

# PRESS RELEASE

February 20, 2014

## **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS CONGRATULATE THE 2013 GROUP 4 STATE CHAMPION WEST ORANGE H. S. BOYS SOCCER TEAM**



The West Orange H. S. Boys Soccer Team was honored by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders during its Wednesday, February 19, 2014, meeting held at the Hall of Records. The Team won the 2013 Group 4 State Championship when it defeated Clearview H. S. (1-0) on November 24, 2013. Team members attending the presentation were accompanied by Head Coach Doug Nevins (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Assistant Coaches Austin Alvarado (2<sup>nd</sup> row, far right) and Freddy Christian (front row, far left). The Board's Commendation was sponsored and presented by District 4 Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell (back row, center). Photo by Glen Frieson

(Newark, NJ) – The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the West Orange High School Boys Soccer Team for winning the 2013 Group 4 State Championship during its Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at the Hall of Records. The Board's commendation was presented by District 4 Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell.

“What a season!” said Freeholder Luciano, as he congratulated the team and Coach Doug Nevins. “You demonstrated unbelievable heart, perseverance and determination, and most of all, never stopped believing in yourselves!” He went on to say, “You proved you had the mettle of champions, and now you have the State Championship trophy to prove it. Congratulations!”

“We had a great year last year, and thought we would have a strong team again this year”, said Coach Nevins, “but in the pre-season, four of our starters were lost to injuries.” He continued, “The guys who stepped in did a great job, the team came together as a group, individually and collectively, and they did the things we needed them to do, and it was truly amazing.”

The Mountaineers captured their Group 4 State Championship on November 24, 2013, when they defeated Clearview H. S., 1-0, for the school’s first title since 2006. The championship capped an improbable and thrilling turnaround for the team, which only six weeks earlier stood at 4-7-2, and who entered the state tournament seeded 15<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams in North Jersey Section 2 with a 7-7-2 record. The team completed the year with a nine-game winning streak, during which they defeated teams they’d lost to earlier in the season, and finished as Group 4 State Champions at 13-7-2.

The team was named by *The Star-Ledger* has the #3 team in New Jersey, the #1 Group 4 team in the state and the #2 team in Essex County, and was named Essex County “Team of the Year”. The newspaper also named Head Coach Doug Nevins the Essex County “Coach of the Year”.

The team was comprised of the following members: seniors Alex Goldman, Marcus Salazar, Michael Zarro (Captain), Sam Seidenfeld, Matthew Wilson, Ian Faloye, Michael Vargas (Captain), Garrett Mulinge, Dominic Byfield, Tyler Fort-Foskey, Agustin Silva, Chase Bridgers, Satchell Sankar, Jonathan Padilla (Captain), Calik Austin, Dan Duarte and Sebastian Turano (Captain); juniors Josh Feinblatt, Rory Stello, Bryan Brufau, Jonathan Aristizabal, Maurice Ramos, Christian Forzzani, Aron Weldeghergis and Raphael Leniar; and sophomores Zach Brown, Liam White and Kamsi Udodi; and freshmen Christian Pozzulli and Diego Pedrido. Coach Nevins was assisted by Austin Alvarado, Freddy Christian and Jesse Aporta.

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