

MET BASKETBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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JEAN-BAPTISTE OF BROOKLYN TOPS ALL-MET DIV. III MEN'S TEAM

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – Richard Jean-Baptiste of Brooklyn College was named 2007-08 All-Met Division III men's college basketball player of the year Wednesday by the National Invitation Tournament and the Met Basketball Writers Assn.

Erik Smiles of Farmingdale State was selected coach of the year.

Joining Jean-Baptiste on the All-Met first team: Damien Santana, Farmingdale State; David Acree, St. Joseph's-LI; Dana John, NJCU; Jamaal Hall, New York City Tech; Robert Mesjasz, Staten Island.

The All-Met second team: Jamal Webb, New York Maritime; Zach Gordon, Yeshiva; Virgil Gray, Stevens; Waleed Farid, Stevens; Cody Moffett, Manhattanville; Tim Wesley, Ramapo; Duane Rhoden, Lehman.

The All-Met third team: Tim Williams, Stevens; Phil Lipari, St. Joseph's-LI; Omari Phipps, York; Mike Salamanca, York; Chadd Barnes, Rutgers-Newark; Abdoulaye Ovedraogo, Wm. Paterson; Joey Spiegel, Wm Paterson.

A sophomore forward from Queens, N.Y., Jean-Baptiste led the CUNY Athletic Conference with 22.8 ppg (14th in the nation), had 61 steals and 31 blocks, and shot 43.5% from three-point range. He was named CUNYAC player of the year and NABC All-America second team.

In his fourth season at the helm, Smiles guided the Rams to a 22-6 record, their second Skyline championship in three years and a berth in the NCAA tournament.

The All-Met first and second team players, and coach of the year, will be honored on Thursday evening, April 17, at the 75th NIT/MBWA college awards dinner at Giants Stadium Club in East Rutherford, N.J.

SUMMARY

FIRST TEAM: Richard Jean-Baptiste, Brooklyn, 6-4, so, F, Queens, N.Y.; Damien Santana, Farmingdale State, 6-2, jr, G, Brooklyn, N.Y.; David Acree, St. Joseph's-LI, 6-0, jr, G, Brentwood, N.Y.; Dana John, NJCU, 6-2, jr, G, Hillside, N.J.; Jamaal Hall, New York City Tech, 5-11, jr, G, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Robert Mesjasz, Staten Island, 6-2, sr, G, Staten Island, N.Y.

SECOND TEAM: Jamal Webb, New York Maritime, 6-7, sr, F, Tuckahoe, N.Y.; Zach Gordon, Yeshiva, 6-6, so, G/F, Miami; Virgil Gray, Stevens, 6-3, jr, G, Elmwood Park, N.J.; Waleed Farid, Stevens, 6-2, sr, G, Woodside, N.Y.; Cody Moffett, Manhattanville, 6-3, sr, G, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Tim Wesley, Ramapo, 6-2, jr, G/F, Jersey City, N.J.; Duane Rhoden, Lehman, 6-2, jr, G, Bronx, N.Y.

THIRD TEAM: Tim Williams, Stevens, 6-7, sr, F, Selden, N.Y.; Phil Lipari, St. Joseph's-LI, 6-0, sr, G, Massapequa, N.Y.; Omari Phipps, York, 6-4, fr, F, Laurelton, N.Y.; Abdoulaye Ovedraogo, Wm. Paterson, 6-8, sr, F, Newark, N.J.; Chadd Barnes, Rutgers-Newark, 6-0, jr, G, Newark, N.J.; Mike Salamanca, York, 5-11, sr, G, Hollis, N.Y.; Joey Spiegel, Wm. Paterson, 5-11, sr, G, Teaneck, N.J.

Player of the year: Richard Jean-Baptiste, Brooklyn.

Coach of the year: Erik Smiles, Farmingdale State.

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FFI: Chuck Stogel, 646-654-5411