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Contact:

Nick Stavrianoudakis

Director of Athletics

209-575-6835

stavrianoudakis@mjc.edu

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

MJC honors nine athletes and names two Student Athletes of the Month

(Modesto, CA) – Modesto Junior College honored nine student athletes in September and named two of them Student Athletes of the Month. Earning top honors in their respective sports were Ravon Alexander - Football (Lincoln HS), Michael Hicks - Men's Water Polo (Downey HS), Alexies Reynoso - Men's Cross Country (Johansen HS), Noor Kathem – Wrestling (Leland HS, San Jose), , Maddie Dean - Women's Water Polo (Enochs HS), Jaime Becerra - Women's Soccer (Downey HS), Brianna Filpot - Women's Cross Country (Gregori HS), Janita Vongphoumy - Women's Golf (Central Valley HS) and Brooke Finnegan - Volleyball (Gregori HS).

Kathem (Wrestling) and Finnegan (Volleyball) further were acknowledged as the male and female Student Athletes of the Month for September.

Kathem was on the MJC Dean's List in fall 2015 and finished 5th at the 2015 Junior College State Championships. He is currently ranked #1 in the state (157 pounds) undefeated thus far this season. His unparalleled work ethic has earned him three championships this season.

Kathem is bilingual in Arabic and had limited knowledge of wrestling prior to the start of last season. He has made huge adjustments to the American culture and is determined to be the best at everything in which he participates.

Kathem is currently on the advisory board for Silicon Valley Children's Fund and MJC Wrestling team captain. He serves as a volunteer coach for kids programs in San Jose.

Finnegan is the 2016 MJC women's volleyball libero (top defensive specialist). Redshirting in 2015, she ended the 2014 season with a team high 349 digs, averaging 4.31 digs/set and is well on the way to the same average as she currently leads the team in digs. She has already tied her career best with 25 digs in a match.

Finnegan is 7th in the Big 8 Conference and 47th in the state for digs/set. She also has 10 service aces. This year she had to step up and play a new position for her team. Finnegan was asked to take on a more offensive role moving from libero to outside hitter – a move necessary because of team injuries. She moved and only asked what she could do to help her team. For those 3 matches, she played all 6 rotations and tallied 10 kills for her team.

Finnegan is MJC Volleyball team captain, while holding a 3.8 GPA. She is also a youth volleyball coach, volunteering her time with Velocity Volleyball Club.

For more information contact Nick Stavrianoudakis, MJC director of athletics, at stavrianoudakis@mjc.edu or (209) 575-6835.