



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **John F. Kennedy Soccer Players Score College Scholarships**

\*\*\*Caption for attached photo is below\*\*\*

Three Knights soccer players signed acceptance letters in the Tyrone Collins Gymnasium at John F. Kennedy (JFK) High School on Wednesday, June 29, 2023.

Criss Escoto will be attending Caldwell University for Financial Economics  
Christopher Chavarria will be attending Centenary University for Business Marketing  
Johann Sanchez-Castro will be attending Centenary University as undecided

W. Scott Durham, the Supervisor of Athletics at JFK stated that the signings were the result of the hard work done over the last three years. “It is a great accomplishment for the coaches and the players,” he said.

Richard Solis said, “I have been fortunate to coach Johann, Criss, and Christopher on the John F. Kennedy High School soccer team for four years since I took the head coach position. They have all demonstrated to be young men of character, intelligence, leadership, and talent from the first practice. As seniors, they all continued to display the leadership and work ethic that every coach hopes for from their top players.” He mentions that the Knights’ achievements over the past three years had not been seen in the school’s soccer program for almost 30 years.

Christopher Chavarria said, “I feel good! Pushing all the way to the end, working hard, it’s all brought me to this moment now. I’m ready to go to college to keep improving. playing soccer and studying.”

For Johann Sanchez-Castro going to college was not part of his earliest plans. “I wanted to be a Marine, to serve our country, but slowly getting into the soccer season, having fun with the boys, being a leader, really shaped me into the person I am today. I just want to thank God for leading me down a path where I can enjoy being with my family instead of being away.” Being in the program changed his perspective on how he can serve his community. Although he is going into college undeclared, he has a strong interest in criminal justice or law enforcement.

Superintendent Eileen Shafer said, “I’m really proud of what’s happening with the soccer program at JFK and these young men. It proves that the hard work student-athletes put into their efforts can really pay off. Through the guidance of their coaches, teachers, and administrators, these graduates were able to make the most during their time studying and growing in Paterson’s public school system. Congratulations to Criss, Christopher, and Johann on a job well done and thank you to their families for supporting them.”

Photo: (L-R, seated) Johann Sanchez-Castro, Criss Escoto, Christopher Chavarria. (L-R standing) Larry Serrano, Jordan Serrano, Richard Solis, Alfredo Serrano, W. Scott Durham

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