

ST. JOHN'S

Men's Soccer



2003 St. John's Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result	Record
Aug. 29	vs. North Carolina	L, 1-2 (OT)	0-1-0
Aug. 31	at Wake Forest	L, 1-3	0-2-0
Sept. 6	at Notre Dame	W, 3-0	1-2-0/1-0-0
Sept. 10	RUTGERS	W, 3-1	2-2-0
Sept. 13	GEORGETOWN	W, 3-0	3-2-0/2-0-0
Sept. 17	VILLANOVA	W, 2-0	4-2-0/3-0-0
Sept. 20	SYRACUSE	W, 3-0	5-2-0/4-0-0
Sept. 24	at Seton Hall	L, 4-2	5-3-0/4-1-0
Sept. 27	at William and Mary	T, 1-1 (2OT)	5-3-1
Sept. 30	at Adelphi	W, 3-0	6-3-1
Oct. 3	vs. St. Mary's \$	W, 3-0	7-3-1
Oct. 5	vs. San Diego \$	W, 1-0	8-3-1
Oct. 11	PROVIDENCE	W, 3-1	9-3-1/5-1-0
Oct. 15	at Connecticut	W, 1-0	10-3-1/6-1-0
Oct. 18	at Virginia Tech	L, 1-2	10-4-1/6-2-0
Oct. 24	BOSTON COLLEGE	W, 2-0	11-4-1/7-2-0
Oct. 25	FLA. INTERNATIONAL	W, 3-1	12-4-1
Nov. 1	at West Virginia	W, 2-1	13-4-1/8-2-0
Nov. 8	vs. Villanova #	W, 2-1	14-4-1
Nov. 14	vs. Rutgers !	T, 1-1 (W, 4-3, PK)	14-4-2
Nov. 16	vs. Notre Dame !	L, 2-0	14-5-2
Nov. 26	NCAA Tournament Second Round vs. Connecticut	T, 0-0 (W, 4-2, PK)	14-5-3
Nov. 30	NCAA Tournament Third Round UC-Santa Barbara	W, 3-2 (2OT)	15-5-3
Dec. 5	NCAA Tournament Quarterfinals vs. Creighton	W, 3-2	16-5-3
Dec. 12	NCAA College Cup vs. Maryland	5 p.m.	
Dec. 14	NCAA Championship vs. Indiana/Santa Clara		

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

\$ Rutgers Classic

BIG EAST Quarterfinals, Belson Stadium, Jamaica, N.Y.

! BIG EAST Semifinals & Finals, Morrone Stadium, Storrs, Conn.

Wins & Losses

2003 Overall	16-5-3
at Belson Stadium:	9-0-1
on the road:	4-3-1
at neutral sites:	3-2-1

Streaks

longest winning streak	5 (twice)
longest unbeaten streak	6
longest losing streak	2
last 10 games	6-2-2

Media Information

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GAME 25

#6 St. John's (16-5-3) vs.
#2 Maryland (20-2-1)
December 12, 2003, 5 p.m. (EST)
Columbus Crew Stadium
Columbus, Ohio

GAMEDAY QUICK FACTS

TV

ESPN2
5 p.m.
Rob Stone (play-by-play)
John Harkes (color analyst)
Ellen Weinberg (sidelines)

Radio

www.ncaasports.com
Dwight Burgess (play-by-play)

Coaches

Dave Masur is in his 13th season at the helm of the Red Storm program. Since his arrival, St. John's has reached unparalleled success. He has a 205-52-34 record at St. John's, guided the Red Storm to the 1996 NCAA Championship and 11 BIG EAST Tournament titles (six Tournament championships and five regular season titles). In his 17-year career, including four years at Montclair (N.J.) State, Masur has an all-time record of 258-73-40.

Sasha Cirovski is in his 11th season at helm of the Maryland program. He has a 151-77-10 record with the Terrapins, and a 13-year career record of 177-89-16, including two years at Hartford. Cirovski is a 1985 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Websites

St. John's (www.RedStormSports.com)
Maryland (www.umterps.com)

Up Next

Sunday, December 14, 2003
NCAA Championship, if necessary
vs. Indiana/Santa Clara winner

STJOHN'S

2003 St. John's University Men's Soccer Roster

No	Name	Yr	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown/High School (College or JC)
0	Guy Hertz	Grad	GK	6-2	196	Trenton, N.J./Mercer C.C.
00	Reed Dailey	Jr.	GK	5-11	183	Alpharetta, Ga./Alpharetta
01	Bill Gaudette	Sr.	GK	6-1	200	Hummelstown, Pa./Lower Dauphin
2	Matt Groenwald	Jr.	M	5-8	173	Mt. Prospect, Ill./Prospect
3	Andre Schmid	Jr.	M	6-4	200	Sacramento, Calif./Christian Brothers
4	Ryan Kelly	Jr.	D	6-1	180	Marlton, N.J./Cherokee (University of Virginia)
5	Chris Leidner	Jr.	D	6-2	180	Greenlawn, N.Y./Chaminade
6	Ashley Kozicki	Fr.	F	5-10	151	Pleasant Valley, Pa./Pleasant Valley
7	Christopher Wingert	Sr.	M	5-11	160	Babylon, N.Y./St. John the Baptist
8	Jeff Carroll	So.	M/D	5-11	151	Springfield, Va./West Springfield
9	Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph	So.	F/M	5-10	163	Gothenburg, Sweden/Lundby Gymnasium
10	Simone Salinno	Sr.	M	5-8	160	Lucera, Italy/1PSCT
11	Angel Rodriguez	Sr.	F	5-8	152	Toms River, N.J./Toms River North
12	Brian Morris	So.	F	5-9	160	Armonk, N.Y./Byram Hills
14	Chris Corcoran	Jr.	M	5-9	168	Marshfield, Mass./Marshfield
15	Matia Damiani	Grad	M	6-0	175	Foggia, Italy/A Volia
16	Georgios Spanos	Fr.	D	5-6	154	West Islip, N.Y./St. John the Baptist
17	Timothy O'Neill	Sr.	F	5-7	156	Philadelphia, Pa./Northeast Catholic (Rider)
18	Ewan Blair	Jr.	D	5-10	171	Horizon Park, Jamaica/Bryant & Stratton
20	Jean Camere	So.	M/F	5-5	148	Miami, Fla./Gulliver Prep
23	Matt Avellino	Fr.	M	5-6	155	Merrick, N.Y./Calhoun
33	Phil Szczerba	So.	GK	6-3	195	Wilmington, Del./Salesianum
34	Robert Szymanik	So.	GK	6-0	188	Hillsborough, N.J./Hillsborough

Head Coach:	Dave Masur (Rutgers '84)
Assistant Coach:	Marc Reeves (St. John's 98)
Assistant Coach:	Erick Davis (Bucknell '01)
Volunteer Assistant Coach:	Gary Book
Student Manager:	Billy Goodwin

Pronunciation Guide

Matthew Ahv-uh-leen-oh
 You-in Blair
 Jean Ca-mer
 Mah-TEE-uh DAHM-ee-ahn-ee
 Si-moan-ay Sa-leen-oh
 Andre Schmeed
 Phil Cer-ba
 Rob Sh-man-ik

2003 BIG EAST STANDINGS

	BIG EAST				Overall			
	W	L	T	Pts	W	L	T	
St. John's	8	2	0	24	16	5	3	
Virginia Tech	7	3	0	21	15	4	2	
Notre Dame	6	3	1	19	15	4	3	
Rutgers	5	2	3	18	11	6	3	
Seton Hall	5	2	3	18	9	6	4	
Connecticut	5	3	2	17	9	8	4	
Providence	4	5	1	13	6	9	3	
Villanova	4	6	0	12	10	8	1	
Boston College	3	5	2	11	6	7	4	
Pittsburgh	3	6	1	10	6	11	1	
Georgetown	3	7	0	9	8	9	2	
Syracuse	1	5	4	7	4	8	5	
West Virginia	1	6	3	6	5	10	3	

St. John's vs. Maryland

The St. John's men's soccer team will face Creighton for the third time tonight ... The Red Storm lead the head-to-head series, 2-0 ... ST. John's won the first meeting between the teams, on October 6, 1995 at the Rutgers Classic ... In that game, Medufia Kulego scored a pair of goals, lifting the Red Storm to the opening round win ... The last meeting between the teams came during the 1999 postseason, when St. John's posted a 1-0 win in an NCAA Tournament match ... Carlo Acquista scored the lone goal - on an assist from Patrick Lonergan - with 1:37 left to play in regulation ... Maryland outshot St. John's, 13-8, in that game, and took nine corner kicks to the Red Storm's four.

St. John's In the NCAA Tournament

1992			
Nov. 15, 1992	@ Dartmouth	L 0-1	
1993			
Nov. 13, 1993	Boston University	L 1-2	Ferguson-16 (Hickey-8)
1994			
Nov. 19, 1994	@ Rutgers	L 0-1	
1995			
Nov. 19, 1995	@ Hartwick	L 2-3	Castma-11, Kulego-8
1996			
Nov. 23, 1996	vs. Fordham	W 5-1	P.Krakowiak-2, Buscemi-3 (Acquista-4), Joseph-8 (Buscemi-6 + Van Saun-4), Acquista-2 (Daly-4) Buscemi-4
Dec. 1, 1996	vs. George Mason	W 2-1	W. Krakowiak-8 (Miglioranzi-6), W.Krakowiak-9 (Cusano-2)
Dec. 8, 1996	vs. William & Mary	W 2-1 (OT)	Daly-2 (Van Saun-5), P. Krakowiak-3 (Hickey-7)
Dec. 13, 1996	vs. Creighton	W 2-1	W. Krakowiak-10 (Hickey-8), Van Saun-15 (Buscemi-7 + Acquista-5)
Dec. 15, 1996	Florida Int.	W 4-1	Van Saun-16 (Hickey-9 + Buscemi-8), W. Krakowiak-11 (Buscemi-9 + Miglioranzi-7), Hickey-7 (Van Saun-6 + Miglioranzi-8), Kulego-14
1997			
Nov. 23, 1997	vs. Brown	W 2-1	Buscemi-9 (Sancho-4), Mulholland-2 (Parkin-7 + Miglioranzi-12)
Nov. 30, 1997	South Florida	L 1-2	Miglioranzi-6 (Van Saun-5)
1998			
Nov. 21, 1998	vs. Brown	W 1-0 (OT)	Own Goal
Nov. 28, 1998	vs. Penn State	W 1-0	Kulego-5 (Theorides-3)
Dec. 5, 1998	vs. Santa Clara	L 1-2	Miglioranzi-2
1999			
Nov. 21, 1999	vs. Maryland	W 1-0	Acquista-1 (Lonergan-1)
Nov. 28, 1999	vs. Penn State	L 1-2 (3OT)	Arauz-6 (Parkin-2)
2000			
Nov. 18, 2000	at James Madison	W, 1-0	Joseph-14 (Matteo-6; Bradley-5)
Nov. 26, 2000	at Virginia	L, 1-2	Maurer-3 (Matteo-7)
2001			
Nov. 25, 2001	Massachusetts	W, 1-0 (3OT)	Joseph (Damiani)
Dec. 1, 2001	Penn State	W, 2-1 (3OT)	Angel Rodriguez (Joseph, Schmid), Joseph (Matteo)
Dec. 8, 2001	@ So. Methodist	W, 2-0	Corcoran (unassisted), Philipakos (unassisted)
Dec. 14, 2001	vs. Indiana	L, 1-2 (2OT)	Matteo (unassisted)
2002			
Nov. 27, 2002	FDU	W, 2-1	Schmid (Duenas), Carroll (Duenas)
Dec. 1, 2002	Creighton	L, 0-1	
2003			
Nov. 26, 2003	UConn	T, 0-0	SJU wins 4-2 in penalty kicks
Nov. 30, 2003	UC Santa Barbara	W, 3-2	Kelly (Kozicki); Salinno (Alvarado-Ralph); Kelly (Morris)
Dec. 7, 2003	Creighton	W, 3-2	Kelly (Wingert); Wingert, PK; Salinno (Kozicki)

St. John's vs. Maryland

TODAY'S MATCHUP: St. John's enters tonight's match with a 16-5-3 overall record ... St. John's is 16-3-3 in its last 22 games ... Two of the Red Storm's five postseason games have been decided by penalty kicks, with a win over Rutgers in the BIG EAST Semifinals and the second round NCAA Tournament win over bitter rival Connecticut.

LAST TIME OUT: St. John's advanced to the Final Four for the third time since 1996 with a stunning 3-2 win over Creighton on Sunday afternoon at Ludwig Field on the campus of the University of Maryland ... The Red Storm were dealt a severe blow early in the first half when junior defender **Chris Leidner** was called for a red card following a hard foul ... Down a man, the game went to the half scoreless ... In the second half, however, the Bluejays jumped on top with a pair of goals midway through the stanza ... St. John's cut the lead to 2-1 when junior **Ryan Kelly** scored off of a corner kick from **Chris Wingert** ... A minute later, freshman **Ashley Kozicki** was taken down in the box and a penalty kick was awarded ... Wingert converted the PK to tie the game ... With 11 minutes remaining to play, Kozicki threaded a ball through two defenders to a streaking **Simone Salinno**, who took a shot from 12 yards out, giving St. John's a 3-2 lead ... Creighton pushed in the final minutes, but a save by **Bill Gaudette** preserved the lead and gave St. John's the thrilling 3-2 win.

THE SERIES: St. John's and Maryland meet for the third time tonight ... The Red Storm lead the head-to-head series, 2-0.

ABOUT THE TERRAPINS: Senior forward **Simone Salinno** leads the Red Storm in scoring with 14 goals and three assists for 31 points ... Junior **Matt Groenwald** is second on the team with five goals and nine assists for 19 points ... Junior **Ryan Kelly** is second on the team with seven goals and third with 17 points ... Three players - sophomore **Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph**, freshman **Ashley Kozicki** and senior **Chris Wingert** - have 12 points apiece, while junior **Chris Corcoran** has 11 points, including a team-high seven assists ... Senior goalie **Bill Gaudette** is 11-4-3 with a 0.85 GAA.

ABOUT THE TERRAPINS: Maryland advanced to the NCAA College Cup with a 4-2 win over St. Louis at home on Sunday afternoon ... The Terrapins enter the game with a 20-2-1 overall record ... They finished 5-1-0 in the ACC ... Sophomore forward Jason Garey leads the team in scoring with 13 goals and three assists for 29 points, while senior midfielder Sumed Ibrahim, a Hermann Trophy semifinalist, is second on the team with seven goals and seven assists for 21 points ... Thirteen different players have scored goals for Maryland, while 15 players have at least one assist, with senior forward Nino Marcantonio leading the way with 10 ... Junior goalie Noah Palmer has a 19-2-0 record and a 0.54 goals-against average.

IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT: St. John's has an all-time record of 17-10 in the NCAA Tournament ... They are 12-3 in games at home, and 3-1 at Belson Stadium ... St. John's head coach Dave Masur has an all-time record of 7-3-0 in the month of December.

THE BEL(SON) TOLLS: Since the opening of Belson Stadium on September 21, 2002, the St. John's men's soccer team has posted a 15-1-3 record in its new on-campus home ... Add the November 26 penalty kick victory over UConn, and the Red Storm have 16 wins in 19 games at Belson ... Last year, the Red Storm posted five shutouts, outscoring opponents 10-4 ... This year, they have matched the number of shutouts, but have outscored opponents 24-6 in 10 games ... There have been eight one-goal games in the history of Belson Stadium, and the Red Storm hold a 7-1 advantage in those games ... St. John's is 3-1-3 in overtime games at the facility ... The Red Storm's only loss at Belson was against Creighton last year in the NAAs.

Wingert Named Finalist for Hermann Trophy



Senior defender **Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.)** was named one of 15 finalists for the Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy, the official National Soccer Coaches Association of America award for Division I players.

The award is regarded as college soccer's version of the Heisman Trophy. The 15 candidates were selected by a nominating committee of Division I college coaches.

The list is headlined by two student-athletes who were on last year's ballot, Wingert and Maryland senior midfielder Sumed Ibrahim.

The remaining nominations for the men's ballot are: C.J. Klass, a junior midfielder from Washington; Ryan Cochrane, a junior defender from Santa Clara; Cesar Cuellar, a senior forward from Connecticut; Ned Grabavoy, a junior midfielder from Indiana; Adolpho Gregorio, a senior midfielder from UCLA; William Hesmer, a senior goalkeeper from Wake Forest; Aaron Lopez, a junior midfielder from UCLA; Chad Marshall, a sophomore defender from Stanford; Guy Melamed, a junior defender from Boston College; Joseph Ngwenya, a senior forward from Coastal Carolina; Abe Thompson, a junior forward from Maryland; David Wagenfuhr, a junior midfielder from Creighton; and Jeremiah White, a senior forward from Wake Forest.

Wingert, the BIG EAST's Preseason Defensive Player of the Year, has led the Red Storm to a 13-4-1 overall record, including an 8-2-0 mark in the BIG EAST, as the team won the league's regular season championship. The senior, who has guided the St. John's back-line for the last three seasons, keyed a defensive unit that has registered a league-high nine shutouts, with a 0.89 goals-against average. Late in the regular season, he has become more involved in the offensive side, tallying three goals and three assists for nine points.

In his four years at St. John's, Wingert has started all but three games, and missed only one as the team has boasted a 57-15-12 overall record and a 29-6-7 record in BIG EAST games. He missed the Red Storm's game at Connecticut this season, breaking a streak of 75 consecutive starts. At the end of the regular season, he had started in 79 of 82 games.

Wingert has been a dominant force in college soccer since his arrival on campus in 2000. He earned BIG EAST All-Rookie honors as led the team to a 14-5-2 record, an 8-1-2 mark in the BIG EAST and to the NCAA Tournament. The 2001 season, when Wingert earned second-team All-BIG EAST honors and third-team All-American honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, saw St. John's finish 17-3-3 and win the BIG EAST Tournament Championship and reach the Final Four. Last year, St. John's went 13-3-5, was ranked No. 1 in the country and reached the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament. He earned first-team All-BIG EAST honors and was a first-team All-American selection by the NSCAA.

Off the field, he has been just as impressive. A first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American last year, he earned first-team Academic All-District I honors in 2003 and is now on the national ballot again. As a sophomore, the communication arts major who carries a 3.79 grade-point average was a third-team selection Academic All-American selection. In addition, he is a member of St. John's prestigious President's Society.

The winners will be determined in voting by Division I coaches. The three finalists for the men's Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy will be announced at the 2003 Men's College Cup in December. The finalists will be invited to the Missouri Athletic Club in St. Louis on Friday, Jan. 9, 2004, for the announcement of the winner at a press conference. The men's winner will be presented with the prestigious crystal soccer ball trophy at a banquet later that night.



KOZICKI, WINGERT EARN BIG EAST HONORS: St. John's University men's soccer players **Chris Wingert** and **Ashley Kozicki** were recipients of weekly awards from the BIG EAST Conference, it was announced on October 13.

Wingert, a senior, was named the league's Defensive Player of the Week, while Kozicki earned conference Rookie of the Week honors.

One of the Red Storm's captains, Wingert earned the league defensive award for the second-straight week, and for the third time this season. He scored his first goal of the season, on a penalty kick, in St. John's 3-1 win over Providence on Saturday night against Providence. Wingert also keyed a defensive unit that allowed only five shots, including three on goal, to the Friars.

Kozicki, meanwhile, earned the league rookie honor for the second time this season, but the first on his own (sharing it with two other student-athletes on September 22). The Red Storm's freshman forward assisted on the game-winning goal, and then added the team's final goal in the win over the Friars.



WINGERT HONORED: Senior **Chris Wingert** was named the BIG EAST Conference's Defensive Player of the Week and was named National Player of the Week by CollegeSoccerNews.com, it was announced on Oct. 6. Wingert, one of the Red Storm's captains, led the team to three shutout wins during the week, as St. John's beat Adelphi, 3-0, on Tuesday; and followed that up with a 3-0 win over St. Mary's (Calif.) on Friday, and a 1-0 win over San Diego State in the Rutgers Classic finals on

Sunday. He was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player for his efforts in the Rutgers Classic.

ASSISTS: Junior **Matt Groenwald** assisted in all four St. John's goals at the Rutgers Classic on October 3 and 5 ... He earned Most Valuable Offensive Player honors after dishing out three assists in a 3-0 win over St. Mary's and assisting on the game-winner in the 1-0 win over San Diego State ... Groenwald is tied for ninth in the BIG EAST with five goals and nine assists for 19 points ... His nine assists rank tied for second in the BIG EAST.



SALINNO IN THE RECORD BOOKS:

With 14 goals and 31 points, **Simone Salinno** leads the Red Storm in scoring ... His 14 goals are tied for the fifth-most in a single season at St. John's ... He needs two more to tie Huey Ferguson ('93) and Jesse Van Saun ('96) for the third-most in a single season ... Salinno's 31 points are just outside the top-10 ... Ben Hickey ('94) scored 10 goals and had 12 assists for 32 points, which ranks 10th in a single season.



OFFENSIVE MINDED: With 14 goals and 31 points, **Simone Salinno** currently is fourth in points and is tied for third in total points ... Six of his 14 goals have been game-winners, also a BIG EAST high ... Paced by Salinno and Groenwald (5 goals, 9 assists, 19 points), St. John's ranks second in the the conference in goals (48), and points (138) and leads the league in assists (44).

DEFENSIVE STATE OF MIND: The St. John's defense has been among the best in the country for the last decade ... That has been no different this year ... The Red Storm posted 10 shutouts this season and have allowed only 24 goals all season ... The 10 shutouts were second in the BIG EAST, and that mark is tied for eighth in a single season at St. John's.

NATIONAL RANKINGS: St. John's is ranked among the top-10 in all four major polls. In the National Soccer Coaches Association Rankings, the Red Storm are ranked seventh. They are also ranked eighth in *Soccer America*, seventh in *College Soccer News*, and seventh in *Soccer Times*.

KOZICKI EARNS BIG EAST AWARD: St. John's University freshman forward **Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.)** was named the BIG EAST Conference's Tri-Rookie of the Week, it was announced September 22. Kozicki shares the award with Boston College freshman Jarryd Goldberg and Seton Hall rookie Sacha Kljestan. Kozicki scored his first career goal in the Red Storm's 1-0 win over Villanova last Wednesday, leading the team to a 2-0 win. The freshman followed that up by starting his first career game – on Saturday at home against Syracuse – and helped guide St. John's to a 3-0 win over the Orangemen.

NCAA Leaders		
Category	Rank	Average
Scoring Offense	20th	2.16 ppg
GAA	31st	0.87
Shutout %	18th	0.47
W-L %	15th	.763

KELLY, HERTZ, GROENWALD TAKE HOME HONORS: Junior **Ryan Kelly** was named the BIG EAST's Offensive Player of the Week, while graduate student goalkeeper **Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel)** was selected as co-Goalkeeper of the Week on September 15.



Kelly, a transfer from Virginia, earned league honors after scoring two goals in a 3-0 win over Georgetown on Saturday night at Belson Stadium. Leading 1-0 at the break, Kelly scored two goals in an eight minute span to help lead St. John's to the win.

Hertz, meanwhile, had one save in goal in just over 82 minutes of action as he won his third-straight match of the season. One of the team's quad captains, Hertz won two games during the week,

including St. John's 3-1 win over Rutgers on Wednesday night. He made four saves in that match, and finished the week with a 0.55 goals against average.

On the national scene, junior forward **Matt Groenwald** was selected to the CollegeSoccerNews.com National Team of the Week. Groenwald, who sat out most of last season, scored two goals in a 3-1 win over Rutgers last Wednesday in St. John's home opener. The speedy forward has scored three goals with two assists for eight points, second on the team.

Four St. John's Soccer Players Earn Academic Honors

JAMAICA, N.Y. — Led by senior **Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.)**, four members of the St. John's men's soccer team were named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District I team, it was announced November 6.

Three members of the Red Storm's fourth-ranked men's soccer team earned first team honors, while one was placed on the second team. Wingert was joined on the first team by senior midfielder **Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy)** and junior forward **Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.)**.

St. John's ended the regular season with a 13-4-1 overall record and an 8-2-0 mark in the BIG EAST Conference. The team, ranked No. 4 by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, captured the BIG EAST's regular season title last week after topping West Virginia, 2-1.

Wingert, a 2002 First Team All-District selection and a 2002 First Team All-American, is one of the top players in college soccer. He was a first-team All-BIG EAST selection last year and was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year after guiding the Red Storm to a 13-3-5 overall record, which included five weeks as the No. 1 team in the country. This year, he has guided the defense to a league-high nine shutouts this year, while adding three goals and three assists for nine points. A finalist for the Hermann Trophy – college soccer's version of

the Heisman Trophy – Wingert is a member of the United States U-23 National Team. Wingert is a communication arts major who carries a 3.79 grade-point average.

Damiani has been a key member of the Red Storm's midfield, assisting in the offensive and defensive side of the ball. This season, he has appeared in all 18 games, scoring two goals for four points. For his career, the Italian has appeared in 72 games, starting 59, with six goals and six assists for 18 points. A member of the University's prestigious President's Society, he is a sports management major with a 3.62 GPA.

Groenwald, a biology major who carries a 3.76 grade-point average, has been a leader on the offensive end for the Red Storm this season. The junior, who has fought back from three surgeries in the last two years, is second on the team in scoring with five goals and nine assists for 19 points. He was named to the *Soccer America* and *CollegeSoccerNews.com* National Team of the Week earlier this year, and is among the BIG EAST and NCAA leaders in assists.

St. John's junior **Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.)** was named to the second team. A sports management major with a 3.22 grade-point average, Corcoran is fourth on the team in scoring with two goals and six assists for 10 points.

TALE OF THE TAPE

St. John's		Maryland
47	Goals	49
1.96	Goals per game	2.11
360	Shots	453
15.0	Shots per game	19.7
44	Assists	54
1.8	Assists per game	2.3
3-3	Penalty Kicks	6-8
0.97	Goals Against Average	0.56

For the most up-to-date information and statistics on St. John's Athletics, please visit www.RedStormSports.com or call our hotline, 1-888-GO-STORM.

Head Coach Dave Masur

When you think of St. John's Men's Soccer, the first two words that come to mind are drive and success.

Of all the programs at the University, no program, arguably, is more driven than men's soccer, which has grown from a middle-of-the-pack BIG EAST contender to the most successful at the school, and one of the best in the country.

Want success? It's not hard to find when you examine the records. Since 1991, the St. John's men's soccer team has won one NCAA National Championship (1996), reached two NCAA Final Fours (1996, 2001), six BIG EAST Tournament Championships, four BIG EAST Conference regular season titles and been ranked among the top-20 teams in the country 10 times.

And that's just on the field.

Off of it, the program has produced numerous players who have gone on to play professionally – three are playing in Europe, three are in the MLS, with several others playing in smaller leagues. In addition, more than a half-dozen players have earned Academic All-American honors.

Much of that drive and success comes from the man guiding the program, 13th-year Head Coach Dave Masur.

Masur was tabbed as the head coach at St. John's following an outstanding four-year stint at Montclair (N.J.) State, where he guided the team to an ECAC Regional title, the New Jersey Athletic Conference title and two NCAA Division III Tournaments.

In his 12 years at St. John's, Masur has established himself as the one of the most successful coaches in the country, and the winningest in program history. Under his tutelage, the Red Storm have won the BIG EAST Championship in four straight seasons (1992-95), reached the NCAA Tournament 11 times and gave St. John's its first NCAA Championship of any kind in 1996. Two years ago, the Red Storm won their 10th BIG EAST Championship (combined regular and postseason) and advanced to the 2001 Final Four. Last year, the program opened its new on-campus, state-of-the-art field – Belson Stadium – and was ranked No. 1 in the country for five-straight weeks.

On top of that, Masur's players have been just as successful off the field. Senior Chris Wingert has earned Verizon Academic All-American honors the last two years, taking home first-team honors last year after earning third-team honors in 2001. In 2000, Omar Chavez and Jeff Stoklosa were named to the Verizon Academic All-America District I team, while Stoklosa went on to earn first-team national honors, one of four SJU student-athletes to earn that honor.

Last year's team reached the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament, but also had 21 of its 24 team members post grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher. The 1999 team was recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America with its College Team Academic Award, recognizing the elite programs in the country. In 1998, the NSCAA named Stefani Miglioranza a first-team All-East Regional Scholar-Athlete, while Danny Parkin earned honorable mention honors. In 1995, senior Ben Hickey was named a first-team Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America Scholar-Athlete All-America and earned ISAA Scholar-Athlete New York Regional All-American honors. In addition, nine members of his 1999 team were named to the St. John's Department of Athletics Honor Roll, recognizing student-athletes achieving a grade-point average of 3.0 or better.

Eight different student-athletes have earned various All-American honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, 21 different student-athletes have been named Regional All-Americans and 43 players have been named All-BIG EAST.

Since his arrival in 1991, each St. John's men's soccer team has had surpassing success. Each season, the team has built upon the success it had achieved the year before.

In Masur's first season at St. John's, the team made its first-ever appearance in the BIG EAST Championship game. That same year, the

team won 12 games, the most ever in a season to that point.

The next season, the Red Storm made their second-straight appearance in the conference tournament championship. The result was the team's first-ever BIG EAST Championship and its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. That squad also became the first team to post a perfect 8-0 mark in the BIG EAST since round robin play began in 1990. The eight wins earned the team its first regular season championship in the BIG EAST as well.

In 1993, Masur guided his team to a repeat performance as BIG EAST regular season and Tournament Champions, and a second-straight berth in the NCAA Championship Tournament. That season, Masur made history by directing his team to the school's first undefeated regular season in 70 years. In 1994, Masur led his troops to their third-straight BIG EAST Tournament title with an impressive 14-5-3 record. By winning the 1994 BIG EAST Tournament, Masur led the Red Storm to its third-straight NCAA Tournament and became the first head coach in BIG EAST history to win back-to-back-to-back championships. In 1995, after graduating seven starters from the most successful recruiting class St. John's has ever known, Masur directed his squad to its unprecedented fourth-straight BIG EAST Tournament title and a fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament. The team achieved its fourth-highest win total in school history with a 16-5-1 mark, finishing fourth in the newly expanded BIG EAST Conference.

And just when things were going well, they got better in 1996.

That year, Masur guided the Red Storm to the most successful season any sport has experienced at St. John's. He navigated the Storm to a 22-2-2 record and the school's first ever NCAA Championship. As a result, Masur was honored as the National Soccer Coaches Association of America-Umbro National Coach-of-the-Year for 1996 after being named the Northeast Regional Coach-of-the-Year. With the motto "Dream It!, Believe It!, and Achieve It!," the team stormed through a record-setting season.

The 1996 team set new records for wins in a season (22), goals (80), assists (88) and points (248). After winning the previous four BIG EAST Tournaments and losing in the first round of the four previous NCAA Tournaments, it was an omen that the Red Storm was ousted in the semifinals of the 1996 BIG EAST Tournament. St. John's earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament and won five-straight games, beating Florida International, 4-1, in the championship game, to raise its record in the NCAA Tournament to 5-4.

In 1997, the Red Storm followed up their national title by capturing another BIG EAST regular season title and earned their sixth consecutive bid to the NCAA Tournament. St. John's continued to put forth record-breaking performances, with the defense anchoring the team's success. The Red Storm "D" set a new school record for shutouts in a season with 15 and registered a record-breaking fewest average goals allowed mark of 0.54.

In 1998, Masur and his Red Storm squad made BIG EAST Conference history by capturing their league-best fifth conference tournament championship in the last seven years with a 4-1 win over Georgetown in the title game. Masur led the team to its seventh consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament and a 16-5-3 record. SJU's stellar defense was once again ranked among the nation's best, finishing 21st overall. As a team, the Red Storm also registered impressive conference statistics, ranking third in goals scored with 44 and third in assists with 45. The defense allowed just 0.84 goals per game, third-best in the BIG EAST, and recorded six shutouts, best in the conference. Also during the 1998 campaign, Masur reached the 180th win of his career with a 1-0 decision over Rutgers (10/28/98).

In 2000, the Red Storm finished 14-5-2 overall, the eighth time in 10 years under Masur that the team had won at least 14 games. In addition, the team finished 8-2-1 in the BIG EAST, good enough for second place overall. That earned the team a bid to its ninth-straight NCAA Tournament, where they advanced to the Sweet Sixteen, one of only five schools to advance that far in the last five years. Among the highlights were a team win at the UCONN Soccer Classic, when St.

John's beat preseason No. 1 ranked Duke, 1-0, in the opener, and followed that up with a thrilling 3-2 overtime win over Wake Forest.

The Red Storm began a spectacular 2001 season with a win at the Indiana University Classic, beating the host Hoosiers in the season opener. That was a sign of things to come, as the Red Storm went 12 games without a loss and ended the regular season with an 11-2-3 mark. In the postseason, St. John's posted three straight 1-0 wins (over Boston College, Notre Dame and Connecticut) to win the program's league record sixth BIG EAST Tournament Championship. Following home wins over Massachusetts and Penn State, the Red Storm upended previously unbeaten and No. 1 ranked Southern Methodist on the road for the team's second-ever trip to the Final Four. The season ended with a 2-1 overtime loss to Indiana, but with a 17-3-3 overall record.

Last year, the team overcame a season-opening loss to win five-straight games – all by shutout – and earned the No. 1 ranking in the country for the first time in program history during the regular season, a spot they held for five weeks. They won three regular season tournaments – two Daly Worldwide Communications Classic titles and the Rutgers Classic – and opened Belson Stadium against Wake Forest in front of a sellout crowd of 2,266. After reaching the BIG EAST Tournament Semifinals, St. John's was tabbed as the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Tournament, its highest ever. The Red Storm finished the season 13-3-5 overall, ranked sixth in the country and led the nation with a 0.44 goals-against average.

Since his arrival in 1991, Masur has guided St. John's to an incredible record in the BIG EAST during the regular season. The Red Storm have posted an 84-17-11 mark in the 11 seasons under Masur's tutelage and posted a more impressive .799 winning percentage. St. John's put together back-to-back 9-1-1 records in conference play and is the only school to record not one, but two, undefeated regular seasons since the conference converted to a round robin format in 1990.

He joined the Red Storm program in 1991, after guiding Montclair State to a 53-21-6 record and a .700 winning percentage in four seasons. In his first season, he led the team to a 7-5-2 record after they had recorded just four wins in 1986. Masur took the Redhawks to the ECAC New York-New Jersey Regional Championship with a 17-4-3 record in 1988. The next season, he led State to a 13-8-1 mark, the New Jersey Athletic Conference Championship and to the NCAA Regionals. In his final season, in 1990, the Redhawks posted a 16-4-0 mark and reached the NCAA Tournament.

Masur has been duly recognized for his accomplishments in the coaching profession. He has received 13 Coach-of-the-Year honors in his 13 seasons as a head coach.

His first such honor came at Montclair State in 1987, when he coached the Redhawks to a 7-5-2 record after having only won four games the season prior. In 1989, Masur won two awards, one from the New Jersey Athletic Conference and the other as the New Jersey College coach of the year. Masur brought State to the NCAA Regionals for the second-straight time in 1990, while amassing a 16-4-0 record.

In his time at St. John's, Masur has received seven additional awards. In 1991 and 1993, he was named the BIG EAST Coach-of-the-Year and Northeast Regional Coach-of-the-Year. The latter award put him in the company of eight finalists for National Coach of the Year honors. In 1996, when St. John's won the national championship, Masur was named the Northeast Regional Coach-of-the-Year and was crowned National Coach-of-the-Year. This past season, he was named Soccer America's Coach of the Year.

Masur began his coaching career at his alma mater, Rutgers University, in 1984. He was an assistant to his former coach, Bob Reaso, for two seasons, before taking the job at Montclair State.

Masur's talent does not only lie in his coaching ability. He was a very accomplished player at Rutgers, becoming the only Scarlet Knight to win back-to-back All-American honors, which he earned in 1983 and 1984, respectively. Masur was named to the All-Regional team as a sweeper from 1982-84. He was also named the team's most valuable player in 1982 and 1983, respectively, and served as the team's captain

from 1982-84. For his accomplishments, Masur was inducted into the Rutgers Olympic Sports Hall of Fame, only the third soccer player to earn that distinction.

Following his graduation in 1984, Masur went on to play professionally with the Chicago Sting, the Toledo Pride, New Jersey Eagles, the Penn Jersey Spirit and the New Jersey Imperials.

In 1989, Rutgers paid him the ultimate tribute by retiring the jersey he wore as a player.

Masur earned a master's degree in physical education, with a concentration in administration, from Montclair State in 1991. He attended Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey, where he was an All-American midfielder.

In addition, Masur earned his doctorate in education administration supervision from St. John's in May 2003.

Masur, and his wife, Shannon, have three daughters, Samantha, Jessica and Sindney, and a son, Christopher David. They reside in Montclair, New Jersey.



Bill Gaudette
Senior, Goalkeeper
6-0, 185
Hummelstown, Pa./Lower Dauphin

2003: Has appeared in 19 games, posting an 11-4-3 record ... Has a 0.85 goals against average, allowing 17 goals in more than 1,800 minutes ... Has seven shutout wins.

2002: Appeared in and started all 21 games...second team All-BIG EAST

selection...Helped team to a 13-3-5 record including 11 shut outs...posted a 0.46 goals against average, the best in school history.

2001: Injured prior to the season and red-shirted.

2000: A BIG EAST All-Rookie selection...Started six games in goal...Compiled a 5-1-0 record and posted a 0.50 goals against average...Had three shutouts...Named BIG EAST Rookie of the Week after guiding the Red Storm to shutout wins over West Virginia and Georgetown.

Personal: Born on September 14, 1981...The son of William and Anne Gaudette...Sports management major.



Chris Corcoran
Junior, Midfielder
5-9, 165
Marshfield, Mass./Marshfield

2003: Has started 19 of 22 games ... Scored his first goal of the season against Providence ... Has two goals and seven assists for 11 points ... Second on the team with seven assists ... A second team CoSIDA Academic All-District selection.

2002: Played in and started all 21 games...Second team All-BIG EAST selection... Finished second on team in scoring with six goals and three assists for 15 points.

2001: Played in and started 22 games at midfield...Sixth on team in scoring with three goals and one assist for seven points...Two game winning goals.

Personal: Born March 30, 1983 in Weymouth, Mass...Son of Joseph and Maureen Corcoran...Business major.



Chris Leidner
Junior, Defender
6-2, 180
Greenlawn, N.Y./Chaminade

2003: Has started all but one game this season in the back ... Recorded four assists ... Will miss the Maryland game after being issued a red card against Creighton.

2002: Appeared in 19 games, starting 18...Recorded two assists for two points.

2001: Appeared in 12 games, starting nine...Made first collegiate appearance

and start against Indiana (8/31/01)...Recorded one assist on the season.

Personal: Born on March 19, 1983 in Huntington, New York...Son of Michael and Kim Leidner...Sports management major.



Chris Wingert
Senior, Defender
5-10, 155
Babylon, N.Y./St. John the Baptist

2003: Named one of 15 finalists for the Hermann Trophy .. Named the CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year ... A first team Academic All-American ... Named BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year and first-team All-BIG EAST ... Earned BIG EAST

Defensive Player of the Week honors three times this season ... Named CollegeSoccer News.com National Player of the Week on September 21 ... Scored his first goal of the season on a penalty kick against Providence ... Has four goals and four assists for nine points ... Has started all 21 games he has appeared in ... A first-team CoSIDA Academic All-District selection.

2002: Appeared in and started all 21 games...Team Captain...A first-team NSCAA/adidas All-American...BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year...The only unanimous first-team All-BIG EAST selection...A first-team NSCAA/adidas All-New York Region selection...An outstanding defender who anchored a Red Storm team that was ranked No. 1 in the country for five weeks...Fifth on team in scoring with three goals and two assists for eight points.

2001: Appeared in and started all 23 games...One of the team's tri-captain's...Named to NSCAA/adidas All-New York Region First Team...Second team All-BIG EAST selection...Scored career-high six goals...Finished fourth on the team in scoring with 12 points...Selected to the United States U-23 National Team following the season.

2000: A BIG EAST All-Rookie selection...Played in all 21 games...Started 18 times...Finished tied for sixth on the team in scoring with six points...Second on the team with six assists.

Personal: Born on June 16, 1982...The son of Norman and Noreen Wingert...A member of the University's Prestigious President's Society ...A communication arts major, he was a first-team Verizon Academic All-American, carrying a 3.83 grade-point average.



Guy Hertz
Graduate, Goalkeeper
6-3, 185
Ramut-Musharon, Israel/Rotberg/Mercer County Community College

2003: Has a 3-1-0 record ... Came in during penalty kicks against Rutgers and saved two shots as the Red Storm posted a 4-3 win in the BIG EAST Semifinals ... Recorded two saves in penalty kicks against

UConn in the second round of the NCAA Tournament ... Carries a 1.58 goals against average ... Earned wins over Notre Dame and Rutgers.

2002: Redshirted

2001: Led St. John's to an 17-3-3 overall record, the program's sixth BIG EAST Tournament Championship and to the NCAA Final Four...A two-time BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Week honoree, Hertz posted a 0.59 goals against average, the fourth-best mark in a single-season at St. John's...Set a school record with 12 shutouts this season.

Personal: Born on June 21, 1978 in Israel...The son of Moshe and Ruth Hertz...Majored in Political Science.



Jean Camere
Sophomore, Midfielder
5-6, 143
Miami, Fla./Gulliver Prep

2003: Has appeared in 12 games ... A key player in the midfield ... Scored his only goal of the season in overtime against Connecticut on October 15.

2002: Appeared in 17 out of 21 games this season...Scored one goal for two points...Scored first collegiate goal for the win against Notre Dame (9/26/02).

Personal: Born on December 26, 1983 in Caracas, Venezuela...Son of Tito Camere and Betzy Campos...Business major.



Jeff Carroll
Sophomore, Midfielder
5-10, 150
Alexandria, Va./West Springfield

2003: Has started every game this season ... Moved from an offensive midfield position to defensive midfield after six games.

2002: Played in all 21 games, started 15...Recorded one goal and two assists for four points...Made first collegiate goal against

FDU (11/27/02).

Personal: Born on January 8, 1984 in Alexandria, Virginia...Son of Michael and Donna Carroll...Marketing major.



Matia Damiani
Senior, Midfielder
6-0, 175
Foggia, Italy/A Volia

2003: One of the team's captains ... An anchor in the middle ... Has started 21 of 23 games ... BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year ... Has two goals and one assist for five points ... Assisted on the game-tying goal in the BIG EAST Semifinals against Rutgers ... Scored a goal against Syracuse ... Tallied his

second goal of the season against St. Mary's ... A first-team CoSIDA Academic All-District selection.

2002: Appeared in all 21 games, started 18...Finished seventh on the team in scoring with two goals and two assists for six points.

2001: Played in 12 games, starting three...A valuable member of the team's midfield unit...Assisted on game-winning goal in 1-0 victory against Massachusetts.

2000: Started 20 of 21 games...Finished sixth on the team in scoring with two goals and one assist for five points.

Personal: Born on March 6, 1981 in Milan, Italy...The son of Marcello and Maria Grazia Bianco...A member of the University's prestigious President's society, recognizing the top students at St. John's...An economics major.



Matt Groenwald
Junior, Midfielder
5-8, 154
Mt. Prospect, Ill./Prospect

2003: Has started 18 of 21 games up front for the Red Storm ... Second on the team in scoring with five goals and nine assists for 19 points ... Third on the team with 38 shots ... A first-team All-BIG EAST selection ... A first-team Academic All-America selection ...

Assisted on all four Red Storm goals in the Rutgers Classic, earning tourney MVP honors ... Named to the College Soccer News.com and Soccer America National Team of the Week following that performance ... A first-team CoSIDA Academic All-District selection.

2002: Red-shirted.

2001: Played in 18 games, starting 10...Scored one goal and three assists for five points.

Personal: Born on April 30, 1983 in Park Ridge, Ill. ...Son of Thomas and Rosemary Groenwald...Undecided on major.



Angel Rodriguez
Senior, Forward
5-8, 152
Toms River, N.J./Toms River North

2003: Has appeared in 23 games this season ... Has two goals and two assists for six points ... Scored the team's second goal in a 3-0 win at Notre Dame ... Assisted on the team's first goal in a 3-1 win over Rutgers ... Assisted on the final score in a 3-0 win at Adelphi.

2002: Played in 18 games, starting eight...Finished sixth on the team in scoring with three goals and one assist for seven points...Third on the team with 38 shots.

2001: Played in 23 games, starting 22...Tied for second on the team in scoring with eight goals and two assists for 18 points...Second on the team with 43 shots.

2000: Played in 17 games, starting six...Took 17 shots on goal...Scored two goals and had four points.

Personal: Born on September 20, 1981...The Son of Ramiro and Laura Rodriguez...Accounting Major.



Andre Schmid
Junior, Forward
6-2, 195
Sacramento, Calif./Christian Brothers

2003: Broke a bone in his foot during the summer and has not appeared in a game this season.

2002: Appeared in and started all 21 games...Third team All-BIG EAST selection...Lead the team with seven goals and two assists for 16 points.

2001: Appeared in 18 games, starting nine...Tallied one point with one assist.

Personal: Born on April 5, 1983 in Sacramento...The son of Armando Schmid...A sports management major.



Simone Salinno
Senior, Midfielder
5-8, 160
Lucera, Italy/1PSCT

2003: Has started 22 of 24 games this season ... Leads the team in scoring with 14 goals and three assist for 31 points ... Has a team-high 65 shots ... A first-team All-BIG EAST selection ... Scored the team's lone goal in a loss at Wake Forest

... Tallied single goals in four-straight games, at Wake, at Notre Dame, vs. Rutgers and vs. Georgetown ... Scored goals in the five-straight games, tallying the first in a win over Syracuse, the second in a 4-2 loss at Seton Hall and the first in a 3-0 win at Adelphi ... Tied for third in the BIG EAST in goals scored, and among the nation's leaders ... His 14 goals this season are tied for fifth-most in a single season at St. John's.

2002: Appeared in 20 games, started 19...He was fourth on the team in scoring with two goals and six assists for ten points.

2001: Appeared in 20 games, starting seven...In first career collegiate appearance against Butler (9/1/01), scored first career collegiate goal.

Personal: Born on November 4, 1981 in Lucera, Italy...The son of Salinno Franco and Lombardi Lucia...Majoring in Sports management.



Timothy O'Neill
Senior, Forward
5-7, 152
Philadelphia, Pa./Northeast Catholic/Rider

2003: Has started 23 of 24 games at outside back ... Assisted on the team's first goal in a win at Notre Dame ... Has one goal and one assist this season.

2002: Appeared in all 21 games, starting 10...Scored one goals and two assists for four points...Had 21 shots on goal.

2001: Appeared in 21 games, starting 14...Scored one goal and two assists for four points...Scored first goal in St. John's 2-1 victory over Indiana (8/31/01).

Personal: Born on February 17, 1982 in Philadelphia, Pa...Son of John and Maureen O'Neill...Sport Management Major.



Brian Morris
Sophomore, Forward/Midfielder
5-9, 150
Armonk, N.Y./Byram Hills

2003: Has appeared in 15 games with one start this season ... Scored his first career goal in a 3-0 win over St. Mary's.

2002: Appeared in three games and played 74 minutes.

Personal: Born on March 15, 1983 in Mt. Kisco, New York...Son of Robby and Carol Morris...Major is undecided.



Phil Szczerba
Sophomore, Goalkeeper
6-3, 195
Wilmington, Del./Salesianum School

2003: Has not appeared in any games this season.

2002: Redshirted

Personal: Born on May 17, 1984 in Wilmington, Delaware...The son of Edward and Florence Szczerba...Business Major.



Reed Dailey
Junior, Midfield
6-3, 175
Alpharetta, Ga./Wesleyan

2003: Has appeared in two games this season for 12:47.

2002: Did not appear in any games.

2001: Redshirted.

Personal: Born on August 15, 1982 in Dallas, Texas...Son of Pat and Helen Dailey...



Robert Szymanik
Sophomore, Goalkeeper
6-0, 180
Hillsborough, N.J./Hillsborough

2003: Has not appeared in a game this season.

2002: Redshirted

Personal: Born on April 24, 1984 in Livingston, New Jersey...The son of John and Hanna Szymanik...Undecided Major.



Matt Avellino
Freshman, Midfielder
5-6, 194
Queens, N.Y./Sanford H. Calhoun

Before St. John's: A four-year letterwinner for Sanford H. Calhoun in soccer and track and field ... Has also spent six years as a member of the ENYSSA ODP team and one year with the Region I ODP team.

Personal: Born on June 12, 1985 ... Son of Joyce Avellino, a 1977 St. John's graduate ... Selected St. John's over Boston University, South Florida, Holy Cross and American ... Plans on majoring in sports management.



Ewan Blair
Junior, Defender/Midfield
5-10, 170
Spanish Town, Jamaica, West Indies
Bryant & Stratton Junior College
St. Jago High School

Before St. John's: Helped lead Bryant & Stratton to the National Junior College Athletic Association Championship in 2001 ... The Bobcats posted an 18-0 record during Blair's first season ... Started all 18 games at right

defender ... Scored 11 goals ... Bryant & Stratton advanced to the Region III championship last season ... Team finished 12-2, with Blair scoring two goals while playing sweeper ... A member of the Jamaican National U-20 team from 1998-2000 ... Played high school at St. Jago ... Named Junior Player of the Year in St. Catherine Parish ... Also played for Rivoli in the Premier National League.

Personal: Born on April 29, 1981 ... The son of Norman Blair and Jennifer Brown ... Has two sisters, Nordia and Shanieka ... Plans on majoring in sports management



Ryan Kelly
Junior, Defender
6-0, 175
Martton, N.J./Cherokee High School/
University of Virginia

2003: Has appeared in 24 games, with seven starts ... Third on the team in scoring with seven goals and three assists for 17 points ... Second on the team with 53 shots ... Scored two goals in a 3-0 win against Georgetown ..

. Scored the game-tying goal in the BIG EAST Semifinals against Rutgers ... Scored two goals in the Sweet Sixteen, including the game-winner in the second overtime period, to lift St. John's to a 3-2 win over UC-Santa Barbara ... Scored the team's first goal in a 3-2 win over Creighton in the Elite Eight.

At Virginia: Started 20 of 21 games in 2002, recording 1,405 minutes of playing time ... Finished third on the team in scoring with 16 points resulting from six goals and four assists.

In 2001: Did not appear in a game ... sat out the season to rehabilitate a leg injury.

In 2000: Recorded 1,180 minutes of playing time after starting 14 of the 22 games he appeared in ... Scored eight points resulting from four goals.

Personal: Born on November 1, 1981 in Philadelphia, Pa. ... son of Vince and Jane Kelly ... father played professional soccer for the Philadelphia Fever and played college soccer at LaSalle.



Ashley Kozicki
Freshman, Forward
5-10, 151
Pleasant Valley, Pa./Pleasant Valley

2003: Has appeared in 23 games with four starts ... Has four goals and four assists for 12 points ... Tallied the assist on the game-winning goal against Creighton in the Elite Eight.

Before St. John's: Named the Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys High School Player of the Year in 2002 ... Finished the season with

25 goals and 21 assists ... A two-time adidas All-American, two-time all-state selection and was named the state player of the year in 2003.

Personal: The son of Bill and Nancy Kozicki ... Has two brothers, Will and Zach ... At age 13, spent the summer in London living with his brother Will and training with the Fulham Football Club ... Helped FC Delco Arsenal to U-19 National Championship this summer.



Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph
Sophomore, Forward/Midfield
5-10, 163
Gothenburg, Sweden/
Lundbygymnasium/
University of Gothenburg

2003: Fourth on the team in scoring with four goals and four assists for 12 points ... Has started 20 of 22 games at forward ... Scored the team's first goal of the season, in a 2-1 overtime loss to North Carolina ...

Scored the team's final goal in a 3-0 win over Syracuse.

Personal: Born on December 25, 1980 ... Son of Oscar Antonio Alvarado Ralph and Anne Irmeli Alvarado ... Has a brother, Alexander and a sister, Nathalie ... Plans on majoring in business.



Georgios Spanos
Freshman, Defender
5-6, 154
West Islip, N.Y.
St. John's The Baptist

2003: Has started all but one games on the back line ... Recorded one assist, on the first goal against Adelphi.

Before St. John's: A McDonald's All-American at St. John's the Baptist, the same high school that produced current Red Storm standout Chris Wingert.

Personal: Born on June 12, 1985 ... Son of Evangelos and Camille Spanos ... Has one brother, Frank (17) ... Choose St. John's over Connecticut, American, Clemson and Loyola.

Wake Forest 3, St. John's 1

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — In a tournament featuring two of the best teams in the BIG EAST Conference and two of the best from the Atlantic Coast Conference, the ACC had the edge. St. John's held serve with fourth-ranked Wake Forest for 45 minutes before the Demon Deacons scored twice in the second half en route to a 3-1 win over the Red Storm in second round action of the Wake Forest Classic at Spry Stadium.

The Red Storm jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the 33rd minute when senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) scored his first goal of the season. Senior Tim O'Neill (Philadelphia, Pa.) sent a pass upfield to junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.), who dribbled on the outside of the box. Going toward the far end line, Groenwald threaded a low cross through the box to a streaking Salinno. Salinno caught Wake Forest goalkeeper William Hesmer on his back feet and beat him to the lower near post.

Minutes later, however, the Demon Deacons, got the equalizer. Wake senior forward Jeremiah White was dribbling the ball near the box, trailed closely by Red Storm defenders Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) and Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.). White was fouled just inside the top of the box and his ensuing penalty kick, at 36:39, beat St. John's keeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.) to the near post.

The Red Storm had a pair of chances early in the second half. In the 46th minute, the Red Storm had a pair of chances, with a Salinno free kick from the near side of the box, and a corner kick from senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.), but both were off the mark.

Wake Forest, which entered the match with a 20-0-1 record at Spry Stadium, took the lead for good at 61:41. Wake midfielder Ryan Solle stole the ball and fed forward Scott Sealy, who dribbled into the box and around Gaudette, who came off his line expecting a shot. Sealy sent the ball to Tomy Szczypiorski, who easily fired the ball in from the six-yard box in the 62nd minute.

The lead grew to 3-1 in the 69th minute when Jeremiah White put away a blast from inside the box.

St. John's was outshot, 14-3, and the Red Storm had four corner kicks.

After the game, Salinno and Groenwald were named to the all-tournament team as representatives of St. John's.

North Carolina 2, St. Johns 1 (OT)

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — North Carolina scored a controversial goal with about two minutes left in the first overtime period, lifting the 19th-ranked Tar Heels to a 2-1 win over No. 5 St. John's on Friday night at Spry Stadium in first round action of the Wake Forest Classic.

Freshman forward Jamie Martin, a member of the United States team that recently competed in the U-17 World Cup in Finland, headed a cross at the far post from Marcus Storey past St. John's senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.). Gaudette, who was at the far post but turned back towards the goal as the cross came over his head, appeared to have stopped the ball before it crossed the line, but the assistant referee ruled it a goal, giving the Tar Heels a 2-1 win.

North Carolina had taken a 1-0 lead in the first half on one of its lone scoring chances in the opening stanza. In the 26th minute, North Carolina forward Michael Harrington eluded Red Storm freshman defender Georgios Spanos and was able to dribble down the wing freely. Drawing defenders in, Harrington sent a cross to the box, and Storey put it in past Gaudette for a 1-0 lead.

The Red Storm, however, countered just under 10 minutes later, tying the game. Junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.), who was outstanding up front, saved the ball on the end line and dribbled back upfield before passing to classmate Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.). Corcoran headed the ball to the far post and sophomore forward Sebastian Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden) tapped the ball in from six

yards out, beating UNC keeper Justin Hughes to the far post and tying the game at 36:43.

St. John's came out strong in the second half and controlled play for most of the period, taking 10 shots, including six on goal. The Tar Heels, however, had the first opportunity in the second half, with Harrington beating Spanos down the far sideline and breaking away. He took a shot from 18 yards out that went wide past Gaudette.

The Red Storm countered. After a foul by the Tar Heels, a free kick from senior Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.) was blocked. Minutes later, a shot from senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) was saved by Hughes, and the rebound shot from Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) was saved. The Red Storm kept the ball in their end and the threat was ended after a Salinno corner kick in the 63rd minute was cleared.

North Carolina appeared to have a chance to seal the game in the 71st minute when Spanos was called for a foul in the box. Ray Fumo's penalty kick, however, went wide, and the game remained tied.

In the 73rd minute, junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) sent a cross from the far side line to about the 25-yard line, where Corcoran made a diving header and sent a bullet to goal, but right at Hughes, who made the save. The Red Storm had several other shots in the waning moments, with one from Salinno and one from Ralph going high. With less than two minutes to play and the Red Storm pressing the Carolina goal, Kelly picked up a loose ball at the far side of the box and sent a bullet that forced Hughes to dive for, and he made a diving save to preserve the tie. In the waning seconds, senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.) sent a corner kick to the far post that Ralph nearly headed in, but Hughes was able to save it. St. John's outshot North Carolina, 13-7, with each team taking three corner kicks.

St. John's 3, Notre Dame 0

SOUTH BEND, IND. — When you play, perhaps, the nation's toughest schedule, there is no chance to rest easy and know you have a win coming soon.

When you're the St. John's men's soccer team – the No. 12 ranked team in the country by the National Soccer Coaches Association – and you've dropped your first two games to two of the best teams in the country, you know that you have to come right back. And you know you have to do it at Notre Dame, a team that is one of the best in the BIG EAST, and among the best nationally.

All of that said, the Red Storm knew they what they needed more than anything was a win. It didn't matter how it came, they just needed a win. Which is why St. John's 3-0 win over the fourth-ranked Fighting Irish tasted much sweeter.

The Red Storm, the preseason favorites in the BIG EAST, improve to 1-2 overall and 1-0 in the league, while Notre Dame falls to 1-1-1 and 0-1.

The game was billed as a match up of the top two teams in the league, but the Red Storm left the field as the much better team on this night.

St. John's broke into the scoring column 28:44 into the game when junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) put in a low shot in the right corner off assists from sophomore Sebastian Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden) and senior Tim O'Neill (Philadelphia, Pa.).

Just under two minutes later, the Red Storm struck again when senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) sent a long pass down the sideline, corralled by Ralph. He sent a perfect cross into the box, which senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.) easily put away to give his team a 2-0 lead.

Salinno added the third goal 3:21 into the second half when the Irish misplayed a ball at the top of the box. Salinno stole the ball and beat Irish goalkeeper Chris Sawyer for his second goal of the season.

Although the Irish out shot the Red Storm 12-9 in the contest, Notre Dame did not have many legitimate scoring chances in the game. St. John's goalkeeper Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel), making his first start of the season, ended up with six saves.

Perhaps the most telling statistic of the game was corner kicks. St. John's managed to get four of the precious scoring chances, while the Irish would manage just one - and that opportunity came with just 16 minutes left in the game.

St. John's 3, Rutgers 1

JAMAICA, N.Y. - It's been less than a year since the St. John's men's soccer team played its first game in the friendly confines of Belson Stadium. In that short time, the Red Storm have made a nice home for themselves at the corner of Union Turnpike and Utopia Parkway.

When they took to the field on Wednesday night for their home opener, the No. 15-ranked St. John's team was greeted by more than 1,600 fans - many of them students with faces painted and waving red and white pom-poms - and a raucous crowd.

With their 12th Man behind them, St. John's scored three times in the first half - twice in 60 seconds - en route to a 3-1 win over archrival Rutgers in front of 1,609 at Belson. The win improves St. John's to 2-0 in the BIG EAST Conference, and 2-2 overall.

The Red Storm got on board with a dominating first half, out-shooting the visiting Scarlet Knights 6-5, with five shots on goal, en route to a 3-0 lead at the break. Shooting at a goal with nearly 300 St. John's students behind it, senior forward Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) got the Red Storm started. A Rutgers foul resulted in a free kick for senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.). Rodriguez's shot from 15 yards out on the near side of the box went through traffic to Salinno, whose diving header beat Rutgers goalkeeper Scott Conway to the lower far post at 8:44.

The crowd of students behind the visiting goal were still celebrating when junior forward Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) put in his second goal of the season less than a minute later. Junior teammate Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.) made a midfield run on the left wing and passed to Groenwald about 25 yards out. Groenwald's shot from 15 yards out beat Conway to the lower far post.

Groenwald wasn't finished with just that goal. The junior, who has battled through three surgeries in his first two seasons at St. John's, gave St. John's what would prove to be an insurmountable lead for Rutgers in the 35th minute. The speedy forward picked up a loose ball from about 20 yards out and blasted a shot that again beat Conway to the lower far post.

The Red Storm would continue it in the second half, taking eight shots, including six on goal. Junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) had a pair of shots blocked, while Conway was able to save one from Rodriguez in the first 20 minutes of the second stanza. Rutgers narrowed the gap to 3-1 at 67:49 when Chris Karcz headed one past St. John's goalkeeper Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel), with the assist to Josh Gros. St. John's had more chances down the stretch, including a pair in the final minute from Groenwald and one from sophomore Jean Camere (Miami, Fla.) that Conway was able to save.

The Red Storm took 14 shots, including nine on goal, while Rutgers had 10 shots, five on goal. St. John's had two corner kicks, while the Scarlet Knights (2-1, 1-1) had three. Hertz made four saves in between the pipes for the Red Storm, earning his second win of the season.

St. John's 3, Georgetown 0

JAMAICA, N.Y. - Junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) had been waiting for a night like this one. Since transferring to St. John's this year, Kelly has been waiting for a breakout night.

He got it on Saturday night, scoring two second half goals to lead St. John's to a 3-0 win over Georgetown in a BIG EAST men's soccer match in front of 1,187 at Belson Stadium.

The win, St. John's third-straight, improves the Red Storm to 3-2 overall and 2-0 in the BIG EAST, while the Hoyas fall to 2-1-2 and 0-1 in league play.

"I've been waiting for a night like this where I could break out of my shell a bit," Kelly said. "It was a tough first few games, but I've been

working to get more fit and to do it on a night like this, with a big crowd and all of our students here, it made it a lot of fun."

The Red Storm had several chances in the early minutes of the game. In the fourth minute of play, Matt Groenwald sent a pass from the part side of the box to Chris Corcoran, whose shot from 18 yards out went wide. A corner kick from Angel Rodriguez put pressure in the box, but senior Matia Damiani missed on a header opportunity. Groenwald had another shot, a high-arching shot from 25 yards out that Hogan was able to settle under and save.

The Red Storm finally broke through in the 13th minute. A foul by Hoyas defender Tim Convey resulted in a free kick for St. John's just outside the box. Senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) had his shot from 24 yards out bounce off the wall slightly and went past Hogan to the lower far post, giving St. John's a 1-0 lead at 12:51.

In the second half, it was the Kelly Show, as the Red Storm's junior transfer (from Virginia) scored two goals and brought the student section to life behind the Georgetown goal.

In the 63rd minute, Kelly took a throw-in from junior Chris Leidner (Greenlawn, N.Y.), dribbled along the 22-yard line with open space, settled the ball and beat Hogan to the lower near post.

Eight minutes later, the junior added his second goal of the season. Freshman forward Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) picked up a loose ball near midfield and sent a pass over two Hoya defenders. Kelly held back to prevent from going offside, settled the ball and found himself one-on-one with Hogan. Kelly's shot from 16 yards out beat Hogan to the lower near post at 71:06, giving St. John's a 3-0 lead.

St. John's kept on coming, with Kozicki taking two shots and junior Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.) one during an 11-second span. The team's fourth goal, by Kozicki, was called back after an offside ruling, and a shot from Kelly in the 81st minute was saved by Hogan.

The Red Storm, who have scored nine goals in the last three games, out shot Georgetown 19-2, including 10-1 in shots on goal, and had five corner kicks to the Hoyas' one.

Graduate student Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel) picked up his third-straight win, making one save in 82 minutes before junior Reed Dailey (Alpharetta, Ga.) was substituted.

St. John's 2, Villanova 0

JAMAICA, N.Y. - Nothing can ever be taken for granted. St. John's Head Men's Soccer Coach Dave Masur likes to remind his team of that fact. He wants his student-athletes to know that they must go hard every second of every game.

That's why, after the ninth-ranked Red Storm took nine shots in the first half but could not muster the first score, he reminded his team to move on and continue to push forward.

That persistence again paid off, as the Red Storm scored a pair of goals - one from freshman Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) and another from junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) - in the second half en route to a 2-0 win over Villanova on Wednesday night in BIG EAST men's soccer action in front of 1,141 fans at Belson Stadium.

The two goals - which came in an 11-minute span - led the Red Storm to their fourth-straight win. St. John's improves to 4-2-0 overall, and 3-0-0 in the BIG EAST, while Villanova falls to 3-4-0, and 0-3-0.

St. John's out shot the Wildcats, 9-1, in the first half, with several strong chances, but were not able to put the initial score on the board. A pair of shots from senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.) were blocked one from senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) went high in the first 10 minutes of the game. Villanova's first shot, and only on goal for the game, was a liner from 18 yards out from Jonathan Lopuski that was saved by Red Storm keeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.).

In the second half, it was all St. John's. Kozicki, who had his first career goal called back on offside last Saturday against Georgetown, made his first one memorable. After receiving a pass from Red Storm junior defender Chris Leidner (Greenlawn, N.Y.), Kozicki dribbled along

the 18 past a defender and sent a low blast that beat Villanova keeper Craig Bald to the lower near post, giving St. John's a 1-0 lead at 59:47.

Eleven minutes later, Groenwald sent a ball to junior Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.), who played the ball back to his teammate as he moved to the far side of the box. Groenwald sent a blast on the far side of the box from 15 yards out, beating Bald to the lower near post, giving St. John's a 2-0 lead at 70:09.

St. John's dominated play through much of the second half, taking 14 shots overall, including four on goal. Junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) took two shots in the second stanza, including one that hit the crossbar, while Salinno, senior Tim O'Neill (Philadelphia, Pa.) and Groenwald each tallied three shots.

The Red Storm finished with 23 shots, while Villanova tallied two. St. John's had three corner kicks and the Wildcats added one.

Gaudette made one save in goal for St. John's, while Bald had four for the Wildcats.

St. John's 3, Syracuse 0

JAMAICA, N.Y. — The St. John's Athletics Marketing Staff dubbed Saturday's game "Keep Out the Orange" night, referring to the Red Storm men's soccer opponent, Syracuse. Had they known, they would have called it "Roomies" night.

No. 9 St. John's scored two second half goals en route to a 3-0 win over the Orangemen in front of 1,237 fans at Belson Saturday night. The goals came from a trio of players who all live together on the Queens campus, one each from seniors Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) and Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy) and the final goal from sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden).

"I think there might have been some chores at home," Damiani said jokingly with his roommates after the game. "It was a good result for us, and we feel good. We really worked hard tonight and we had good pressure up front that created some chances for us."

The Red Storm improve to 5-2-0 overall and 4-0-0 in the league, while the Orangemen fall to 2-3-0 and 0-1-1 in the BIG EAST.

The Red Storm came out quickly and attacked Syracuse from the start. Salinno blasted home a shot from 15 yards out, beating Syracuse goalkeeper Alim Karim to the lower near post, giving St. John's an early lead. The first shot for the Red Storm came from Red Storm freshman Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.), whose blast from in front of the box was saved by Karim. The ball deflected off of Karim and went toward the end line, where St. John's junior Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.) took control. He crossed the ball through traffic to Salinno at the top of the box, and the Italian import's shot was good at 6:54.

St. John's had other chances in the first half, but could not tally another goal, taking a 1-0 lead at the break, while holding a 7-1 advantage in shots.

The Orangemen appeared to have a shot to tie the game early in the 56th minute after a throw-in on the far sideline just beyond midfield. Frank Bruno picked up a loose ball near the 35-yard line, dribbled toward the St. John's goal and his shot, the Orangemen's lone shot on goal all game, from 25 yards out was saved by Red Storm goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.).

The Red Storm, meanwhile, continued to press the offensive end. It finally paid off in the 68th minute. A St. John's attempt was cleared and a Syracuse defender was passing the ball back to the keeper. Karim slipped in his attempt to pick up the ball, and Red Storm senior Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy) sprinted toward the ball and flicked it into the goal, giving St. John's a 2-0 lead at 68:20.

Six minutes later, St. John's maintained control after another corner kick – the Red Storm took seven corners and held Syracuse to none for the game – and increased the lead to 3-0 on a goal from sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden). Junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) crossed the ball to Ralph in the box, and his header sailed over the head of Alim, giving the Red Storm a three-goal lead at 74:18.

St. John's out shot Syracuse, 13-2, and took seven shots on goal, while limiting the Orangemen to just one shot on goal.

Seton Hall 4, St. John's 2

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall scored three goals in the second half, coming back from a 2-0 deficit, en route to a 4-2 win over No. 6-ranked St. John's on Wednesday afternoon at Owen T. Carroll Field in BIG EAST men's soccer action.

The Red Storm fall to 5-3-0 overall and 4-1-0 in the league, with the loss ending a five-game win streak. Seton Hall improves to 4-1-2 overall and 2-0-2 in the BIG EAST.

After falling behind 2-1 in the first half, the Pirates mounted a furious comeback that resulted in three second-half goals. Seton Hall drew even with St. John's at 53:12 when Sacha Kljestan sent a free kick into the box that Steve Stoute headed in.

The game-winning goal came on a bizarre play, with Mike Zotti tapping in for a score at 79:48. A St. John's defender attempted to send the ball back to Red Storm goalkeeper Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel), who had it slip under his feet as he went to clear it. Zotti picked up the loose ball and put it into the empty net.

The Pirates sealed the win with a goal from Zotti at 89:57.

St. John's had a chance to tie in the 87th minute when sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden) had a shot in front of the goal from close range that was cleared.

The Red Storm had taken a 2-0 lead midway through the first half. The first goal came at 26:36 from junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.), his fifth this season. A throw-in from Chris Leidner (Greenlawn, N.Y.) deflected off of Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) to Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.), who passed it back to the near post. Groenwald moved past a Pirate defender and sent a shot past goalkeeper Boris Pardo.

Less than two minutes later, senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) scored his sixth goal of the season, giving St. John's a 2-0 lead at 28:05. After a restart, senior Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.) sent the ball to the box, where Salinno leaped and sent his header over the reach of Pardo.

The Pirates narrowed the lead, however, when Kljestan scored on a penalty kick at 36:39. St. John's had a shot to take a 3-1 lead at the break when Corcoran fouled 32 yards out, resulting in a free kick for Wingert, whose kick sailed over the wall and was met by Kelly. Kelly's header was on target, but Pardo made the save with 3:51 left in the first half.

The Pirates had a pair of chances in the second half, starting with a shot in the 53rd minute, from David Roman, that was saved by Red Storm freshman defender Georgios Spanos (West Islip, N.Y.). Roman took a pass in the box, with a defender on him, but was able to get a shot off before Red Storm keeper Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel) could stop it. Spanos, however, came in just as the ball was bouncing before the goal line and cleared it to prevent the goal.

St. John's appeared ready to break the tie in the 63rd minute on a corner kick from senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.). His corner sailed over the box, where Wingert headed back to the middle and was met by Leidner, whose header from six yards out went high. A minute later, Seton Hall's Jerrod Laventure dribbled on the near side and sent a cross to the box that was on target, but Hertz punched it out before the shot attempt. The Red Storm returned the threat, with Kelly picking up a loose ball, dribbled forward and was fouled just outside the box. The resulting indirect kick was blocked. With 18 minutes remaining, Kelly won a 50-50 ball and sipped a pass through traffic to Groenwald. Groenwald dribbled forward, but with Pardo and two defenders in front of him, played the ball back to Kelly, whose shot was blocked. In the 64th minute, with Seton Hall pressing, Pirate forward Luke Vercollone

Seton Hall out shot St. John's, 10-7, while the Red Storm had five corner kicks to Seton Hall's one.

St. John's 1, William & Mary 1

JAMAICA, N.Y. — When you go on the road, you know you're going to have to fight for anything you get, and you know that you have to play that much harder. No home team is going to go down without a fight on its own turf. That's what made Saturday's men's soccer match so interesting.

Because of the damage caused by Hurricane Isabel last week, No. 6 St. John's played Colonial Athletic Association power William & Mary not on the Tribe's home field, but on the campus of Old Dominion University, nearly an hour to the South.

Through 110 minutes of play, the Red Storm did nearly everything they could, dominating play through much of the game, but could not put the decisive goal past en route to a 1-1 tie with William & Mary.

The Red Storm took 25 shots, including 12 on goal during regulation play and the two 10-minute overtime periods.

In the first half, the team's best chance came in the 12th minute of play when junior Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.) had a shot glance off the near post and trickle along the goal line, but did not cross, keeping the game scoreless.

The Red Storm finally broke the tie late in the game, with senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) tallying his team-leading seventh goal of the season. Junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) passed across the front of the goal to classmate Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.), who sent it up to the top of the box for Salinno, who blasted a shot into the goal for the lead at 86:15.

It took just over two minutes for W&M to respond, however, as senior forward Phil Hucles passed up the field to sophomore forward Patrick Scherder, who knocked it in at 88:37, sending it to overtime.

Both teams played the remainder of regulation and a pair of 10-minute overtimes without scoring, despite a number of solid opportunities for the Red Storm. Tribe freshman Kris Rake made a pair of diving stops in the final minute of the first overtime period. A Kelly shot from four yards out was stopped by a diving Rake, and a header from freshman Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) forced the rookie to fully extend to prevent the decisive goal.

The Red Storm goalie, senior Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.) made one save in goal.

St. John's out shot William & Mary, 25-8, and had 12 corner kicks to the Tribe's two.

St. John's 3, Adelphi 0

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — After winning five games in a row, the St. John's men's soccer team had felt a little snake-bitten in the last week. The team lost a tough conference road match and followed that up with a dominating performance in a non-league game that ended in a tie. What they needed was a win.

The 14th-ranked Red Storm (6-3-1) got just what they needed on Tuesday at Stiles Field, scoring twice in the first half en route to a 3-0 non-league win over Adelphi in front of 275 fans.

Adelphi had their best shot in the opening minutes of the game, when graduate student Joe Afful launched a shot from 20 yards out. Red Storm senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.) was leaning the other way, but dove to his right to make the save. From that point on, it was all St. John's.

The Red Storm got on board first in the 19th minute, with the third goal of the season from sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden). The shot developed after a long run on the far side from freshman defender Georgios Spanos (West Islip, N.Y.). Spanos crossed the ball from the end line to Alvarado-Ralph, whose header bounced off the crossbar and into the goal at 19:37.

St. John's extended its lead to two near the end of the first half when senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) notched his team-leading eighth goal of the season. Senior Tim O'Neill (Philadelphia, Pa.) made a run on the far side of the field before crossing the ball to the middle for

Salinno, who played the ball off his back foot to Alvarado-Ralph. The Swede's approach brought Adelphi keeper Tom Cunningham off his mark, and Alvarado-Ralph played it back to Salinno, who scored at 41:49.

The Red Storm had one more chance before the break, but a shot from sophomore Jeff Carroll (Springfield, Va.) was stopped by Cunningham.

The Panthers (5-3-1) had a pair of chances in the second half, but were not able to slice into the Red Storm lead. In the 59th minute, Sigurd Riksfjord's shot from 22 yards out was saved by St. John's goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.). Seven minutes later, an Adelphi corner kick resulted in a header, which bounced past Gaudette, but Spanos cleared it off the line.

After Adelphi's run, the Red Storm pounded the doorstep several more times. In the 75th minute, senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.) sent a cross into the box, where Ralph's header hit the crossbar. The ball bounced back to graduate student Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy), who wheeled around on a shot that Cunningham was just able to stop.

The lead grew to 3-0 in the 83rd minute, when Rodriguez sent a ball across the field to junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.). Kelly beat three Adelphi defenders and sent a blast from 22 yards out that beat Cunningham to the upper near post.

St. John's outshot Adelphi, 19-5, taking 11 shots on goal to the Panthers' two. The Red Storm took six corner kicks, while Adelphi had three.

St. John's 3, St. Mary's 0

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — St. John's junior forward Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) said that the Red Storm men's soccer team listened carefully to what Head Coach Dave Masur and his staff had to say at halftime. After a lethargic first half, No. 14 St. John's wanted to attack the St. Mary's (Calif.) with vigor and aggressiveness.

The Red Storm did just that, with Groenwald leading the way, en route to a 3-0 win over the Gaels during first round play of the Rutgers Classic at Yurcak Field Friday night.

Groenwald assisted on three second-half goals as St. John's improved to 7-3-1 overall.

"Coach spoke to us at halftime about things we were doing and that we needed to do better," Groenwald said. "We were able to make some adjustments and that really opened things up for us up front."

After a first half in which St. John's out shot St. Mary's, 8-2, the Red Storm attacked early and often in the second half. In the 46th minute, junior Ryan Kelly sent a pass through the box to Groenwald. Groenwald spotted senior Simone Salinno coming from the right side and sent a shot from 12 yards out that went just under the crossbar, giving St. John's a 1-0 lead at 46:43

Minutes later, St. John's widened when sophomore Brian Morris flicked on a clearance from junior Chris Leidner to Groenwald, who fought off a tackle in the box and slotted the ball to Morris on the right-hand side. Morris tapped the ball into the net at 52:10 — his first career goal — giving St. John's a 2-0 lead.

St. John's sealed the win in the 70th minute, when Groenwald dribbled the ball to the end line and sent a cross to the box. That cross was met by a diving Matia Damiani, who headed it past St. Mary's keeper Kellan Wilson at 70:20 for the 3-0 lead.

The first half was controlled by St. John's, as the Red Storm out shot St. Mary's, 8-2. Twelve minutes into the game, St. John's had its first chance when Groenwald picked up a ball off of a cross and had his header saved by Kellan Wilson. The Red Storm kept the pressure on. In the 16th minute a header from freshman forward Ashley Kozicki was saved and, in the 17th minute, Groenwald found himself free on the right side, but his shot went just high. In the 19th minute, a shot from sophomore midfielder Jeff Carroll went high.

In the final minutes of the first half, Kelly played a ball upfield and found a streaking Morris, whose shot from 20 yards out was saved by Wilson.

St. John's out shot St. Mary's, 19-3, and had five corner kicks to the Gaels' two. Senior Bill Gaudette made two saves in goal for the Red Storm.

St. John's 1, San Diego State 0

PISCATAWAY, N.J. - St. John's Men's Soccer Coach Dave Masur stresses to his team that they need to keep things simple. It's easy to get caught up in the emotion of the game and let that take over, but in keeping things simple, you give your team a better chance to win.

St. John's senior Simone Salinno has taken those words to heart this season. The Italian scored his team-leading ninth goal of the season, and second of the weekend, and helped lead the 14th-ranked Red Storm men's soccer team to a 1-0 win over San Diego State in second round action of the Rutgers Classic at Yurcak Field.

The win improves St. John's record to 8-3-1 overall, while San Diego State falls to 6-3-1.

Similar to Friday night, when St. John's dominated play in the first half but was held scoreless, the Red Storm controlled play through the first 45 minutes, but went into halftime without a score. The stalemate was broken in the 60th minute when junior Matt Groenwald sent a long ball from just beyond midfield to Salinno. The cross was perfectly placed, and Salinno draw San Diego State goalkeeper Colin Hanke off his mark, and sent a shot from the top of the 18 that hit the crossbar and bounced in at 30:17.

St. John's continued to press, with a shot from sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph going high from eight yards out. In the 78th minute, senior Chris Wingert took a free kick from the near corner of the 18, but his cross to the box was taken by Hanke before a St. John's player could threaten.

Senior Bill Gaudette made one save and improved to 5-2-1 with the win. St. John's out shot the Aztecs, 15-3, and had six shots on goal.

The Red Storm's first chance of the game came in the third minute, when a throw-in from senior Tim O'Neill to the box came to Salinno, whose bicycle kick was saved by Aztecs goalkeeper Colin Hanke. In the 10th minute, Wingert sent a free kick from 45 yards out to the box, but Hanke was able to pick it up before junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) could flick it in.

In the 16th minute, Salinno was streaking toward the goal to a Kelly cross. He played back to Alvarado-Ralph, whose shot from 12 yards out went high. In the 25th minute, Kelly took a pass from Salinno, dribbled to his right, found space and had a shot go wide. Two minutes later, Groenwald dribbled toward the box, sent a pass through traffic to senior Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy), whose low liner from 15 yards out was saved.

St. John's continued to press in the closing minutes of the half, when Salinno's shot from 12 yards out in the 35th minute went wide. A San Diego State foul at the 35-yard line gave the Red Storm a free kick, but Wingert's shot was blocked and the Aztecs were able to clear the ball.

The Aztecs had their first scoring chance of the half in the 42nd minute when a shot blast from Kevin Sapanali from 25 yards out wide.

The Red Storm won both games at the Rutgers Classic this weekend, including a 3-0 win over St. Mary's (Calif.) on Friday night. Salinno scored two goals, while Groenwald assisted on all four goals. Combined with host Rutgers' 2-1 double overtime loss to St. Mary's on Sunday, the Red Storm won the Rutgers Classic. Groenwald was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, while Wingert earned Defensive MVP honors. Salinno and O'Neill were each named to the All-Tournament team.

St. John's 3, Providence 1

JAMAICA, N.Y. - St. John's scored two goals in the second half, breaking a 1-all tie, en route to a win over Providence in a BIG EAST men's soccer match in front of 1,172 fans at Belson Stadium on Saturday night.

The Red Storm improve to 9-3-1 overall and 5-1-0 in the league, while the Friars fall to 5-5-1 overall and 3-2-1 in the BIG EAST.

After dominating play through much of the first half, the Red Storm scored two goals in the opening minutes of the second stanza, taking control of the game.

In the 49th minute, freshman Ashely Kozicki played a ball back across the box, where Providence defenders were attempting to clear the play. Junior Chris Corcoran, however, read the play and took a shot from 10 yards out that beat Providence goalkeeper Jeff Newman to the lower near post at 49:38.

In the 63rd minute, the Red Storm increased the lead to 3-1 on a goal from Kozicki. Corcoran played a ball on the near side of the box off his back foot to classmate Matt Groenwald. Groenwald slipped a pass in the box past two defenders to Kozicki, drawing Newman off the line. Kozicki moved to his right and tapped the ball into an empty net at 63:08.

The Red Storm jumped on top just over five minutes into the first half. Corcoran found space in the box on the near side and was fouled by Providence defender Carlos Suero as he made a turn toward the goal. Senior Chris Wingert took the ensuing penalty kick, beating Friars goalkeeper Jeff Newman.

Providence, however, tied the game in the 28th minute. Midfielder Jonathan Rhode carried the ball toward the near end line and was able to make an uncontested cross to the box as Corcoran slipped. Rhode's cross dropped in front of the box, where Ian Wexler headed it past St. John's goalkeeper Bill Gaudette at 27:48, tying the game at 1-all.

St. John's had chances to break the tie before the break. In the 32nd minute, senior Simone Salinno had a shot from 22 yards out sail over the defense, hit the crossbar and bounce in front of the goal. In the 35th minute, Corcoran played a ball off his back foot at the 22-yard line to Salinno, whose shot from 18 yards out was saved by Newman.

St. John's out shot Providence 18-5, with 10 shots on goal, and had six corner kicks.

St. John's 1, Connecticut 0

STORRS, CONN. — The St. John's men's soccer team knows every time they travel to play Connecticut, their hands will be full. The Huskies are one of the Red Storm's fiercest rivals in the BIG EAST Conference, and the teams are always among the top in the country.

Added to the game was that the Red Storm were playing without senior All-American defender Chris Wingert, who was playing with the United States U-23 team in a friendly match against Haiti in Florida. It was the first time in 78 career games - dating back to his freshman year - that Wingert did not play, and ended a streak of 75 straight starts.

St. John's, however, got a big boost from its bench, when sophomore forward Jean Camere scored the game-winning goal just over two minutes into the second overtime period, lifting the visitors to a 1-0 win over the Huskies in front of 2,825 fans at Morrone Stadium.

The Red Storm controlled the ball in the Connecticut zone early in the second overtime period and the Huskies were attempting to clear the ball, but Camere stepped up and intercepted the clearance. His blast from 25 yards out beat Connecticut goalkeeper Adam Schuerman to the upper near post for the win.

It was Camere's first goal of the season, and his second career goal, the first lifting St. John's to a 1-0 win over Notre Dame at home last year.

After a half that saw St. John's control play for the good portion of the first 45 minutes, the second half was a back-and-forth affair, with both teams pushing forward, but not getting clear opportunities.

The Red Storm's best chance came in the 75th minute, when freshman defender Georgios Spanos sent a cross in from the near sideline 20 yards out that senior Matia Damiani nearly headed in. The rebound came out to senior Tim O'Neill, whose shot from 25 yards out went high.

UConn had a pair of chances late in the game, the first in the 68th minute when freshman Steve Sealy settled the ball and took a shot from 16 yards out that Red Storm senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette saved.

UConn had a pair of shots in the opening minutes, with one from Steve Sealy saved by Gaudette and another going high.

St. John's had its first chance in the 12th minute off of a corner kick. Senior Angel Rodriguez had his kick hit short of the box, but it was played back in and a shot from junior Chris Leidner was saved by Schuerman. In the 24th minute, senior Simone Salinno flicked on a header from 12 yards out that went just wide of the net. In the 38th minute, a Huskies foul resulted in a free kick for St. John's from 22 yards out. Salinno bent his shot around the wall, but Schuerman read it and made the save leaning to his right.

The Red Storm kept the pressure on as the half wound down, with O'Neill stealing the ball away from a Connecticut defender 36 yards out and sending a cross that junior Ryan Kelly got a head on, but was saved by Schuerman.

St. John's out shot Connecticut, 14-5, and had three corner kicks to the Huskies' one.

Virginia Tech 2, St. John's 1

BLACKSBURG, VA. — Virginia Tech scored two second half goals, including the game-winner with less than eight minutes remaining, en route to a 2-1 win over St. John's in BIG EAST men's soccer action Saturday night at Tech Soccer Stadium.

The loss ends the Red Storm's five-game win streak, and six without a loss, dropping them to 10-4-1 overall, and 6-2-0 in the BIG EAST. The Hokies, meanwhile, improved to 10-3-1 overall and 5-2-1 in the league, with four wins in their last five games, including Rutgers and defending BIG EAST Champion Boston College.

The Red Storm had taken a 1-0 lead early in the second half, but the Hokies answered back to tie the game and Dustin Dyer scored the game-winner with less than eight minutes left to seal the win.

St. John's struck first for a 1-0 lead. At 59:03, sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph headed in a shot past Hokie keeper Chase Harrison for his fourth goal of the season. Junior Chris Leidner was credited with the assist after Harrison deflected his shot.

However, the Hokies answered at 61:57 when Nason got a pass from Greg Roach and sent a cross into the box for Ken Jonmaire. Jonmaire slapped a shot past St. John's senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette to tie the match at 1-1.

At 82:40, with the match tied at 1-1, St. John's was called for a foul just outside its own keeper's box. Virginia Tech was awarded an indirect kick. After Peer Rogge tapped it to his teammate, Dyer sent a shot careening, which escaped Gaudette and into the bottom right corner of the net for his first goal of the year.

The Hokies managed 17 shots on the night, and that came against a team leading the BIG EAST in fewest shots allowed. The Red Storm generated 14 shots, including eight on-goal.

St. John's 2, Boston College 0

JAMAICA, N.Y. – After beating Boston College 2-0 on Friday night at Belson Stadium, St. John's men's soccer coach Dave Masur congratulated his team on the win and promptly told his team not to be happy.

Masur didn't want to rain on a solid win over the Eagles in which the Red Storm dominated play for most of the game, but he wanted to remind them that they faced another stiff test on Saturday night – against Florida International – and that they needed to continue to take advantage of every opportunity they got and to continue working hard, especially

with the regular season coming to a quick close and with the BIG EAST Tournament just around the corner.

It is this time of year, with regular season goals within reach and with postseason hopes lurking, that is especially important.

The Red Storm did just that tonight, taking advantage of a pair of chances, scoring a goal in the first half and one in the second, to top the Eagles, 2-0 in front of 1,223 fans on a raw and cold night at Belson Stadium.

The Red Storm improve to 11-4-1 overall and 7-20 in the BIG EAST, while the Eagles fall to 6-6-1 overall and 3-4-1 in the league.

St. John's took a 1-0 lead in the 38th minute when senior Simone Salinno scored his team-leading 11th goal of the season. A pair of near strikes were blocked inside the box, and a deflection bounded out to the near side of the 18. Salinno took a blast with his left foot that sailed over defenders and beat BC keeper Mike Cardenas to the upper far post at 38:16.

The Red Storm sealed the win with a goal in the 78th minute, the first of the season for senior Tim O'Neill. After another series of Red Storm attempts were thwarted, Salinno flicked a header into the box from the end line on the near post, and O'Neill tapped it in to the lower near post, beating Cardenas at 78:57.

The Red Storm controlled play from the opening kick and had the first attempt, when a shot from Salinno from 10 yards out was blocked. BC countered quickly, charging down the field and being awarded a free kick after a foul by a Red Storm defender. Paul Chase's shot from 22 yards bent around the wall, but went wide.

St. John's kept the pressure on, when Chris Corcoran played a ball from the near sideline back to Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph, who headed it past a defender to Matt Groenwald. Groenwald streaked down on the outside of the box, but his shot was blocked by Eagles defender Pat Haggerty.

The Red Storm's best chance came in the 25th minute, when Matia Damiani sent a through ball to Salinno, who was racing down outside the 18-yard line. He crossed the ball into the box to Groenwald, who had a defender on him and had his shot from eight yards out go high.

The Eagles had a pair of chances in the second half, the first coming in the 66th minute when Adam Pfeifer took a crossing pass on the near side of the box and got a shot off from 16 yards out that was saved by Red Storm keeper Bill Gaudette. Their best chance came in the 84th minute, when BC midfielder Uri Magen-David tipped a ball from a Red Storm defender and found himself one-on-one with Gaudette. Magen-David approached the goal and took a shot from the top of the box and past Gaudette, but the ball hit the far post and bounced out toward the box before being cleared by St. John's defender Jeff Carroll.

St. John's out shot Boston College, 15-7, and had six shots on goal, to the Eagles' one.

St. John's 3, Florida International 1

JAMAICA, N.Y. – On a night when the St. John's men's soccer team honored its six graduating seniors, it was only fitting to see the members of the Red Storm mobbed by students, family and fans after the game for nearly an hour. It was fitting for a group, and a team, that is one of the most popular on campus, and a favorite among youth groups in the area.

Add to it that the ninth-ranked Red Storm topped 10th-ranked Florida International, 3-1, in front of 1,056 at Belson Stadium, and it made for a great night.

The Red Storm improve to 12-4-2 overall with the win, while the Golden Panthers fall to 9-3-2 overall.

St. John's jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the 29th minute when a foul outside the box resulted in a free kick. Chris Wingert sent his kick from 20 yards out to the box, where classmate Angel Rodriguez made a diving header and beat FIU keeper Roy Rosenberg to the lower far post.

The Red Storm quickly added to goals in the first portion of the second half to open a 3-0 lead. Junior Chris Corcoran sent a cross from the middle of the field to freshman Ashley Kozicki, who had a pair of FIU defenders on him in the box. Kozicki was fouled on the play, and a penalty kick was awarded. Wingert, who scored his first goal of the season on a PK against Providence last week, beat Rosenberg to the lower far post at 60:21, giving St. John's a 2-0 lead.

Just over a minute later the Golden Panthers were trying to clear the ball back to Rosenberg. A long ball was sent high and Corcoran went up for the ball with Rosenberg and headed it past him and into the middle of the net, giving St. John's a 3-0 lead at 61:26.

The Golden Panthers would cut the lead to 3-1 at 70:00, when a foul was called on a St. John's defender in the box. Senior John Pulido had his penalty shot deflect off of Red Storm goalkeeper Guy Hertz hands, but it beat him to the upper middle at 73:33.

FIU would press in the closing minutes of the game, but the Red Storm defense and Hertz were able to hold off the visitors.

The game open very evenly played, with both teams making strong runs. The Red Storm had the first shot in the eight minute of play when Tim O'Neill's sliding dive off of a Simone Salinno corner kick in the middle of the box went high. The Golden Panthers responded immediately after a pair of St. John's fouls brought FIU to the 22-yard line, where a shot from Lucas Skudeler went high.

In the 17th minute, a shot from FIU's Bobby Boswell went wide, but was tipped by Hertz, giving the Panthers a corner kick. The resulting corner was headed by Lucas Cudeler, but the shot went high.

In the second half, the Red Storm's first chance came in the 54th minute. A foul on the near sideline gave Wingert a free kick, which bounced back out to Salinno. The senior, who scored from nearly the same spot on Friday night against Boston College, blasted a shot from 22 yards that went high.

Florida International out shot St. John's, 10-8, but the Red Storm had five shots on goal, while the Golden Panthers were limited to three. St. John's controlled corner kicks, taking seven to FIU's four.

St. John's 2, West Virginia 1

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Drive, determination and desire are three words that St. John's men's soccer coach Dave Masur tries to instill in his student-athletes. He wants to remind them how easily the team's goals can be lost when one or two members of the team skip a beat. But if the Red Storm play with drive, determination and desire, then those goals can be met.

The first of St. John's 2003 regular season goals was achieved on Saturday night, as freshman Ashley Kozicki scored a goal with less than four minutes left in regulation to lift the ninth-ranked Red Storm to a 2-1 win over West Virginia.

The win improves St. John's to 13-4-1 overall, but more importantly 8-2-0 in BIG EAST Conference play. It clinches the regular season championship for the team, its first since 1997. The 2003 regular season championship is the 11th in the last 12 years under Masur (five regular season titles, and six tournament championships).

After leading through most of the game, West Virginia (4-10-3, 1-5-3) managed to tie the game in the 70th minute. Albert Smith dribbled down the field to the top of the goal box where he found freshman Jarrod Smith open. Smith turned toward the goal and fired his seventh goal of the season past St. John's senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.).

As quickly as the Mountaineers had tied it, however, the Red Storm showed that drive and determination that Masur wants. A West Virginia foul resulted in a free kick for St. John's. Senior Chris Wingert sent his kick toward the box, where freshman Ashley Kozicki blasted a shot past WVU keeper Nick Noble at 86:16, giving the Red Storm a 2-1 lead, and sealing the team's BIG EAST regular season title.

The Red Storm had taken a 1-0 lead in the 23rd minute of the first half when Wingert headed a ball served off of a corner kick from senior teammate Simone Salinno. It was the third goal of the season for Wingert.

St. John's dominated play throughout much of the game. The Red Storm had six shots in the first half, 10 in the second and eight on goal, forcing Noble to make four saves, and his defensive teammates to make two.

After the Mountaineers tied the game, the Red Storm turned up the pressure, with St. John's taking three corner kicks and six shots in a 16-minute span before Kozicki hooked up with Wingert for the game-winner.

St. John's recorded 16 shots in the match compared to the Mountaineers one. The Red Storm kept the pressure on the WVU defense by forcing eight corner kicks.

St. John's 2, Villanova 1

JAMAICA, N.Y. – Villanova head coach Larry Sullivan said there is no benefit to playing the St. John's men's soccer team earlier in the season. The Wildcats had lost to the Red Storm during the regular season, but because of St. John's relentlessness in attacking on both the offensive and defensive end of the field, it's hard for a team to have an advantage from having seen them before.

His Wildcats gave the fourth-ranked Red Storm all they could handle on Saturday night at Belson Stadium in a BIG EAST Quarterfinal match. St. John's, however, got a goal from freshman forward Ashley Kozicki in the first overtime period gave the home team a 2-1 win and advanced the Red Storm to the semifinals of the BIG EAST Tournament.

The Red Storm (14-4-1), will play the winner of the Rutgers-Seton Hall match.

At the start of the overtime period, St. John's came out aggressively and in the 95th minute got the winning goal. Junior Ryan Kelly sent a ball from the end line back to Kozicki, whose shot from six yards out beat Villanova keeper Craig Bald to the near post at 95:37, giving St. John's the win.

After taking eight first half shots and not being able to connect, the Red Storm took a 1-0 lead in the 54th minute. Senior Simone Salinno got a pass through the box from junior Chris Corcoran. Salinno's shot from 16 yards out at 35:52 beat Villanova keeper Craig Bald to the near post.

The Wildcats, however, tied the game nearly less than two minutes later. Greg Winther sent a ball from the end line to Felix Vincent. Vincent took a header from 12 yards out that beat a dive by Red Storm keeper Bill Gaudette.

Both teams pressed for the decisive goal in the final minutes. St. John's had the best chance as the clock wound down. A shot from 18 yards out from junior Matt Groenwald bounced off the cross bar and out, and a follow-up header from junior Chris Corcoran went high. The ensuing corner kick was sent to the box and a shot from Chris Leidner was saved at the buzzer.

The Red Storm controlled play throughout much of the first half, but similar to the regular season game, could not take advantage. St. John's got the first shot on goal, in the fourth minute, when a shot from Angel Rodriguez went high. Two minutes later, a corner kick was cleared, but a crossing pass back in was nearly headed in by Tim O'Neill.

St. John's kept the pressure on early in the game with a shot from Salinno in the eighth minute from 20 yards out saved by Bald.

Villanova threatened on a couple of opportunities in the first half, but could not get a clear shot off on net. The Wildcats' best chance came midway through the first when Jonathan Lopusky took a through pass and had a one-on-one chance with Gaudette. The Red Storm keeper raced out of the box, however, and made a diving stop on the ball, preventing an open net.

St. John's out shot Villanova, 18-6, and had six corner kicks to their two.

St. John's 1, Rutgers 1 (SJU 4-3 in penalty kicks)

St. John's men's soccer coach Dave Masur had been in this situation before. As soon as the Red Storm's BIG EAST Tournament Semifinal game headed to penalty kicks, it was the first thing the 13th year head coach thought about.

St. John's, the top seed in this year's tournament, had twice been forced to penalty kicks in a BIG EAST semifinal during his tenure. Twice, the Red Storm lost.

In both of those instances (first in 1996, to Rutgers; and then in 2002, to Connecticut), the Red Storm had kicked first and ended up losing.

This time, the Red Storm kicked second, and won. Senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) knocked in the fourth of St. John's five shots to give St. John's a 4-3 win, highlighted by two huge saves from graduate student goalkeeper Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel), who did not play during regulation or either overtime period.

St. John's advances to its ninth BIG EAST Tournament Championship appearance (all since Masur arrived on the Queens campus in 1991), where they will face third-seeded Notre Dame, 1-0 winners over Providence in the early game. The BIG EAST Tournament Championship will be played on Sunday at noon and can be seen live through College Sports Television (CSTV). Local feeds in New York City will be through the MSG Network. Tape delayed broadcasts will also be shown on Fox Sports Chicago (11/16, 4 p.m. EST) and Fox Sports New England (11/16, 12:30 p.m EST).

After a pair of 10-minute overtime periods in which the Red Storm continued an offensive charge that began after they tied the game late in regulation, the teams headed to penalty kicks. Masur played a hunch and turned to Hertz, the keeper who led the team to the 2001 BIG EAST title and the Final Four. Rutgers' Josh Gros connected on the first shot, but Red Storm sophomore Jeff Carroll (Springfield, Va.) missed on his, giving RU a 1-0 lead. Todd Moser followed with another successful shot for the Scarlet Knights, and freshman Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) netted St. John's first, making it 2-1.

On Rutgers' third shot, however, Hertz pushed the attempt from Gustava Mora away with a dive, and St. John's tied with a shot from senior Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.). A shot from Anthony Schiavino gave RU a 3-2 lead, but junior Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.) tied it immediately. On the next Rutgers attempt, Hertz stepped forward and stopped the shot from Chris Karcz with a dive to his left, leaving it to Salinno who sent his shot to the lower near post, giving the Red Storm a thrilling 4-3 win in penalty kicks.

With the temperature at 32 near game time and winds whipping to gusts of nearly 20 miles per hour, the Red Storm dominated play through most of the first half and for periods of the second half at Morrone Field.

Rutgers took the 1-0 lead in the 61st minute when Larry Mark sent a cross in from the end line and across the box, where Todd Moser chipped it past St. John's senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.) from six yards out. Mark's cross deflected off of Rutgers forward Wes Kirk and to Moser, catching Gaudette flat-footed as he got his shot off.

The Red Storm pressed immediately after the goal, with a cross from Corcoran nearly hitting the post and bouncing in. With less than minutes remaining, a cross from junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) was nearly deflected out of the box, but junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.) took a diving header that went just over the crossbar. In the 82nd minute, another shot from Kelly, this one from the top of the box, sailed just high. In the 83rd minute, senior Tim O'Neill (Philadelphia, Pa.) kept a ball in the St. John's end and passed to Salinno, whose blasted a shot from 30 yards out that went just high.

Kelly got the equalizer in the 84th minute. Sophomore Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden) crossed a ball from the middle to the outside, where senior Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy) dribbled toward the end line before sending a cross to the box. This time, Kelly made another diving header, bouncing off the ground and past Rutgers keeper Lubos Ancin to tie the game.

After the goal, the Red Storm continued to pressure the offensive end, with a cross from Groenwald to Salinno nearly going past Ancin. O'Neill flicked a ball onto goal and Ancin was able to reach up and push it over, and then a header in the final minute was saved on a dive.

The Red Storm had the first chance with a corner kick in the 10th minute of the game. The shot from Salinno sailed toward the box, but was whipped out by the strong winds.

In the 14th minute, Alvarado-Ralph played a ball from midfield to the outside to Groenwald at the 30-yard line. Groenwald stayed on side, but was stopped by a defender and Rutgers took control. IN the 25th minute, a goal kick from Gaudette went nearly 60 yards to Salinno, who chipped the ball over two Scarlet Knight defenders and to Groenwald. As he turned toward the goal, however, Ancin stopped the ball, sending Groenwald diving to the ground.

The Red Storm kept the pressure on, with a cross from Chris Corcoran to the box nearly met by a sliding Georgios Spanos. Rutgers quickly countered when Richi Arenas crossed a ball to the box to Larry Mark. Mark appeared to free himself from four yards out, but Gaudette In the 37th minute, Corcoran appeared to have lost the ball to a Rutgers defender, but stole it back and chipped a ball to junior Ryan Kelly, whose shot was saved by Ancin, hit the crossbar and bounced down, but not across the line.

Going into the wind, Rutgers came out strong in the second half, but the Red Storm responded with several good chances. In the 49th minute, Spanos picked up a ball near the box and saw his shot go wide. Shortly after, a header from Corcoran was saved by a diving Ancin. In the 62nd minute, Salinno sent a ball from midfield to Groenwald, who picked up the ball at 12-yard line and unleashed a shot that Ancin saved.

The Red Storm played the game without two-time BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.), who was with the United States Under-23 team at an Olympic Qualifying match in St. Kitts.

Notre Dame 2, St. John's 0

Notre Dame scored two second half goals en route to a 2-0 win over St. John's in the championship game of the BIG EAST men's soccer championship at Morrone Stadium.

The Red Storm, who are now 6-3 in nine championship game appearances, fall to 14-5-2 and await the announcement of the NCAA Tournament selections on Monday. St. John's, ranked fourth nationally by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, will watch the NCAA selection show on Monday, November 17 at the ESPN SportsZone in Manhattan. The selection show will be shown on ESPN News at 4 p.m.

The game had been neck-and-neck for nearly 80 minutes, with both teams taking aggressive runs and having strong shots on goal.

In the 53rd minute, an Tim O'Neill (Philadelphia, Pa.) throw-in went to the box, where it was headed by Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg,, Sweden) and Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy), and dropped in the box to graduate student Matia Damiani (Foggia, Italy), who caught the ball of his foot and had a side volley from 12 yards out saved by Sawyer. In the 62nd minute, O'Neill sent a cross to Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.), who sent it to the box. Freshman Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) got a piece of it and it bounced to Alvarado-Ralph, whose shot from 18 yards out was saved.

As the clock wound down, both teams made aggressive runs in the offensive end. Notre Dame finally capitalized in the 78th minute. Irish senior Kevin Richards made a run up the far sideline and split a pair of Red Storm defenders before letting go a shot from 16 yards out that beat St. John's senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.) to the lower far post.

The Red Storm attempted to attack in the final minutes of the game, but Notre Dame kept the pressure on and it didn't allow St. John's into its offensive end until the final minute of play. With everyone up, the Irish

cleared the final chance, and Notre Dame's Chad Riley sealed the game with a goal with 18 seconds left.

Both teams attacked aggressively in the first half, with Notre Dame getting a corner kick in the second minute of the game. The Red Storm quickly countered, when Salinno broke free from a pair of defenders and was taken down in the box, but was called offsides. Detter got loose in the 13th minute after a ball was cleared to midfield, found space to send a shot off from about 22 yards out and sent a shot wide.

In the 14th minute, freshman Georgios Spanos (West Islip, N.Y.) dribbled the ball on the far sideline and turned toward the box, sending a shot from 20 yards out that was stopped by Sawyer. The Red Storm's best chance in the first half in the 27th minute when Sawyer made a diving stop on a shot from Angel Rodriguez (Toms River, N.J.). They had been trying to send the ball into the box, when it bounced out to Rodriguez, who unleashed a one-timer 22 yards out.

Notre Dame's best chance came in the 41st minute when Detter picked up the ball near the middle of the field, made a turn and took a shot from the leftside of the 18-yard line, forcing Gaudette to dive to his right and make the save.

St. John's played the game without two-time BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.), who was with the United States Under-23 team at an Olympic Qualifying match in St. Kitts. Wingert started at left-center back for the U.S. and played all 90 minutes in a 6-0 win.

St. John's 0, Connecticut 0 (SJU wins 4-2 in PKs)

St. John's and Connecticut are more than just rivals. When the Red Storm and Huskies meet – in any sport – the tensions are high and the teams know that there really isn't much needed to motivate one another.

The 22nd meeting between the teams was one of the most unique in history for each team. There are always implications when the teams meet, be it a BIG EAST Regular Season title or a BIG EAST Tournament Championship. On Wednesday night at Belson Stadium, the Red Storm and Huskies played for the right to survive in the NCAA Tournament, the first-ever meeting between teams in the Big Dance.

After 90 minutes of scoreless play, followed by another 20 minutes of scoreless overtime, the Red Storm headed to penalty kicks for the second time in the last three games.

Graduate student goalkeeper **Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel)**, who did not play the first 110 minutes, came on in goal for sixth-seeded St. John's in the penalty kicks phase and made two saves, and senior forward **Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy)** converted the final kick as the Red Storm beat Connecticut, 4-2 in penalty kicks.

In penalty kicks, St. John's senior **Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.)** converted the first shot, and UConn's William Osorio tied the game with a shot past Hertz. After junior **Chris Corcoran (Marshfield, Mass.)** hit the post on the second shot, Hertz made a pair of saves on shots from Moshe Shalchon and Steve Sealy and opened the door for St. John's. Sophomore **Sebastian Alvarado-Ralph (Gothenburg, Sweden)** hit his to the lower near post, giving St. John's a 3-1 lead. Cesar Cuellar connected on the Huskies' fourth shot, but Salinno hit a hard shot to the lower far post, giving the Red Storm a thrilling win.

"Everyone has a role on a team," St. John's Head Coach Dave Masur said. "Guy (Hertz) is fantastic on reading the game. He made two great saves; one brilliant save and one great save. He actually won the game for us."

St. John's had controlled play through most of the first half, out shooting the Huskies, 8-2. In the second half, however, the Huskies had a pair of shots on goal that nearly gave the visitors a 1-0 lead, but a solid defensive effort from the Red Storm maintained the tie.

St. John's outshot Connecticut (9-8-4), 18-10, and had 11 shots on goal to the Huskies' two. The Red Storm had 11 corner kicks to the Huskies' four.

St. John's 3, UC Santa Barbara 2 (2OT)

St. John's men's soccer junior forward **Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.)** usually likes to joke around with his teammates before a game. He'll get more quiet and focused as kickoff approaches. On Sunday, as the No. 6 seed Red Storm prepared for a third round NCAA Tournament match against 11th-seeded UC Santa Barbara, Kelly was more reserved than normal, keeping to himself for most of the pregame preparations.

That focus paid off for Kelly, as he scored two goals - including the double-overtime "golden goal" – and St. John's defeated the Gauchos, 3-2, in the third round of the 2003 NCAA Men's College Cup this afternoon at Belson Stadium in front of 795 fans.

"I was just taking some time to myself before the game to relax and take it all in and understand what I needed to do today," Kelly said. "A lot of times when you're in there mixing it up with the guys, you don't get time for yourself to really sit back and think about what you need to do to accomplish what the team needs."

The game appeared headed to penalty kicks – which would have been the Red Storm's third game in the last four in that situation – when Kelly came through. Freshman **Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.)** fought for a ball with a UCSB defender and was able to flick the ball away from the end line to sophomore **Brian Morris (Armonk, N.Y.)**. Morris' cross from the left side found the foot of Kelly, who slipped the ball underneath the dive of UCSB keeper Dan Kennedy for the game-winning goal 5:58 into the second overtime period, catapulting the Red Storm in into the Elite Eight.

"I think it was a team-effort today," St. John's Head Coach Dave Masur said. "It's tough with games so close on Wednesday and Sunday, and all of them are very emotional. A lot of guys came off the bench and played well."

"Whether it was Jean (Camere) or Brian (Morris), who came in and played really well and created the third goal that Ryan finished nicely. I was happy to see that we were able to come through. At the end Billy (Gaudette) made a couple very good saves. It was great resiliency and a very exciting game."

UCSB had taken an early 1-0 lead when David McGill fed a breaking Neil Jones from about 40 yards out for a breakaway opportunity. Jones beat St. John's net minder Gaudette to the lower right corner of the net, giving the Gauchos the 1-0 advantage 6:49 into the game. It was the first goal the Red Storm had allowed in the first half since September 24 (against Seton Hall), and only the fifth all season.

The Red Storm knotted the game at one 23 minutes later as Kelly tallied his first goal of the game and fifth of the season with a shot that sailed behind Kennedy into the back of the net.

In the closing seconds of the first half, the Gauchos put the ball in the net, but the goal was called back due to an expiration of time.

St. John's took the lead for the first time in the opening minutes of the second period when Kozicki's cross was knocked in by senior **Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy)** just over two minutes into play. The teams continued to battle, each with several scoring opportunities, but it was UCSB who would get on the board next. With 17:13 left in regulation, Drew McAthy's header into the lower left corner tied the game at two, forcing overtime.

After a scoreless first overtime period that forced the second, the Red Storm were attacking when Kozicki went up for a header, and deflected the ball to the foot of Morris who was just inside the 18-yard box. Morris controlled the ball and sent a short pass across the box to Kelly, who ended the game with his shot.

St. John's out shot UCSB, 12-9, with eight shots on goal to the Gauchos' seven. UCSB had seven corner kicks, while the Red Storm took two. Gaudette and Kennedy finished with five saves each.

St. John's 3, Creighton 2

Nearly one year ago to the day, the St. John's men's soccer team was left with a stunned feeling, as they lost a double overtime NCAA Tournament match on their own field.

A year later, the Red Storm stunned Creighton, 3-2, in regulation, and advanced to the NCAA Final Four for the second time in three years, and the third time in program history.

The victory was more stunning because of the fashion in which St. John's, the No. 6 seed in the 48-team field, secured the win. The Red Storm were dealt a severe blow early in the first half when junior defender Chris Leidner (Greenlawn, N.Y.) was sent off the field after a red card. After a scoreless first half, however, the Bluejays scored two goals in the first 25 minutes of the second half to take a 2-0 lead.

St. John's, which was carried through parts of the 2003 season by a potent offensive attack, scored two goals in just over a minute of play to tie the game and senior Simone Salinno (Lucera, Italy) sealed the win with a breakaway goal with 12:24 left to play, lifting the Red Storm to the win.

"It's certainly one of the most dramatic wins we've had here," St. John's Head Coach Dave Masur said. "I told the guys not to quit, not to get down. I'm very proud of the effort they showed. To be down two goals and playing a man-down for most of the match, those are big challenges. But we've got to refocus now and get ready for the Final Four."

The Red Storm had controlled the early portion of the first half, with a shot from Salinno nearly hitting the mark. Creighton, however, picked up a big break when Leidner was called for a hard foul just past midfield at 11:09. St. John's took six shots in the first half, with the Bluejays taking only three.

In the second half, however, Creighton jumped on top. Bluejays forward Michael Kraus fed a ball through the box to forward Damien Westfield, whose blast from six yards out gave Creighton a 1-0 lead at 52:38.

Just under 10 minutes later, the lead was extended to two. Kraus sent a ball from the near post to defender Matt Wieland at the far post. Wieland caught St. John's senior goalkeeper Bill Gaudette (Hummelstown, Pa.) leaning the other way and knocked it in at 59:36, giving the Bluejays a 2-0 lead and seemingly sealing the win.

St. John's would counter. A corner kick taken by Red Storm senior All-American Chris Wingert (Babylon, N.Y.) was sent to the top of the box. Junior Matt Groenwald (Mt. Prospect, Ill.) faked an attempt and let it slide to junior Ryan Kelly (Marlton, N.J.), who sent a low shot through traffic and beat Creighton keeper Andrew Brown to the lower near post at 65:06.

Nearly a minute later, freshman Ashley Kozicki (Pleasant Valley, Pa.) was taken down in the box as he raced toward the goal and a penalty kick was called. Wingert stepped to the line and sent his shot past Brown and tied the game at 66:04.

Both teams made aggressive runs in the final 10 minutes, but St. John's capitalized when Kozicki sent a ball from the far side of the field to Salinno, who was racing with a defender on him. He caught the pass near the 18-yard line and sent a blast from 12 yards out to the lower near post, giving St. John's a 3-2 lead at 78:36.

The Red Storm held Creighton in check in the final minutes - with Gaudette making a diving save on a shot from Kraus - and pulled out the thrilling 3-2 win.

Creighton out shot St. John's, 16-11, with the Red Storm taking three corner kicks to the Bluejays' two.

The game was played on the campus of the University of Maryland's Ludwig Field, as a winter storm that hammered the New York area prevented the Red Storm from hosting at Belson Stadium.

Groenwald Playing in Fast Forward

September 26, 2003
By Megan Guerriero



Play.
Stop.
Rewind.
Play.
Stop.
Rewind some more.

A pillow rested behind him on the wall, but he was hardly relaxing.

With his hand tightly gripping the controller and eyes glued to the television screen, St. John's University men's soccer forward Matt Groenwald could not have been more immersed in watching a tape of his team's first Big East soccer game of the 2003 season.

It was not the first time he had seen the footage, or even the second. And it's an easy bet it wouldn't be the last.

But each time Groenwald watches it, he takes away something different from the game. He is modest when asking constructive criticism of friends, but his athletic ability is anything but shy and preserved.

It was at Notre's Dame's Alumni Soccer Field on Saturday, September 7 where Groenwald proved that he is no longer one of the team's best kept secrets.

Few people expected the junior to come into the 2003 season with the force and driving power he has shown early this season. It was, after all, less than one year ago he had his last of three surgeries since he began playing at St. John's.

"For all his year and a half of frustration, he's just letting his anger out on the world right," junior teammate, and close friend, Andre Schmid says. "As far as how awesome he's playing, he's just letting everyone have it.

"As one of the top player's on the team right now, I feel completely confident having him out there with the ball. He's incredibly quick and fast, and has a great work rate."

This domination did not come along easily. It's been an uphill battle to have Groenwald get to this point, a battle that been going on since he began as a freshmen two years ago.

Entering St. John's, Groenwald had a decent preseason and felt he would start the 2001 season in very good shape. He saw a great deal of playing time, starting eight games in a row until midseason, when his left groin began bothering him.

Believing that it was just a bad muscle pull, Groenwald took extra care of his body for the remainder of the season, seeing only a few minutes of playing time in each of the final Big East games. The Red Storm won the BIG EAST Tournament Championship that year, and advanced to the program's second-ever Final Four appearance. He started the Final Four game against Indiana in a great deal of pain, but played through it.

St. John's lost in the national semifinals, and Groenwald headed home for Christmas to take care of his body. He saw an orthopedic surgeon in Philadelphia when he returned to school the following February, and required immediate surgery on his left groin and lower abdomen the very next morning.

It wasn't easy, but Groenwald followed a rehab protocol for the next few months and gradually became healthy again.

It wasn't until the middle of the summer of 2002 that he started to feel an increasing pain while playing for an amateur team back home in Chicago.

That led to another surgery, this time on his right side, with a different doctor and procedure.

Once again, Groenwald rehabilitated himself. Believing the worst was behind him, he came back sophomore year fully intent on playing, but instead his pain got progressively worse. Told that the muscles in his groin were "torn to shreds," Groenwald had to once again return to Philly and have both operations completely redone.

Groenwald now needed to rehabilitate himself very slowly and carefully over the course of the next year. He was cautious about how he handled everything, remembering painfully that the first two surgeries resulted in more problems.

After several failed attempts at physical therapy and pain management, Groenwald decided to stay in New York this past summer and see a bodybuilder. A completely different and new approach was one of the only resources that he had left.

The idea behind this was to work on his overall body strength, as opposed to strictly limiting rehab to the problem area.

"I concentrated on getting my leg strength up and my other muscles so powerful that my adductors wouldn't take on the responsibility of the weakness in my other muscles," he explained. "I also did track workouts that the coaches gave us once a week, and just really focused on being healthy so that when I came back, I could concentrate on playing."

"He has a great ability to stay connected and focused, and I admire him for that," explains another teammate and close friend, Chris Corcoran.

His instructor for the summer, John Boos, a former two-time "Mr. World" and "Mr. New York State," was a key factor in the recovery process.

"He was kind of depressed (about the rehab process)," Boos said, "and I didn't realize it until I spoke to his parents (at a game during the 2003 season).

"I didn't realize there was that much frustration."

Boos, a veteran of the body building scene, felt that a big part of Groenwald's rehabilitation process involved the intimidation factor, so he wanted to help him build upper body strength. Boos wanted him to be respected on the field in a way he hadn't been before. And by working with Groenwald to improve his overall physical health and stamina, he helped him to boost his overall mentality. The goal was to give the Red Storm's forward a more healthy perspective on the sport, but not just in the physical sense. Reason and understanding would be key factors as well.

"He would play a clean game and that's even more of a positive thing," Boos said. "A solid, clean player, playing strictly from his capacity and his ability, and that's important."

Groenwald describes his sessions with Boos as just what he needed to get back in the game and admits, "I wouldn't even be playing soccer right now if I hadn't worked out with John all summer. He and his rehab gave my body the edge it lost from surgery and inadequate rehab."

Boos was not the only support Matt had to help him get through the past two years. The clinical term, sports hernia, hardly gave his diagnosis any justice, as his surgery was as mentally grueling as it was physically.

"I definitely went through some really rough stages where I didn't want to be in school, when I didn't want to be around the guys," Groenwald said of the rehabilitation process. "Being around



something you love is an awesome thing, but when you're around something that you love, and you need your body to do it, and your body's not allowing you to do it consistently, that's very hard."

He went through some very rough times, often blaming himself for such a slow recovery. At times, he felt irresponsible and consistently depressed, but a small network of people helped him to see the sunshine at the end of the storm. A close family friend of the Groenwald's is a paraplegic and is barely able to use his fingers or

even speak. Groenwald looks to circumstances like this to find a perfect reason to want to wake up each morning in spite of hardship.

"They were dealt a very bad hand, but they're the last people to complain," Groenwald said. "They're the first people to show love, and care, and compassion to someone who needs it. And they were there when my mom needed a shoulder to cry on, because I was so angry about everything. So I would say if I had a role model, it would definitely be the Valentino Family from Mount Prospect, Chicago."

You might say that his open mind and gracious qualities have a lot to do with his parents, who have undoubtedly helped him to stay grounded through the years. They taught him to make goals for himself at a young age and never failed to educate him on every path, even those less traveled.

Their efforts paid off. Thinking the worst at one point, Groenwald began to take his interest in the medical field more seriously. This, of course, came at a time when he thought soccer might be out of the picture for good. Over the summer he volunteered at a local Queens Hospital in hopes of helping others and educating himself in preparation for the future.

Groenwald is constantly trying to learn new things and enlighten himself on the world around him. "Right now I am just concentrating on getting grades, and at the same time, educating myself on medical schools and what it takes to get in them," Groenwald said. "While at the same time, trying to do as well as I can on the soccer team and represent St. John's very well."

A biology major with a minor on physics, Groenwald is thankful he doesn't have to explore those other possibilities quite yet. He is back, healthy, and ready to play to soccer. And although he doesn't really know what the future holds for certain, Medical School is a priority on his list.

Always making others a priority, constantly putting others before himself, Groenwald is humble in the most wonderful way, both on and off the field.

When asked what it means to have young kids ask for his autograph after games, he almost becomes bashful. "I don't necessarily think I deserve it, but I think it's awesome for the program," he said. "I think so many people put so much time and effort into

the program, like our coaches, managers and administration.

"They're not the ones who ever see any of the credit, so I think it's a real credit to them that we had all of those fans at the game in the first place."

It is reasons like this, both Schmid and Corocoran agree, that Groenwald is without a doubt, one of the most respected players on the team.

While he has been one of the keys to the Red Storm's 5-2-0 start, including a 4-0-0 mark in the BIG EAST, Groenwald deflects much of the attention to his teammates, saying they deserve the spotlight more.

Modest or not, it would be hard for Matt to deny that he has been among the constant buzz and chatter in the stands recently. The fans in the soccer community all want to know, "who is this guy?"

Scoring goals from every direction and even earning two National Team of the Week honors - by Soccer America and CollegeSoccerNews.com - Groenwald is making the most of his freshly tuned skills.

"Being outside last year and not being on the field, I think he really grew from that experience and appreciates the game a lot more," St. John's Head Coach Dave Masur said. "And he values and knows what it is to be on the other side, wanting to be on the field.

"So every chance he gets, he wants to make the most of it...I think when something gets taken away from those people, there sometimes can be a little more value to it. And I think that's what happened to Matty a little bit."

If Groenwald has learned one thing since he began college, it is that nothing in life is for certain. We are sometimes prone to injury at the most unexpected times. Reasonable solutions may not always be the most logical. A redshirt and an extra year of college can come with the snap of a finger. Life is fragile and is an endless learning experience, but we are constantly reflecting and growing as a result.

Groenwald now has a new outlook on life. Reminding himself that anything can happen, Matt wouldn't trade the past two years of his life for anything in the world.

"I kind of have to take every day in stride and not take it for granted," he explained. "So I think right now, that's my motivation, is to not take things for granted."

There may be a lot of stopping and rewinding in front of Groenwald's television screen, but the only direction he's going in on the field is fast forward.

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