



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Top Eastside Athletes Join University Teams Next Year

Four students that play on Eastside High School's Ghosts sports teams have signed on to play at universities starting this Fall semester.

Jhy'Deisha Stewart attended Paterson P-TECH and played Girls Basketball & Flag Football for the Ghosts. She will play for Morgan State's women's basketball team, coming off of four successful years with the Ghosts. She has been a starter for all four years of her high school basketball career, helping to win two county championships and four league titles.

"I want to thank my family and coaches for everything that they have done for me in high school," said Ms. Stewart.

Girl's Basketball Coach Brandon Pilgrim said of Ms. Stewart, "[I] just want to give Jhy'Deisha a lot of credit and congratulate her. I have known her since she was in 6th grade and then became her coach for all four years. I'm just proud of all the things that she has been able to accomplish.

Nydia Cos-Rivera is enrolled at International High School and is this year's valedictorian. She played for the Ghosts' Girls Soccer, Softball & Flag Football teams, and is called "Ny" by friends, teammates and coaches. She will be going to the University of Connecticut for Biology, with plans on becoming a neurologist. Although she will be going on an academic scholarship, she plans on continuing to play in the school's flag football club.

"My coaches have been a big part of my life and have really made a difference in it," said Ms. Cos-Rivera.

Coach Pilgrim was her flag football coach, saying of her, "I've only known Ny for the last two years, but she's like a beacon of light; she brings life and energy to our program. I'm really proud of her. We are going to miss her leadership on the field and her positivity."

Assistant Soccer Coach Daniel Carrera said, "Ny showed up every day at practice, putting in massive effort. She's been a leader without being vocal about it; just showing up with a positive attitude whether on or off the field."

Jayden McKenzie of Eastside High School was on the Track & Field team. He will be attending Saint Peters University for Computer Science on a partial scholarship.

"I'm looking forward to improving myself at Saint Peters and seeing what I can accomplish," he said. "I love my coach for believing in me for the two years that I have been at Eastside; for seeing it through to the end with me."

Track & Field Coach Edward Hamilton said, "Jayden is an amazing student. He's done very well elevating our program as a leader and as a great teammate. Saint Peters is getting an excellent student athlete."

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Malachi Bethea of Eastside High School played on the Ghosts' Football team. He will be attending Western Connecticut University, majoring in Business Management and minoring in Entrepreneurship. The school has offered him a full scholarship.

"Eastside has shaped me into the man that I am today," said Mr. Bethea. "I wouldn't be the player I am or going to Western Connecticut if it wasn't for my coaches. I'm truly thankful for their sacrifices and the opportunity that they gave me."

Football Coach James Magazine said, "I am just super proud of Malachi; he has been the ideal student athlete. He's done everything that we've asked him to do and today it is paying off."

Eastside High School's Supervisor of Athletics T.J. Hill had much to say about the students: "Jhy'Deisha & Nydia, both of these students model how I would want my own daughter to be, not only as a student, but also as a person. Jhy'Deisha, as the captain of the Flag Football team, is mild-mannered and leads by example. She is the epitome of a student athlete. Nydia also leads by example, juggling three sports, work, studies, and never missing a practice. One of the things that I love about that student is her consistent accountability and responsibility. Both of these girls are a coach's dream. If you want a student that your instructions will hold to, so that they become productive members of their community, then these two girls are excellent examples of that."

Talking about Mr. McKenzie, he said, "Jayden has worked extremely hard. He defeated the odds, only having come from Jamaica two years ago and adapting to the culture, learning the American way. I'm looking for him to do something special as well."

On Mr. Bethea, he said, "Malachi has gone through trials and tribulations during his sports career here at Eastside. Having experienced a terrible injury that threatened his ability to play football, only to come back and stick it out to earn a scholarship to a university, that's very commendable. He's used all of the resources and support that we made available to him to get here."

"These students have different stories," Mr. Hill said, "but each has shown perseverance."

Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell said of the students' achievements, "I am impressed and proud of how these students have presented themselves in the arena and in the classroom. They are exactly what our efforts as educators and community members are trying to achieve for the youth of Paterson. Wherever they find themselves in the future, each of them will make a positive impact."

Photo 1: (L-R) Jayden McKenzie, Jhy'Deisha Stewart, Nydia Cos-Rivera, Malachi Bethea

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Notes:

Eastside High School will have a recognition event for several of our student-athletes. The purpose of the event is to recognize and celebrate the student-athletes on their college/university selections. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 @11:00am in the Eastside High School gymnasium. Please, confirm your attendance for the event.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this event.

Below you will find the student-athletes that we will recognize:

Jhy'Deisha Stewart, P-TECH (Girls Basketball & Flag Football)- Morgan State University for Finance and Information Systems

Quote: I want to thank my family and coaches for everything that they have done for me in high school.

Coach Pilgrim – Want to give her a lot of credit and congratulate her. I have known her since she was in 6th grade and then became her coach for all four years. I'm just proud of all the things that she has been able to accomplish.

Nydia Cos-Rivera, International (Girls Soccer, Softball & Flag Football)- University of Connecticut for Biology to become a neurologist. Will play flag football.

Quote: My coaches have been a big part of my life and have really made a difference in it.

Coach Pilgrim- I've only known Ny for the last two years, but she's like a beacon of light; she brings life and energy to our program. I'm really proud of her and we are going to miss her leadership on the field and her positivity.

Coach Carrera – Nydia showed up for every day at practice, putting in massive effort. She's been a leader without being vocal about it; just showing up with a positive attitude whether on or off the field.

Jayden McKenzie, Eastside (Track & Field)- Saint Peters University for Computer Science

Quote: I'm looking forward to improving myself at Saint Peters and seeing what I can accomplish. I love my coach for believing in me for the two years that I have been at Eastside; for seeing it through to the end with me.

Coach Edward Hamilton – Jayden is an amazing student. He's done very well elevating our program as a leader and as a great teammate. Saint Peters is getting an excellent student athlete.

Malachi Bethea, Eastside (Football)- Western Connecticut for a major in Business Management and minor in Entrepreneurship.

Quote: Eastside has shaped me into the man that I am today. I wouldn't be the player I am or going to Western Connecticut if it wasn't for my coaches. I'm truly thankful for their sacrifices and the opportunity that they gave me.

Magazine – I am just super proud of Malachi; he has been the ideal student athlete. He's done everything that we've asked him to do and today it is paying off.

TJ Hill:

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