

PRESS RELEASE

May 16, 2013

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR FENCER GEORGE HAGLUND OF NEWARK ACADEMY 2013 FOIL STATE CHAMPION

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, May 15, 2013, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored Newark Academy fencer George Haglund for winning the 2013 State Championship in the Foil. The Board’s commendation was sponsored and presented by Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell and Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold of Livingston.



2013 Foil State Champion George Haglund (center), a freshman at Newark Academy in Livingston, was presented with the Freeholder Board’s Commendation by Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell and Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold of Livingston, during the May 15th meeting at the Hall of Records in Newark. (Photo by Glen Frieson)

Freeholder Luciano applauded Haglund’s accomplishments by saying, “George, I honor and congratulate you, and I can’t say enough about the outstanding season you’ve had... and considering your accomplishments as a *freshman*, I am *sure* you’ll be visiting us here again in the years to come.”

Haglund thanked the Board for honoring him saying, “this is a great privilege, a very unexpected one, and I thank you.” He also thanked his coaches and his parents, and then spoke with great respect about someone he described as “a truly great fencer”, Dean Cetrulo; a WWII fighter pilot and POW who won a bronze medal at the 1948 Olympics, taught fencing to actors (including Errol Flynn), coached at Newark Academy, and who is the namesake of the prestigious Cetrulo Tournament for New Jersey high school boy fencers. “I have some enormous shoes to fill, and I don’t know if I will ever live up to his legacy, but I plan on trying.”

Only a 15-year old freshman, George Haglund won the 2013 NJ State Individual Foil Championship in a thrilling fence-off at the NJSIAA Individual State Fencing Championships on Sunday, March 3rd, at Montgomery High School in Skillman.

During his stellar 2012-13 season, in addition to his State Championship, George also won the Gold Medal in Foil at both the District 3 Championships and the Prep State Championships, completed his regular season with an outstanding 19-1 record, and was named to the 1st Team All-State by *The Star-Ledger*.

Haglund began fencing at the age of 8½, and began to fence competitively at the age of 11 when he joined Lucchetti Fencing USA under the coaching of Maestro Marcos Lucchetti. Currently, he fences on the high school, national and international levels.

He has competed on the national level in all Cadet (under 17), Junior (under 20) and Division I competitions. He placed in the Top 8 in the past two National Cadet Competitions, including a 5th place finish in the Cadet category at the Junior Olympic Championships. He earned a Silver Medal in the Junior category at the Junior Olympic Championships and is presently ranked #11 in the nation. He also earned a Gold Medal at the Regional Open Circuit in Evanston, Illinois. In 2012-13 Division I competition, he has consistently been ranked as one of the top 32 fencers, and is one of only five cadets who qualified to compete in the Division I National Championships held on April 13, 2013, in Richmond, Virginia. He is presently ranked 36th on the Division I points list.

This year, he fenced internationally for the United States as a Cadet fencer (under 17 years of age) in Budapest, Hungary; Halle, Germany (where he earned a 5th place medal); and Pisa, Italy. In order to fence for the United States at international Cadet tournaments, fencers must be one of the Top 20 Cadet fencers in the nation, and George currently ranks 3rd among all fencers in the Under-17 category.

In addition to his fencing exploits, Haglund's favorite academic subject at Newark Academy is Math. He is currently enrolled in BC Calculus, and is also a member of the Men's Chorus and the Robotics Team. George volunteers his Friday afternoons to help residents of Care One in Livingston, and his favorite pastime is photography. He is the son of his proud parents, Benjamin and Georgia, and the brother of Eleanor, and he resides with his family in Tewksbury, New Jersey.

Freeholder Leonard Luciano is currently serving his first full term as District 4 Freeholder, representing the eleven towns of five towns of Caldwell, Cedar Grove, Essex Fells, Fairfield, Livingston, Millburn, North Caldwell, Roseland, Verona, West Caldwell and West Orange. Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold has been an At-Large member of the Freeholder Board since 1993.

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