

The Guardian



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Freshman Orientation Introduces the Class of 2026



Mr. Bruno welcomes the class of 2026

By Tim Doherty '23

SJR welcomed the incoming Class of 2026 and Knights Bridge Academy students as well as their families at the Orientation Dinner on May 16. This was an incredible event for the SJR community, as the dinner was unable to take place last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was great to see everyone come together once again under normal circumstances to celebrate the newest Green Knights joining the brotherhood.

Over five hundred people attended the dinner, where students were able to learn about what is ahead for them during their time at SJR. This incoming class, with one hundred sixty-five students, is the largest that SJR has seen in quite some time. As a result of these increased numbers, the school will be implementing a formal Big Brother program. Current Green Knight Ambassadors will help guide the incoming students through the high school transition as they enter the special brotherhood and will be available to answer their questions, assisting in any way they can.

The new Green Knights heard from several members of the SJR community throughout the night. They first listened to Mr. Stoto speak about the summer assignments that need

to be completed before their first year. While the students were not super excited to hear about this news, they were excited to hear from current senior, James Titolo '22 and his experience at SJR. He discussed how the school helped to truly shape his life as he gets ready to attend Boston College. The incoming students were given some great insight in terms of what to expect at their new home. They also had the opportunity to meet and interact with one another, looking forward to their first day of classes in September, which suddenly did not seem that far away.

It was certainly a welcome sight to see the Orientation Dinner back in full action and meet the newest members of the SJR community. Additionally, it was wonderful to see that so many of these young students on their way to becoming Green Knights. Welcome to the brotherhood!



Incoming class of 2026 enjoys their first community dinner while listening intently to Mr. Bruno.

Student Life

Mystic Pizza Debuts with Great Success



Mystic Pizza opened to SJR with glowing reviews

By Nicholas Pantano '25

On the weekend of May 20, the cast of *Mystic Pizza* took its final bow after a successful run during its world high school premiere. The show, a new musical, first started touring in Maine in August at the Ogunquit Playhouse. SJR originally began production of *Mystic Pizza* in late November. The show was supposed to take place from late January into early February, but due to an increase in Covid-19 cases, the show was moved into late May, replacing the spring drama.

Due to the fact that we are an all boys community, the SJR theater program is open to girls from a variety of schools. As for the boys, we have many freshmen and sophomores and two juniors featured in the play. No SJR seniors participated in the production, but eight very talented senior girls participated in what marks their final musical at the school. During the show, cast and crew members felt the "small town" community vibe since they have been working on this show for several hours, almost every day for seven months with a two month break in between.

Rehearsals consisted of practicing singing, dancing and staging many hits from the 1980's like "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley, "Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News, and "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" by Pat Benatar. During the final weeks of the show, there were dress rehearsals, which essentially means running through the show practicing as if there is an audience present when there isn't. This helped refine several scenes by incorporating new staging notes and fixing costumes.

The musical is based on the movie from the 80's of the same name and tells the story of three young women living in a small Connecticut town, Mystic, and their individual love lives. The three girls are all waitresses at the pizza parlor, Mystic Pizza. Each of the girls, Kat, Daisy and Jo meet their respective love interests, Tim, an architect's apprentice,

Charlie, a wealthy law school dropout and Bill, a small town fisherman, and have their individual relationship struggles.

The musical does a fantastic job incorporating the hit 80's songs into the plot while still maintaining the feel of the movie, which starred Julia Roberts.

The award winning SJR theater program has a complex set and a great stage crew that helped move many set pieces onto the stage. The production also benefitted greatly from authentic costumes and props, many of which were rented from the first tour of the musical. The show not only has a great cast and crew, but also a great production team that cumulatively makes the show a real success by taking care of the lights, microphones, onstage band and many other aspects to help the show run smoothly and be the best that it can be.

After running two weekends of shows, *Mystic Pizza* ended on Saturday, May 21, marking an almost 8 month long journey from auditions until the show's end. The closing night was a well deserved celebration for the cast and crew who worked so hard to make the show a success. It was also very emotional because it was the final high school show for the eight seniors girls who the SJR theater program was so lucky to have had for many years. During the unusually long production period, the cast and crew became a true family, spending countless hours together on a daily basis. Those who are not graduating are already looking forward to the next show so they can return to their SJR theater family.



(Left to right) Frank Perone '24 Thomas Snyder '23 and Jeffrey Guneratne '23 were in starring roles in the play.

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Student Life

SJR Seniors Reflect on Time at SJR and Share Future Plans



Conor Mahoney is excited to attend Muhlenberg College in the fall

By Timothy Doherty '23

With the class of 2022 finishing up their final year at SJR, I asked several seniors to reflect on their time here and what their plans are for the coming years.

Conor Mahoney: I'm attending Muhlenberg College. I plan on majoring in finance and playing football. My St. Joe's experience has been the best four years of my life, and I can't wait to continue the brotherhood tradition as an alumnus.

Connor Macdonald: I am attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach and am studying mechanical/aerospace engineering. I remember transferring to SJR my junior year and being welcomed and included as soon as I stepped foot in the school. I was extremely fortunate to have a good group of friends always supporting me along the way. I was also proud to be a part of a great soccer team and couldn't have asked for a better time at SJR.

Stephen Carrozza: I am attending the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. I will be studying civil engineering and playing baseball. My experience at SJR was the best time I have ever had. I can't believe my four years here are over! SJR prepared me for college by helping me learn skills inside and outside the classroom. I can't wait to move on to college, but I will miss this school and the friends that I

have made here.

Jaden Wimberly: This fall I will be attending Lehigh University. I plan on studying sports management and playing football during my time there. My experience at St. Joe's was unique due to the fact that I transferred in my junior year. It was a fun time, and I learned plenty of life lessons along the way. One thing that I will carry with me for the rest of my life is the networking skills that SJR introduced me to.

Logan Muniz: I'm going to the University of Scranton and will be studying finance and business. I still can't believe that four years here at SJR are over. Time really does fly by! I would call St. Joe's my home away from home, and it was great to be part of the brotherhood. SJR has not only prepared me to get into a great school, but it has also helped me receive a scholarship and get into a competitive program.

We wish the seniors the best of luck during their time after graduation, as we know they will only continue to make SJR proud!



Logan Muniz plans to continue his academic career at the University of Scranton in the fall.

Feature

Ecology Club Brings New Life into SJR's Habitat



Spring brings steady progress on outdoor habitat and pond

By Nicholas Pantano '25

Mrs. Cavera has been working on refurbishing the outdoor classroom. She has brought many of her classes out to the classroom to learn while experiencing nature. In modern times, people are spending significantly less time outdoors. Therefore, this is a great way to help people go outside and appreciate nature, while still gaining an education.

The features of the outdoor habitat include a pond, which supports a variety of organisms, such as plants and turtles. The outdoor classroom has been worked on since early in the year, finally getting close to completion towards the middle of May.

The habitat can support a variety of life because it can provide a wetland ecosystem for several insects, which are crucial to the survival of many species since they are near the beginning of many food webs. This helps the environment because it provides a source of food for endangered animals, preserving the species. Like species affected by the habitat, humanity as a whole has to work together to fix the environment since many species, even humans, could be gone very soon if we don't do anything to address this issue.

As seen in the image, there are a multitude of green plants in the ecosystem representing a variety of species. Each of

these plants is necessary for its natural ecosystem since they are used for food, (in this case their seeds and fruits can be eaten by birds and insects), as well as their reproduction, which can produce nectar to attract pollinators for pollination to nearby habitats.

Overall, the outdoor classroom habitat is both an aesthetic beauty to see either during class or from the cafeteria windows as one sits gazing out at it. The fresh air that students get while learning in this outdoor space is refreshing and helps our minds work to their fullest potential. The outdoor classroom is a great space to learn, but as it is outside, it is susceptible to the weather. During the winter, when it is too cold, or when it is raining heavily, the outdoor classroom will not be used.

Hopefully, more schools follow this positive example and start making habitats like this for outdoor learning. As time goes on, more and more people are being confined indoors, but we are hurting the planet. I hope that people will spend more time outdoors and learn to love nature and try to preserve it.

If this doesn't happen, the world may suffer irreversible damage that threatens every species on the planet, including humans. For SJR, I hope that this space continues to get used, but also that other outdoor areas around the school will go through these great ecological transformations. The conservation of nature like this will not only help the environment, but it will also keep humanity alive before we perish from existence.



(Left to right) Ashton Samson '23, Van Ting '22, RJ Gatto '23, Henry Michaelson '23 and Austin Losardo '23 were primary contributors to the pond restoration.

News

Saul's Corner-Timor-Leste's Independence Day



East Timor flies high celebrating independence

By Saul Garcia '22

On May 20th, Timor-Leste, formerly known as East Timor, will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its second independence. Timor-Leste was originally a colony of several European powers, but Portugal has had the greatest influence on the region before its first independence.

After recapturing the eastern half of the island of Timor from the Japanese in World War II, Portugal remained in control until 1975. At this time, the political party Fretilin (a Portuguese acronym for Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) declared its independence in November as the Democratic Republic of East Timor. However, East Timor's independence was short-lived before its neighbor, Indonesia, invaded it nine days later in fear that it would become a communist nation. Indonesian occupation would be the darkest portion of history that the eastern portion of Timor would ever face.

On the morning of December 7th, 1975, the Indonesian dictator Suharto invaded the newly established nation. There were two incursions to take over the two largest cities, Dili (now the capital) and Baucau. Despite guerilla resistance by the East Timorese, the annexation was virtually complete by 1978. By this year, 100,000 people died, about 16% of the population in 1975. Most of those who died were civilians killed by the Indonesian military. They starved to death in internment camps, or died while hiding in the wilderness.

Attacks still occurred during Suharto's regime, and when he was ousted from power, the United Nations gave East Timor a referendum for independence in 1999. The people voted to be a separate country, leading to three years of bloody massacre with another 100,000 East Timorese dead from

Indonesian militants. In 2001, many East Timorese voted for their first democratic government, and in 2002, independence was finally achieved.

The violence did not stop in 2002, however. The first president, Xanana Gusmão (2002-2007), resigned after one five-year term when the East Timorese army, F-FDTL, attempted a coup in April and May of 2006. The United Nations security forces, which left a year prior, returned to de-escalate the violence, which was hardly anything in comparison to Indonesian rule. In 2008, Gusmão, who became the Prime Minister, and President Ramos Horta (2007-2012) survived assassination attempts. Ramos Horta won the Nobel Peace Prize with Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo in 1996 for their efforts for independence. He also won the 2022 Presidential runoff election last month.

In 2013, it was revealed that the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) had been spying on the East Timorese government since 2004. Australia wanted access to the nation to make profit from the petroleum in the Greater Sunrise field in the Timor Sea. The petroleum sector is responsible for 70% of Timor-Leste's GDP (gross domestic product), but despite this scandal, Timor-Leste wants to maintain positive relations with Indonesia and Australia for trade.

Petroleum and gas does not create much employment for the country, and former president Taur Matan Ruak (2012-2017) and incumbent president Francisco Guterres (2017-present) have been criticized for not improving life quality for the majority of the population. 42% of the people of Timor-Leste are under the poverty line, there is traffic congestion in Dili, and 1,000 people died in floods last month. However, Timor-Leste, Asia's youngest democracy, has been more self-sufficient in recent years after the United Nations withdrew from it in 2012. With a rise in education and an increase in youth-seeking employment, Timor-Leste has the potential to transform into a more developed country this century and move on from its scars of occupation.



Timor-Leste's citizens marching for freedom

Senior Prom



*SJR's Senior Prom took place on May 24-
on the Destiny Cruise Yacht, setting sail from Hoboken;*

Counter-clockwise from top right (Left to right)

TJ Bayer '22 and Patrick Freitas '22 pose amidst a stunning sunset;

Logan Muniz '22, Ryan Tobin '22, David Tellado '22, Peter Edmonds '22, Shane Brennan '22, Aidan Woods '22, Nicholas Steinhauer '22 and Lucas Mascotti '22 enjoying a group moment on the boat;

SJR prom dates looking their very best;

A group photo of fellow Green Knights kicking back on the boat;

Jared Zevzavadjian '22, Conor Mahoney '22 and Pierce Kelly '22 enjoying a jovial moment with Mr. FitzSimons.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



Mystic Pizza



SJR's Mystic Pizza ran from May 13-May 21;

Clockwise from top left;

The cast of Mystic Pizza posing for a photo;

Erin Teasdale '22 and Taylor Terry '22 excited and energetic in their roles;

Thomas Snyder '23 and Taylor Terry '22 perform amidst vibrant colors;

Michael Mainelli '24 sings with fervor to Erin Teasdale '22;

Jeffrey Guteratne '23 performs a memorable solo.

All photos by Barry Donnelly '71



College Sweatshirt Breakfast



College Sweatshirt Breakfast



Student Life

SJR's College Commits for 2022



By Ashton Samson '23

With graduation coming soon, below is a list of colleges that the class of 2022 will be attending.

American International College

Ave Maria University

Barry University

Bergen Community College

Boston College

Bryant University

Bucknell University

College of Charleston

Columbia University in the City of New York

Coppin State University

CUNY Hunter College

CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Drew University

Drexel University

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach

Fairfield University

Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham Campus

Florida Atlantic University

Fordham University

Gettysburg College

High Point University

Hobart William Smith Colleges

Iona College

Ithaca College

Kean University

Kenyon College

Lafayette College

Lehigh University

Long Island University

Loyola University Maryland

Lynn University

Manhattan College

Marist College

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Monmouth University

Montclair State University

Morehouse College



Student Life

SJR's College Commits for 2022



St. Thomas Aquinas College

Stevens Institute of Technology

SUNY at Albany

SUNY Maritime College

SUNY Morrisville

Susquehanna University

The College of New Jersey

The University of Tampa

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Tufts University

University of Bridgeport

University of Central Florida

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Georgia

University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

University of Miami

University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus

University of Richmond

University of Scranton

Wagner College

Muhlenberg College

New Jersey Institute of Technology

New York University

Pace University, Westchester Campus

Providence College

Ramapo College of New Jersey

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rockland Community College

Roger Williams University

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Sacred Heart University

Salve Regina University

Seton Hall University

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

Siena College

Springfield College

Entertainment

The Northman is Robert Eggers' Thrilling Return



By Ashton Samson '23

The Northman asserts Robert Eggers as a master of cinema, reflecting a perfect balance between a more mainstream, accessible viewing experience and his signature brand of unorthodox, hypnotic and hallucinatory imagery. The acting is sensational; it has been a long time since a cast has been so uniformly brilliant. Scenes of drama are masterfully constructed and teeming with suspense; an abundance of anxiety and anticipation befell me throughout the film, a testament to the authentic, engaging world that Eggers crafted for the big screen. Scenes of action are among the best choreographed and relentlessly violent ever committed to cinema. Although they are contributors to the film's exceptional quality, the real success lies in how Eggers alters a familiar and timeless tale of revenge to fuse with socially aware films of the modern era through themes that critique violence begetting violence and the toxic masculine behavior of men sharing space with one another.

Eggers doesn't reveal all of his cards right away. However, as the film progresses, it becomes clear that all of the men in the film are one and the same, toxic and filled with rage, violence and intolerance, especially in a communal setting. They are unable to communicate without violence and vengeance. The lead character, Amleth, played with a ferocious and animalistic brilliance by Alexander Skarsgård, and his group of Viking friends pillage villages, killing with ease in a series of stunningly choreographed scenes. One of these scenes is impressively filmed in one take, giving the audience an authentic, panoramic view of brutality and carnage that distinguishes the film from those with generic action scenes containing multiple cuts. Right before their violent

pursuits, the men channel their bear and wolf familiars through rituals that convey to the audience, through their howls and screams that echo into the night, the animalistic and barbaric instincts that they conjure in their preparation for violence. The film clearly discloses the vile and toxic nature that these men gravitate towards when together and unchecked, given the right opportunity and setting. Through the preponderance of gruesome scenes of carnage and roaring, thunderous music, the film unleashes an uncurbed, raw sense of primitive behavior.

Amleth attains a sense of focus as to his ultimate goal through communication with several mystical guides in subtle monologues that reveal the essence of the entire film in broad strokes. He shifts his violent rage merely from pillaging villages to a vehement determination to seek revenge by murdering the uncle who killed his father, Fjornir. Amleth travails through stormy oceans, disguised as a slave traveling to labor for Fjornir and his family. When he finds Fjornir again, the audience realizes that he too has the violent rage and propensity for bloody revenge that Amleth does. Then, we discover that Fjornir has married Amleth's mother, Gudrun, played by a scene-stealing Nicole Kidman. In a revelatory scene, both a testament to Egger's wonderful writing and Kidman's acting abilities, she professes that she never loved Amleth's real father, Aurvandil, a vicious monster to her who only wanted her to bear children.

Through these poignant scenes, Eggers has established that three men are essentially one in the same; they all express themselves through violence and treat the women in the film as property. It is only when the characters converge in the pulsating final act that we can see there is almost an infectious cycle of violence that male children are first taught by their fathers; two particularly noteworthy scenes occur with fathers priming their sons for violence and animalistic behavior, and they are some of the most haunting, brilliant scenes you'll see this year.

Although it won't be spoiled because the ending is too monumental, too stunning and too original a piece of filmmaking to be revealed here, it is at this point that Eggers truly reveals the futility of violent revenge. The conclusion to this film certainly critiques such behavior and shows the audience what Amleth's life could have been if he had not chosen this path and it is heartbreaking. Although he got what every man at the time wanted, to fight a glorious battle of revenge, Eggers seems to ask, at what cost? It is in showing the audience what Amleth could have had and what the correct perspective on living a glorious life is that we see Eggers altering this timeless tale of revenge for a new audience and *The Northman* is all the better for it.

Entertainment

Marvel Returns with *Doctor Strange* *In the Multiverse of Madness*



Benedict Cumberbatch, the mystical Dr. Strange, in the *Multiverse of Madness*

By Dylan Nazario '23

All it takes is one simple Google search to reveal that the newest Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) film, *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, has been pretty divisive. There are excited MCU fans wielding five-star reviews, while at the same time, there are critics thinking terribly of the movie. However, one thing is certain with all MCU films: you absolutely will have fun with the film. You will get a decent dose of surprises, twists, and interesting visuals.

After leaving off on his iconic Spider-Man trilogy, Sam Raimi returns to the director's chair and it shows in the final product. Straight out of the gates, *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* has instant "Sam Raimi Flair." With his classic camera work and love for the Doctor Strange mythology, Raimi definitely made one of the best MCU films coming out of Phase 4. This film has a lot to love for Raimi fans. Some viewers even say that this movie can be frightening at times, pushing the PG-13 rating as far as it can. Many have said that there are gruesome scenes that would usually not be seen in an MCU film. This is all thanks to Sam Raimi, who directed cult classics in the horror genre, *The Evil Dead* (1981), *Evil Dead II: Dead By*

Dawn (1987) and *Army of Darkness* (1992). The film has many implications for the greater Marvel Cinematic Universe. With the inclusion of the Marvel Illuminati starring characters like Charles Xavier, Reed Richards, Black Bolt, and Captain Carter, questions can be asked such as will these characters come back in perhaps different universes? John Krasinski, for example, playing the role of Reed Richards (Mister Fantastic) hopefully is not a one-off character. MCU fans have been waiting and hoping for another Fantastic Four film since the universal failure of *Fantastic Four* (2015). Many are hoping that John Krasinski can reprise his role in a future movie.

While the film definitely added to the roster of Marvel characters, critics have argued that the movie played it very safe. In terms of story and plot, *In the Multiverse of Madness* doesn't utilize its alternate universe to its full advantage. Some have stated that this is due to the understandable claim that America Chavez, another character part of the MCU, was underutilized. With her dimensional traveling powers, she can be used in a multitude of ways. However, in the film, she is young and not yet capable of comprehending the extent of her powers. Therefore, she has minimal involvement in advancing the plot, other than during one crucial scene at the end. In many ways, this movie only has Doctor Strange traveling in and out of two to three multiverses.

As this is a Marvel movie, the film does suffer from the "Marvel formula." MCU humor is littered throughout the movie, in every joke and side comment made. Additionally, many have argued that the movie doesn't deserve its title, as it didn't have the implications that many fans had theorized. With the ending of Phase 3 being a surprisingly cohesive *Avengers: Endgame*, many people take issue with the fact that *In the Multiverse of Madness*, along with the other films in Phase 4, feels more disjointed than the ones in Phase 3. Due to this, many don't know where the next movie will lead. Overall, it may not necessarily be the film's fault, since it is up to the higher-ups at Marvel to figure out a proper road map.

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness is not only one of the best Marvel products to come out, but is also one of the best movies to watch right now. If you are looking for a fun, wild, and terrifying ride through some of the corners of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, then look no further than this movie. The mind-boggling CGI, engaging plot, at times horrifying visuals, and the greater implications for the future will have you sitting at the edge of your seat, especially if you're a Marvel fan. I know that I thoroughly enjoyed this movie, and I believe that you will too!

Feature

Mr. McNulty Fulfills His Three-Year Run as President



Kevin McNulty '78 returns to teaching after a fruitful three years as President of SJR

By Nicholas Steinhauser '22

SJR's President for the past three years, Mr. Kevin McNulty '78, will step down from his position by the end of this school year. Here is an exclusive interview with him discussing his thoughts about the departure.

Why did you decide to step down?

I have been actively engaged in leading Catholic schools for more than half of my career, most significantly for 15 of the last consecutive years. Like so many others, I have found the Covid years to be particularly tiring. It seems like a good time for fresh leadership.

How have your past three years at St. Joe's been?

I can say that very little I have done careerwise prepared me for the difficulties that came with Covid. That being said, these last three years have been extraordinarily rich and fruitful. The students here at St. Joe's are just amazing. And the alumni and families are as well. It has been a real delight to work with so many committed people, those who really want to develop the Vir Fidelis, people who just love St. Joe's.

Would you have done anything differently?

I'm sure I would. If we're not learning from our mistakes then we surely fail. I have learned much from my many

mistakes, but dwelling on them here is probably not the best place for reflection.

How were your three years as President compared to your four years as a student?

That's an interesting question. I remember that the Principal when I was a student was not very involved in the day to day life of the school. Everyone knew Brother Peter Russell, but few knew Brother Joseph Smithers. As a kid, I had no sense of what school leadership meant or why the Head of School was invisible. I got into Catholic education because I have a passion for working with young people. And so I have not wanted to be a school leader distant from the lives and hopes and dreams of the young men I serve. It has been a great joy to share with them in the classroom and in the cafeteria, to greet them as they come to school each day and to cheer them on in the theater and on the fields. I enjoyed my time here as a student, but I loved it even more these last few years.

What are your plans moving forward?

I am going to return to the classroom and give up administration. Teaching is the highest vocation, in my opinion. That's where the rubber meets the road. I am going to spend time with my grandkids and do all those projects at home that have piled up. And I am going to spend more time in service. I will be spending a week this summer at the Marist Brothers camp in Esopus, and I know I will be working with current students and other alumni (including you). For years I have heard from young alumni how great the Esopus experience is, so I am truly looking forward to it.

What have you learned from your experience as the President?

There are so many things, but let me focus on two. I think I have learned ever more deeply that so many young men are suffering greatly, and in ways that few are aware. I have been blessed to be able to walk with some of them and offer some comfort along the way. It's important to seek them out. Second, the Marists have a wonderful bit of wisdom that helps enlighten the vocation of teaching. They, quoting their founder, say there are two kinds of people, the good and the not yet good. I love that deep optimism about people. I try to see things that way.

Sports

Lacrosse



Photo from SJR Instagram

Captain Marc Manfredonia '22 led the defense for this season's 12-4 record

By Ryan Colella '23

The Saint Joseph Regional Lacrosse team had one of its most successful seasons in recent memory this past year. The team compiled a 12-4 record, including an 11-game win streak following their first game of the season. The team finished #11 in the consensus state rankings by NJ.com. They also finished 2nd place in the Gibbs division, one of the toughest conferences in the state. Unfortunately, their season came to an end on May 25th, when they lost a tight game to St. Augustine in the Non-Public A State Quarterfinals. However, there are many positives to look back on from this season.

The team's success can largely be attributed to the senior class of 2022, which brought leadership and experience to the field. Senior captains Owen Finetto (34G, 19A) and Jared Zevzavadjian (7G, 22A) led the offense. Captains Nico Kross (103 GBs) and Marc Manfredonia (47 GBs) led the defense. Seniors Peter Edmonds (34G, 7A), Michael D'Eletto, and Tanner Kurtz were also large contributors to the team. Most of the seniors were four-year players for SJR and have left their mark on the program. Many of them also plan to continue their lacrosse careers in college, including: Owen Finetto (Providence), Nico Kross (Wagner), Jared Zevzavadjian (Salve Regina), Mike D'Eletto (Kenyon) and Marc Manfredonia (Susquehanna). These seniors' absence will be felt next season, but there are plenty of underclassmen who are ready to step up to the plate.

Below the seniors are a group of juniors who are prepared to take on the leadership role next season. Junior Duke

Richman was one of the leading scorers on offense with 43 points (30G, 13A) while juniors Ryan Colella, Dylan Rummel, Cooper Kurtz, and Stanley Labady held down the defense. Junior faceoff man Kyle Rummel was exceptional at the X this season, winning almost 80% of his faceoffs, and totaling 118 ground balls. Some of these juniors are already committed to play in college, including Duke Richman (Rutgers), Kyle Rummel (Lafayette), and Dylan Rummel (UMass Lowell). This group will be ready to lead the way in 2023 as seniors.

The Green Knights lacrosse team has a bright future in its talented underclassmen. Sophomores Isaac Cruz and Tommy Brennan were huge contributors on offense this year, despite only having 1 year of varsity experience under their belt. Cruz (26G, 14A) and Brennan (13G, 22A) took on a heavy workload and combined for 75 points on the season. On the other end of the field, sophomore goalie Ryan Cunningham anchored the defense in net, totaling 207 saves on the season. Cunningham continued his success from last year where he earned the starting job as a freshman. The future is bright for SJR lacrosse behind these young players.

While this season may not have ended the way this team wanted it to, there is a lot to look forward to in the future. Following a 12 win season, the lacrosse team will build on their success and look forward. Under the leadership of head coach Dan Daponte, the Green Knights will be one of the most dangerous teams in Bergen County and the state.



Photo from SJR Instagram

Captain Owen Finetto '22 led the offense for the 11 game win streak