

## **Brianne Reed (RBC'12) 2015 Senior CLASS Award Winner**

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Rutgers University center back, Saint James School (SJS '08), and Red Bank Catholic alum Brianne Reed (RBC '12) has been selected in nationwide balloting as the 2015 Senior CLASS Award® winner in NCAA® Division I women's soccer. The award, chosen by a vote of Division I women's soccer coaches, national soccer media and fans, is given annually to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in Division I women's soccer.



In order to be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: classroom, community, character and competition. "The players, staff, University and entire Rutgers family are so proud of Brianne for her accomplishment," said head coach Mike O'Neill. "This a very prestigious award, and she is very deserving." An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School®, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete in 10 NCAA sports and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. "This is such an honor," said Reed, who is the first member of Rutgers women's soccer to win the Senior CLASS Award®. "I know this is such a prestigious award, and to be a Rutgers University representative is truly amazing. I put in a lot of hard work at this university, and for it to show on and off the field, in the classroom and in the community is truly an honor. This award speaks to our program as a whole and the kind of people we have on this team. Yes, I individually won this award, but for me it's important to leave something like this behind for the program. I've gotten so much support from my fellow student-athletes, the local community, our staff and my teammates. I'm truly grateful."

Reed has started every match at center back for the No. 9-ranked Scarlet Knights (19-3-3) this season, playing the full time in 19 matches. A 2015 MAC Hermann Trophy candidate, two-time First Team All-Big Ten section, and 2014 National Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-American, Reed has enjoyed a decorated career "On the Banks." The RU veteran recorded four points this season with one goal and two assists. Reed, who has started in 68 games and seen the pitch in 85 overall, headed in the second goal of a 2-0 win against Hofstra in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Rutgers' defense emerged as the best in the nation in 2015, with Reed playing a key role. The Scarlet Knights are first in the nation in shutouts (19), first in shutout percentage (.760), first in goals-against average (0.31), and second in save percentage (.910).

Off the field, the public health major is a three-time Dean's List selection and was named an Academic All-Big Ten honoree as a junior. She has been very active in leadership positions and community service on the Rutgers campus, including serving with RU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and participating on the WIB Student Panel and the Girls in Sports Day Panel. Outside of

her classroom and school activities, Reed has made community outreach a consistent priority, serving both her campus and the local New Brunswick community. Over the course of her college career, she has volunteered her time with Read Across America, the Elijah's Promise soup kitchen and local hospitals, and has participated in toy and book drives and visits to various area schools.

“Brienne is truly the kind of athlete we hope gets recognized with the Senior CLASS Award,” said Erik Miner, Executive Director for the Senior CLASS Award. “She’s demonstrated incredible excellence on and off the field throughout her career, most notably during this year’s Final Four run. Her brand of leadership and dedication is certainly worth rewarding, and we congratulate Brienne, her family, her team and the entire university on this honor.”

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition. The award program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the many rewards a senior season can bring.

After hearing that she was selected for the award, Brienne reached out to thank the RBC community saying, "I am blessed and honored to be the recipient of the NCAA's Senior Class Award in Soccer for 2015. This award embodies all the character traits and academic values I acquired while I attended RBC from 2008 - 2012. Allow me to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those within the RBC family who took the time to submit votes on my behalf. This accomplishment would not have been possible if it wasn't for your continuous and generous support."