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New Brunswick Athletics Enjoying Banner Fall Season

High school's soccer, football teams excelling in newly renovated, outdoor facility; girls' tennis also enjoying excellent results

"There's a great sense of pride at every game"

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (November 3, 2015) – The 2015 fall sports season has been one to remember in New Brunswick—with the promise of even more excitement to come. A newly renovated athletic facility, plus outstanding football, boys' and girls' soccer, and girls' tennis squads are giving the city many reasons to celebrate.

The 7-1 football team looks primed for a playoff berth, and features star tailback (and homecoming king) Maurice Ffrench, while girls' varsity soccer has gone from a winless season just two years ago to clinching its first-ever division title under the leadership of co-captains Odalis Montes and Erica Rodriguez. Girls' tennis went from a team struggling to gain members to earning an outstanding eight wins out of 11 matches in the Greater Middlesex County Tournament.

Meanwhile, the boys' varsity soccer team has compiled a remarkable 17-1 mark, with Kevin Sanchez leading all New Jersey scholastic players in scoring and Jason Zarate just behind, currently sixth statewide in goals. Both the junior varsity and freshman boys' soccer teams have improved on the previous season's won-lost records, with both the freshman and junior varsity teams winning the Greater Middlesex County Conference.

"There's new excitement surrounding our district's sports program," says Craig Lowery, supervisor of Health, Wellness, and Physical Education for New Brunswick Public Schools. "The kids have worked so hard to accomplish what they have, and the community is appreciative. There's a great sense of pride at every game."

And Superintendent of Schools Aubrey Johnson points out there's a lot more to New Brunswick scholastic athletics than physical fitness and on-field excitement.

"Ultimately, the district's interscholastic athletics program is an extremely significant extension of what's taught in our classrooms," he says. "Our student-athletes are learning crucial 'soft skills' -- teamwork, problem-solving, even critical thinking. And these types of abilities will be invaluable in the future, as they begin establishing careers."

New Brunswick residents are also enjoying the comfort of an improved outdoor athletic facility, unveiled earlier in the fall season. The main field features an advanced FieldTurf® surface, used for football and soccer games. In the spring, it will be used primarily for Track and Field.

"With so many students, parents, teachers, and administrators filling the stands of our new facility and cheering on the student-athletes -- well, it's no wonder they're excelling," Johnson adds. "There's tremendous value in community involvement as it relates to supporting students."

Digital, high-resolution images of soccer and football games are available.

Image 1 <https://goo.gl/iE5OsX>

Samaad Davilla (#2) runs to daylight during the Zebras' recent 38-28 victory over Woodbridge High School.

Image 2 <https://goo.gl/lnJpu9>

Kevin Sanchez (#11), Arlin Martinez (#21), and Raul Gallindo (#10) celebrate a goal during the Zebras' recent victory over South Plainfield.

About New Brunswick Public Schools

The New Brunswick, NJ public school district consists of two high schools (New Brunswick High School and Health Sciences Technology High School), a middle school (New Brunswick Middle School) and eight elementary schools (Lincoln, Livingston, Lord Stirling, McKinley, Redshaw, Roosevelt, Paul Robeson, and Woodrow Wilson schools).

The New Brunswick Public Schools offer a comprehensive educational program for students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade and serve more than 10,000 students.

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