



News Release

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MEAC ANNOUNCES ALL-CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL HONORS

Lady Rattlers' Blazeski Named Player of the Year

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va., November 19, 2009- Florida A&M University junior **Jovana Blazeski** was named the 2009 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Player of the Year the league announced on Thursday.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore's **Bella Jade Romero** earned Rookie of the Year accolades while Lady Hawks Head Coach **Don Metil** was named Coach of the Year as voted on by the MEAC head volleyball coaches and sports information directors.

Blazeski leads the conference and is ranked 10th in the nation in kills per set (4.61). The outside hitter guided her team to an 8-0 record in conference play and 14-8 mark overall. She totaled 364 kills in 79 sets played during the regular season along with 3.04 digs and 5.05 points per set. In addition, Blazeski tallied 10 double-doubles along with six 20-plus kill performances this season.

Romero had a stellar freshman campaign to garner Rookie of the Year accolades. The setter totaled 891 assists (10.01 per game) to aid her team to a 10-0 MEAC mark and 22-6 record overall. She posted 16 30-plus assist performances and recorded five double-doubles this season.

Metil earned MEAC Coach of the Year honors for the second time in his career. In his third year at the helm of the Lady Hawks, he guided his team to an unblemished 10-0 mark in MEAC play for the third straight season. Maryland Eastern Shore leads the league in hitting percentage (.289), assists (11.87) and kills per set (12.74). The Lady Hawks are also first in the nation in service aces (2.61). UMES won 30 of 31 conference sets and finished the regular season on a 13 match win streak.

Joining Blazeski on the 2009 All-MEAC First-Team are teammates Jessica Bond and Susan Egoavil. UMES' Whitney Johnson, Gazelle d'Artois of Howard and Cassandra Joyner of Delaware State complete the first-team honorees.

The MEAC Volleyball Championship tournament begins on Friday, November 20 at 10 a.m. with Bethune-Cookman (S2) facing off against Morgan State (N3). Maryland Eastern Shore (N1) will compete against Norfolk State (S4) in the second match of the day at 1 p.m. Florida A&M (S1) will contend with Howard (N4) at 4 p.m. and South Carolina (S3) will battle Delaware State (N2) in the final match of the day at 7 p.m.

Competition will continue on Saturday with the semi-final rounds at noon and 3:30 p.m. The volleyball championship tournament will conclude on Sunday beginning at noon. The championship finale will be televised on ESPNU in a tape-delayed broadcast, on the same day, beginning at 10 p.m.

For more information on the 2009 MEAC Volleyball Championship and for complete results, log on to www.MEACsports.com.

-2009 All-MEAC Volleyball Honors Attached-



2009 MEAC Volleyball All-Conference Honors

Coach of the Year: Don Metil, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Player of the Year: Jovana Blazeski, Florida A&M University

Rookie of the Year: Bella Jade Romeo, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

First Team:

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown
Jovana Blazeski	Florida A&M	OH	6-2	Jr.	Belgrade, Serbia
Whitney Johnson	Maryland E. Shore	OH/MB	6-3	Sr.	Prince Frederick, Md.
Gazelle d'Artois	Howard	OH	5-10	Jr.	Newhall, Calif.
Cassandra Joyner	Delaware State	MB	5-10	Sr.	Claymont, Del.
Jessica Bond	Florida A&M	S	5-6	Jr.	Twin Falls, Idaho
Susan Egoavil	Florida A&M	L	5-6	Jr.	Lima, Peru

Second Team:

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown
Caylin Woodward	Maryland E. Shore	OH	6-0	Sr.	Garden Grove, Calif.
Erica Tajchman	Delaware State	OH	6-0	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
Christine Edwards	Maryland E. Shore	OH	5-10	So.	Lakewood, Calif.
Chelle Ticeson	Bethune-Cookman	MB	6-1	Sr.	Seattle, Wash.
Nicole Kessner	Norfolk State	S	5-9	So.	Blacksburg, Va.
Nicole Brown	Howard	L	5-5	Jr.	Long Beach, Calif.