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Northeast-10 Announces Swimming & Diving Post-Season Awards

South Easton, Mass. – Le Moyne College senior *Ricky Chidsey (Liverpool, N.Y.)* and Southern Connecticut State University junior *Cody Hall (Parker, Colo.)* were named the 2008-2009 Northeast-10 Swimming and Diving ‘Swimming Athletes of the Year’ as voted by the conference’s head coaches.

Also receiving post-season accolades are Bentley University sophomore *Jon Andrews (Southbury, Conn.)* and Southern Connecticut freshman *Amanda Burden (Orange, Conn.)* who both were selected Northeast-10 ‘Diving Athletes of the Year’. Le Moyne’s *Katie O’Donnell (Delmar, N.Y.)* and the College of Saint Rose’s *Ryan Brauer (Clifton Park, N.Y.)* received Freshman of the Year honors.

Southern Connecticut head coach *Tim Quill* was voted Men’s Swimming Coach of the Year, while Le Moyne’s *Joe Hannah* was selected Women’s Swimming Coach of the Year. Diving Coach of the year accolades went to Bentley’s *Rick Danehy* on the men’s side, while Southern Connecticut’s *Jesse Cyr* was honored as Women’s Diving Coach of the Year.

Chidsey finished his senior season in fine fashion as he earned First Team All-America honors at the NCAA Championships. He finished eighth overall in the 200-yard backstroke in a time of 1:48.82. Chidsey also received Honorable Mention All-America honors in the 100-yard backstroke after finishing in 12th place with a time of 50.34. At the Northeast-10 Championships, Chidsey earned First Team All-Conference honors after finishing first in the 200-yard backstroke (1:52.52) and the 100-yard backstroke (51.33).

Hall captured three All-America honors at this year’s NCAA Championships. She finished in eighth place in the 1000-yard freestyle after touching the wall with a time of 10:17.72 and then collected All-America honors after completing the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:28.02. She saved her best performance for last as she finished fourth overall in the 1650-yard freestyle event with a time of 17:11.75 on the final day of competition. At the Northeast-10 Championships, Hall helped Southern Connecticut to the team title along with being part of three first-place relay teams including the 400-yard freestyle, the 800-yard freestyle and the 400-yard Medley Relay. She also earned First Team All-Conference honors in the 200 IM after finishing with a new NE-10 championship record time of 2:08.45.

Andrews qualified for the NCAA’s this year in both the one-meter and three-meter diving events and placed 13th overall in the one-meter event. His top performances this year include, winning the one-meter and three-meter diving events at the Northeast-10 Championships to earn the championship’s Most Valuable Diver honors. He also set the school record in the one-meter diving event back in November and won the gold in the one-meter at the NEISDA Championships.

Burden, in her first collegiate year of competition, qualified for the NCAA Championships in the one-meter and three-meter diving events. She earned First Team All-Conference honors at this year's Northeast-10 Championships after winning both the one-meter and three-meter diving events and in the process was selected the championships' Most Valuable Diver.

O'Donnell qualified for the NCAA Championships in her first year of competition and earned Honorable Mention All-America honors in two events. She finished in 11th place in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:03.94 to break her own school record and finished 16th in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:07.66 after posting a school-record time of 2:06.77 in the preliminaries. At the Northeast-10 Championships, O'Donnell took home First Team All-Conference accolades after winning the 400-yard IM (4:38.66) and the 100-yard backstroke (59.93) setting a new NE-10 championship meet record.

Brauer established himself as a three-time All-American in just his first year of competition. At the NCAA Championships he finished in eighth place in the 200-yard breaststroke with a school-record time of 2:04.69 to receive First Team All-America Honors. He finished 11th to earn Honorable Mention All-America honors in the 400-yard M with a time of 3:59.02 and also earned honorable mention accolades in the 1000-yard freestyle with an 11th place finish. He completed the event with a time of 9:24.53 which broke his own school record by 21 seconds. Brauer also earned First Team All-Conference honors at this year's Northeast-10 Championships. He finished first in the 400-yard IM with a new NE-10 meet record of 4:05.92 and won the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 52.23.

With 15 member institutions the Northeast-10 is the second largest NCAA Division II athletic conference in the nation. Its 23 championship sports provide athletic opportunities for over 5,500 student-athletes, the largest such program of any Division II conference.

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