

SPORTS

Sliding Safely Into Second



Daily News file photo

St. Johns River State College's Chase Malloy slides safely into second base during a game in 2019 against the College of Central Florida.

Earning Honors

Malloy, Luna are St. Johns River State College student-athletes of year

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Both Chase Malloy and Dariana Luna were chosen as St. Johns River State College's student-athletes of the year recently.

The best part for both baseball coach Ross Jones and volleyball mentor Matt Cohen is they're both coming back starting this fall.

Malloy, the son of former Major Leaguer Marty Malloy, who played for the Atlanta Braves and Florida Marlins and is currently with the Philadelphia Phillies in player development as infield coordinator, was named the John Tindall Memorial Scholarship honoree early in the season. The honor is named after the longtime Vikings baseball coach.

In the middle of his sophomore season, the year



Malloy

got shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Junior College Athletic Association gave sophomores in the middle of their final season the chance to re-do their season and Malloy will return to Jones' team next spring.



Luna

"Chase has been a great fit for us," Jones said of the business major. "He's a small-town kid from Trenton, so being in a small town does not bother him. He's a baseball player and he's a great student. He came here with 40 credits already, so he is already started out in working on his bachelor's degree."

As for Luna, she and her family emigrated from Venezuela to Davie in the southern part of Florida. Cohen, starting his sixth overall season coaching the Vikings' program, recruited Luna out of Western High School. A psychology major, Luna is carrying a 4.00 grade point average after her first

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year at SJRSC.

"To see her do what she has done in four years from moving to this country is pretty impressive," Cohen said. "She definitely knew (English) coming here and she's terrific academically. She's very skilled as our libero. She has good ball control. She's not too flash ... she's just in the right place at the right time. She's been a lot more consistent."

Jones, also SJR State's athletic director, noted 25 SJR State student-athletes achieved a grade-point average of 3.000 or better, earning academic all-conference awards. He also said additionally, 19 student-athletes had GPAs of 3.30 or better earning Florida State College Athletic Association academic all-state honors, and that six student-athletes earned NJCAA Academic All-American honors with GPAs over 3.60. Those athletes were Malloy, Luna, baseball player Kaven Kroll and softball players Breanna Cefaliello, Kathleen Ingram and Soraya Hernandez.