

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Rachel L. Pinton

Director of Sports Information, Marketing, and Planning

ph: 201-684-7679

fax: 201-684-7920

rpinton@ramapo.edu

www.ramapoathletics.com

ROADRUNNERS EARN NJAC CHAMPIONSHIP FOR FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY

(MAHWAH, NJ) - For the first time in school history, the Ramapo College women's indoor track and field team won the New Jersey Athletic Conference Championship held today at the New York Armory. With 198 points, the Lady Roadrunners snapped a win streak held by The College of New Jersey dating back to the 1997-98 season. The Lions, who had won every NJAC indoor title since the first one in 1998, finished second with 188.5 points. Six individuals earned championship crowns for Ramapo adding to the day's overall success. It is the first overall team championship for Head Coach Mike Jackson. "Today was a great performance by our women's team, as well as our men," he said. "To know that our women's track and field team is the first women's team to ever win a NJAC conference championship in college history is quite special."

Junior Anita Rogers was Ramapo's top competitor today earning 1st place ribbons in the long jump, triple jump, and 4x200 relay. Rogers hit 5.68 meters in the long jump while hitting 12.16 meters in the triple jump, both NJAC records. Her mark in the long jump, which passed the previous mark of 5.64 by Montclair State's Hashan Johnson in 2005, also was an ECAC qualifier and tied her for the seventh-best mark in Division III this season. Rogers' triple jump mark was the second-best jump in the country this season. Her jump, which also was an ECAC qualifier, passed the old NJAC mark of 11.76 set by New Jersey City's Andrea Herbert in 2004.

Sophomore Chelsea Clark took home 1st place in the 60-meter dash crossing the finish line in 7.98 seconds and while combining efforts with Rogers, Jasmine Hammonds and Alexandra Jacob, she took home a second crown running the 4x200 relay in 1:43.80. The four combined posted an ECAC qualifying mark and adding ten points in for the team.

Michelle Favre cleared 4.01 meters in the pole vault taking 1st place. Her jump, also an ECAC qualifier, was the second-best Division III pole vaulting mark in the country this season (4.01 meters). Taylor Furman threw 14.40 meters in the weight throw adding an additional ten points for the team and a 1st place crown to her personal resume.

Rookie Stephanie Encarnacion placed 2nd overall in the high jump earning eight points for Ramapo clearing 1.53 meters, while Furman placed second overall in the shot put hitting 11.60 meters. Courtney Schofield ran a personal best in the 5,000 meter run clocking in at 19:38.25 for a 5th place finish.

Job well done for the Roadrunners today who will travel to the ECAC Championships on March 2nd and 3rd. “We've gotten so many words of congratulations, and it is much appreciated,” Coach Jackson explained. “I am thankful for all of the support from the Ramapo College administrators, athletic staff, and the entire college community. I'm quite confident that many other teams will win championships in the spring and beyond. Ramapo College is a great place to be and I am grateful for the sacrifice that our student-athletes put in daily!”

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.