



Rashida Harris

All-American Effort

Cuyahoga Community College shot putter Rashida Harris earned All-American honors in record-breaking fashion while competing at the NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Texas.

Harris placed third in the shot put with a throw of 50 feet, 1.75 inches, which set a new Tri-C record. The freshman from Euclid is the first shot putter at the College to surpass the 50-foot mark.

Earlier this year, Harris earned All-American honors in shot put at the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. She placed fifth at indoors with a throw of 48 feet, 1.25 inches.

“Rashida is unbelievably strong,” said Don Cox, the College’s longtime track coach. “When you add in the fact that she may be one of the most coachable athletes we’ve had at Tri-C, you understand why she’s so successful.”

Harris also placed 11th in discus at nationals with a personal-best throw of 134 feet, 6 inches.

She is studying physical therapy at Tri-C.

Diamond Domination

Tri-C played some of the best baseball in the nation this spring.

The Challengers climbed as high as sixth in the national rankings while rolling to a 47-14 record. Team Teal claimed the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference championship and scored an invitation to the NJCAA Regional XII baseball tournament.

Walk-off victories, clutch hitting and sizzling pitching defined the season, which produced enough highlights to fill an hourlong SportsCenter on ESPN.

How hot were the Challengers? At one point, they put together an 18-game winning streak that lasted a full month. The team followed that up with a 14-game stretch that ended with celebratory high fives.

All those wins led to multiple honors.

Second baseman Manny Rodriguez earned 2016 Player of the Year honors from the conference. He batted .375 during the season and ranked among the top sluggers with six home runs, four triples and six doubles. Rodriguez also scored 43 runs and added 32 RBI.

The OCCAC also honored Tri-C’s Evan Agona as Coach of the Year. Agona injected energy into the program immediately after arriving at the College. In his two seasons as skipper, the team is 83-34.

Four other players earned conference honors, including pitcher Max Lavisky, relief pitcher Juan Perez, outfielder Matt Starcovic and catcher Gabriel Vargas.

The conference title won by the Challengers is their first since 2013 and sixth since 1989. The Challengers play their home games at Ron Mottl Field at Tri-C’s Western Campus in Parma, where the team went 29-0 this season.



Manny Rodriguez

Top Of Her Game

Tri-C softball shortstop Serena Tucciarelli caught a big honor this season.

The Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) named Tucciarelli its 2016 Player of the Year for her work on the diamond. The freshman led the Challengers (22-14) to a second-place finish in the conference standings.

Tucciarelli batted .427 while leading the OCCAC with 53 hits — a total that included three home runs, five triples and nine doubles. She also added 21 RBI and scored 34 runs for the Challengers.

“Serena has been phenomenal at every phase of the game, from fielding to hitting to being a leader in the dugout,” said head coach Bryan Komlos. “She works hard and it shows in the results.”

Tucciarelli, of Garfield Heights, is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree from Tri-C.

Three teammates joined Tucciarelli in earning all-conference honors, including centerfielder Nicole Ferrara, pitcher Courtney Saville and catcher Jamie Wilson.



Serena Tucciarelli