

## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 2, 2013

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE NEWARK EAST SIDE H. S. BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM 2013 GROUP 3 STATE CHAMPIONS**

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, May 1, 2013, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Newark East Side H. S. Boys Basketball Team for winning the 2013 Group 3 State Championship. The Board’s commendation was sponsored and presented to the team by Freeholders Rufus Johnson and Rolando Bobadilla of Newark.



Members of the N. J. Group 3 State Champion Newark East Side H. S. Boys Basketball Team were honored by the Board during its May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at the Hall of Records. The players are pictured above with Freeholders Rolando Bobadilla (front row, far left) and Rufus Johnson (back row, center) of Newark, and Freeholder Carol Clark (front row, far right) of East Orange, Athletic Director Luis Henriques (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Head Coach Bryant Garvin (front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Assistant Coaches Daniel Sharpe and Uron Hawkins. (Photo by Glen Frieson)

Freeholder Rufus Johnson began the program by saying what a pleasure it was for him to make the presentation to the team, “not only because of what you’ve accomplished, but also because it’s personal for me... because I am an East Side graduate, Class of ’74, where I, too, played basketball, football and little baseball.”

In state tournament competition, the team first defeated Iselin Kennedy H. S. (64-42), Mendham H. S. (43-21), Morristown H. S. (59-30) and then Irvington H. S. (40-38) to win the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Sectional Championship, before going on to defeat Teaneck H. S. (39-35) and then Camden to capture the Group 3 State Championship, only the second state championship in school history, the last time being in 2002.

The Red Raiders, finished their season with an outstanding overall record of 25-7, including a 10-3 record in Super Essex Conference competition. The team also won the Newark Public Schools Christmas Tournament Championship and reached the finals of the Essex County Tournament. They also finished the season ranked by *The Star-Ledger* as the #15 team in New Jersey, and by NJ Hoops as the state's #13 team.

The team was further recognized by honors bestowed upon four of its members: Akbar Hoffman was named to the All-Essex and All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> Teams; Ismael Sanogo was named to the All-Essex and All-Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> Teams; Abdul Lewis was named to the All-Essex 2<sup>nd</sup> Team; and William Joyce received Conference Honorable Mention.

The Newark East Side H. S. Boys Basketball Team is comprised of the following members: Seniors Jarrod May, William Joyce, Rashan Lynn and Stephen McNair; Juniors Abdul Lewis, Elijah Afuola, Akbar Hoffman, Jamar Gilbert, Re'Quan Lynn, Ismael Sanogo, Antonio Willis and Isaiah Bullock; and Sophomores Jibreel Ahmad, Ah-Zizz White, Hyquill Cheatham, Ahmad Harrison, Shaquille Isaac and Tyree Williams. They were coached by Head Coaches Bryant Garvin and Anthony Tavares and Assistant Coaches John Thomason, Troy Long, Edwin Mendez, Daniel Sharpe and Uron Hawkins. The team also received administrative support from State District Superintendent Cami Anderson, Principal Dr. Mario Santos and Athletic Director Luis Henriques.

Head Coach Bryant Garvin commented that this team was a group of young men he really appreciated working with over the last 2-3 years, adding, "and I look forward to seeing you in college, or in the NBA, or as doctors and lawyers or whatever it might be, because I know you'll be successful."

Freeholder Bobadilla, who represents the East Ward of Newark as the District 1 Freeholder, also congratulated the team on its championship season, saying it was "a great job... an amazing feat."

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