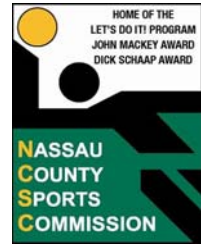




## **JOHN MACKEY AWARD** BEST COLLEGIATE TIGHT END



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MATT SPAETH OF MINNESOTA NAMED 2006 JOHN MACKEY AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Manhasset, N.Y. (December 7, 2006)** – The Nassau County Sports Commission (NCSC) has announced Matt Spaeth of Minnesota as the 2006 John Mackey Award recipient. The Big Ten conference senior recorded 47 receptions for 564 yards and 4 touchdowns while leading the Minnesota Gophers to the Insight Bowl.

Spaeth was named first-team All-Big Ten by both the media and the coaches for the second consecutive season in 2006. Spaeth was also selected as one of the honorees for this year's Big Ten Sportsmanship Award. He has also been named the team's Bronko Nagurski Award recipient as the 2006 Minnesota Gopher's Football Team MVP.

In 2006, Spaeth became the school's all-time leader in career receptions (109) and receiving yards (1,293) by a tight end and also ranks ninth all-time in career receiving touchdowns with 12.

The 2006 John Mackey Award recipient was determined by confidential balloting of the John Mackey Selection Committee. "The Mackey" will be presented at the Nassau County Sports Commission Annual Awards Dinner on April 30, 2007.

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 is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that promotes sports and healthy lifestyle for Nassau County residents and 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](http://www.johnmackeyaward.org) or [www.nassausports.org](http://www.nassausports.org).

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