courtney Krol** and freshman **Jamie Kunkel** were all named to the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer All-Tournament Team for their outstanding play. In the semifinal game, DiBruno broke TCNJ's single-season scoring record with 48 points, two better than the previous mark of 46. Earlier in the season, TCNJ won the NJAC Women's Soccer Championship for the ninth time in the league's history. DiBruno was named 2005 NJAC Offensive Player of the Year, while Krol was named the Defensive Player of the Year. Senior goalie **Alissa Kacar** was also recognized as the league's Goalkeeper of the Year.

Named to the NJAC All-Star First Team were senior **Brittney Boyd** and freshman **Laura Delaney**, while sophomore **Kristen Cubicciotti** was named to the second team.



Brittney Boyd '06, named to NJAC All-Star first team

Men's soccer won the 2005 NJAC regular-season championship and finished as the NJAC Tournament champion after being ranked ninth by the league's coaches in a pre-season poll. TCNJ's **George Nazario** was named the NJAC Coach of the Year after leading the Lions to the NCAA Tournament, where

they fell to the eventual national champion, Messiah College, in the quarterfinals. Sophomore **Matt Kasperavicius** was named Goalkeeper of the Year, while senior **Matthew Connor** and sophomores **Matt Luber**, **Joseph McGinley**, and Kasperavicius all were named to the NJAC All-Star First Team.

Cross country rookie head coach **Phil Jennings** was named the NJAC's Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year as well as the Atlantic Regional Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year. Both men and women teams won the 2005 NJAC Championships, and qualified for the 2005 NCAA Division III Championships at Ohio Wesleyan University. There, TCNJ's women finished in ninth place nationally, and the men took a 10th, up from 18th last year. TCNJ's women's cross country team has now finished in the Top 15 in 10 of the last 11 NCAA championships. TCNJ's men's team has finished in the Top 20 in eight of the last nine NCAA championships. Senior **Matt Randal** was named the NJAC Male Runner of the Year, while junior **Kristen Pogorzelski** was named the NJAC's Female Runner of the Year.

Field hockey earned an at-large spot for its 25th consecutive NCAA Division III Tournament. The Lions advanced to the second round before their season came to an end as the team posted a 15-5 record for the year. Earning All-American honors were juniors **Allison Greene** and **Meg Hess**, as both were named to the 2005 Dartfish/NFHCA Division III All-America Second Team.

Women's tennis won the program's 23rd consecutive NJAC championship with a perfect 5-0 conference record, extending their NJAC winning streak to

111 consecutive matches—a streak that dates back to the start of NJAC tennis in the fall of 1982. Sophomore **Christina Contrafatto** earned her second straight selection as the NJAC's Women's Tennis Player of the Year, while freshman **Haley Kutner** was named Rookie of the Year.

Football finished the season with a 3-7 record, but placed several Lions on the state conference's all-star team. Senior co-captain **Ramie Roye** was named to the NJAC's All-Star Second Team on the offensive line, while sophomore **Joe King** and junior **Josh Baker** were named to the NJAC's All-Star Second Team on defense. Honorable Mention honorees include sophomore **Jeff Bower**, junior **Ryan Ross**, junior **Kevin Pfluge**, and senior **Alan Kotteles**.

The 2005-2006 academic year marks the 25th anniversary of women's championships sponsored by the NCAA. With the close of the 2005 field hockey season, the NCAA selected a 25th Anniversary Division III Field Hockey Team. Among the former Lion student-athletes selected to the team were **Gina Carey-Smith '93**, **Diane Smith '85**, **Melanie Vasofski '97**, and **Tiffany Trockenbrod '01**. TCNJ's current head coach, **Sharon Pfluger '82**, was named the coach of the 25th anniversary team.



Sharon Pfluger '82, named coach of the Division III 25th Anniversary Field Hockey Team

TCNJ Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame



Six alumni were inducted into TCNJ Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame in June, along with two "Teams of Distinction" for 2005: the 1985-1986 women's tennis team, and the undefeated 1951 football team. The inductees (from left) are: **Donald Williams**, professor of health and physical education from 1961 to 1993, coach of gymnastics from 1961 to 1978 and founder of the wrestling program in 1961; **Kevin Bannon**, men's basketball coach at the College from 1982 to 1989, who led the squad to be NCAA Division III runner-up in 1989, and moved on to highly successful head coaching of basketball at Rider and Rutgers universities; **Bob "Hawk" Taylor '68**, who played two years with the Lions in 1966 and 1967, earned the National Football Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete honors in 1968, and after obtaining his master's from the College in 1969, pursued a remarkable career coaching high school football from 1969 to 2002; **Jennifer Harnett '93**, an 18-time All-American swimmer who returned to TCNJ in 2001 to mentor the women's swimming and diving program; **Pamela McCreesh '89**, a three-time All-American softball shortstop and NCAA Division III National Player of the Year in 1988; and **John Sarkos '52**, a four-year letter winner at football and a member of the 1951 undefeated team who returned to be an assistant at the College under George Ackerman before spending 35 years in the Atlantic City School District, where he turned in great records coaching track and field, wrestling, and girls' cross country, while also serving on the Atlantic City Beach Patrol for 53 years.

Rob Roche '93 watches after his players

Within five years of opening his own sports agency in 2000, **Rob Roche '93** has recruited eight clients, and in 2004 alone, he negotiated over \$10 million in contracts, on which he earned a three percent commission. Roche, the sole agent of RSR Sports Management, is one of seven sports agents nationwide who has six to 10 clients, while only eight percent manage 10 or more. Additionally, only half of NFL agents have any clients at all, placing Roche among a very small percentage of those who are successful.

Although Roche now helps football pros negotiate contracts with NFL teams, his interest in the sport began at a young age. Roche played wide receiver for the College's football team under Coach Eric Hamilton during his sophomore year (1990), after transferring from William Paterson. During that season, the team made its first-ever appearance in the Division III playoffs.

Despite the team's success, Roche left it to focus on his coursework. Although he loved football, he felt he had to concentrate on his ultimate goal—law school. Influenced at a young age by his uncle, an attorney, law "was just something I knew I wanted to do," recalled Roche.

Roche worked in the Morris County Courthouse during one summer as an undergraduate, and after graduating as an English major in 1993, his passion for the legal profession and consistent interest in sports led him to Seton Hall Law School's sports law program in 1994.

While in law school, Roche edited for the *Seton Hall Sports Law Journal* and worked for a Hackettstown law firm that



Rob Roche '93

negotiated professional teams' leases at the Meadowlands under the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. Roche received his law degree in 1997, passed the bar exam and worked for several firms before signing his first client, Neil Rackers of the Arizona Cardinals.

Rackers has earned recognition from the NFL Hall of Fame for kicking three 50-plus-yard field goals in one game, tying a record set by Morten Andersen in 1995. "Rob looks out for me in all areas," Rackers says. "It is good knowing that I have someone who is truly looking out for my best interest and someone I can trust. Rob also showed the drive and eagerness...to make a name for me and himself, and he delivered."

Other prominent kickers among Roche's eight clients include Shayne Graham of the Cincinnati Bengals and Josh Brown of the Seattle Seahawks. Roche travels often, as he continues to recruit players.

Although the football season lasts from September to February, an agent's job lasts all year. In January and February, he works to prepare college players who are about to enter the NFL. During the spring, he talks with younger college players about his firm and what he can do for them after graduation. In the summer, Roche negotiates directly

with NFL teams on his players' behalf, and once the season begins, he travels most weekends to make sure his players are doing well.

Although he enjoys his work, he says, "My goal is always to be home on Monday morning to take my son to school."

Roche admits his business could not be possible without the support of Amelia, his wife of seven years. They have two sons, Luke, 5, and Rob, 2, and live in Madison.

Nicole Kukawski '06



Tracy Warren '87, a magna cum laude communications studies major, went on to law school at Notre Dame University. A stellar fastpitch softball player, she's made a career in sports broadcasting while at the same time practicing employment and labor law in San Diego, CA. In June she was inducted by the College Sports Information Directors of America into its Academic All-America Hall of Fame.