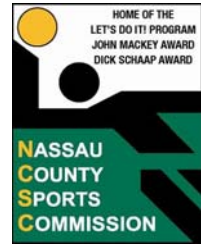




JOHN MACKEY AWARD BEST COLLEGIATE TIGHT END



Contact: **Bryan Revello**
516-365-9625
bryan@nassausports.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2005 JOHN MACKEY AWARD RECIPIENT

MARCEDES LEWIS OF UCLA

Manhasset, N.Y. (December 6, 2005) – The Nassau County Sports Commission (NCSC) has announced the recipient of the 2005 John Mackey Award. Mercedes Lewis (SR, UCLA) edged out finalists Vernon Davis (JR, Maryland) and Anthony Fasano (SR, Notre Dame)

The three finalists and award recipient were determined by confidential balloting of the John Mackey Selection Committee. The John Mackey Award will be presented at the NCSC annual awards dinner on May 1, 2006.

A John Mackey Award finalist in 2004, Mercedes Lewis possesses great size and speed at the tight end position. An All-America candidate, Mercedes owns the UCLA record for career touchdown receptions by a tight end with 21. This season, Lewis leads the Bruins with 58 receptions, 741 yards and 10 receiving touchdowns -- all career highs and UCLA tight end records.

The John Mackey Award is given to the collegiate tight end who best exemplifies the play, sportsmanship, academics, and community values of NFL Hall of Fame Tight End John Mackey. The Nassau County Sports Commission, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization created to enhance quality of life in "America's First Playground" through sports, is responsible for the administration of the John Mackey Award and the John Mackey Award Selection Committee.

For additional information, please visit www.johnmackeyaward.org or www.nassausports.org.

JOHN MACKEY AWARD RECIPIENTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>School</u>
2005	Mercedes Lewis	UCLA
2004	Heath Miller	University of Virginia
2003	Kellen Winslow II	University of Miami
2002	Dallas Clark	University of Iowa
2001	Daniel Graham	University of Colorado
2000	Tim Stratton	Purdue University