

Paterson Post

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Tactical Wins for GOPA JROTC



Recently, the Eastside Campus, Army Junior Officer Reserve Training Corps (JROTC) program, part of the School of Government and Public Administration (GOPA), won two first place trophies during a *Drill and Ceremony* competition held at Union High School. Twelve high schools from across the state of New Jersey participated in the competition, which hosted combined military branches. The Eastside contingent was led by two outstanding cadets, Cadet Captain Alexis Casado

and Cadet First Sergeant Jifi Gonzalez. These two students served as captains of their respective teams, winning 1st place in two of the most difficult categories: *Unarmed Platoon Regulation* and *Armed Color Guard*. Drill and Ceremony is a set of military tactics believed to help cadets develop pride, confidence, professionalism and most importantly, teamwork early in their education and training. Eastside JROTC has shown mastery of those tactics with countless hours of hard work and dedication. One student was overheard on the bus ride home saying, "We won... that's what we do here!"

SOIT Student Grapples with Success

Porfirio Matos (aka, "Wolverine"), a junior at the School of Information Technology (SOIT) at Eastside, won a bronze medal at the North American Grappling Association (NAGA) competition ("Submission Grappling" is a very challenging form of martial arts wrestling) held in Metuchen, NJ. There, he defeated two adults, placing third out of eleven competitors in the Men's Division. Over the past ten years, Eastside has won only three belts, two by the same athlete. Last year, after placing second and third in several tournaments, Porfirio stepped up his game, and won the Championship in the North American Expert Teen Division. Following his championship performance, he entered difficult NAGA divisions, against opponents with more experience as a way to challenge himself. As a part of this process, he began to focus on the technical aspects of Brazilian-style *Jiu Jitsu*. Porfirio's hard work clearly paid off in Metuchen, where he defeated an opponent who was more experienced and who had previously defeated him.



The Paterson Police Department donated 10 warm coats of various sizes for Pre-K to 8th grade students at School 9.

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