



LONG ISLAND
JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE

Scholarship Awards Brunch



Class of 2015

July 19, 2015 Huntington Hilton



Program

Welcome Lynn Scarpati
Chairperson Scholarship Committee

Pledge of Allegiance Anthony Maresco

Blessing Rocco Amoroso

Brunch

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Closing Remarks Lynn Scarpati

About the Scholarship Awards

We are privileged to present these 27 awards to some of the finest student athletes in LIJSL. Although 20 of these scholarship awards are memorial awards, these scholarships memorialize 12 individuals for the way they lived, rather than defining them by the way they died. These individuals had a passion for life and soccer was part of life.

We are proud of the corporate and foundation support that enables LIJSL to expand these awards.

The contributions made by individuals and organizations enable LIJSL to provide these scholarship awards, which honor these exceptional young adults.



Scholarship Awards

Presenters

Recipients

Lynn Scarpati	Miltride Chalumeau, Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship
Lynn Scarpati	Daniel Paulos, Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship
Lynn Scarpati	Kevin Williams, Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship
Peter & Erica Harold	Robert Clarke, Bobbi Marks Memorial Scholarship
Peter & Erica Harold	Tyler Fenton, Bobbi Marks Memorial Scholarship
Peter & Erica Harold	Rachel Kantor, Bobbi Marks Memorial Scholarship
Richard Frazita	Megan Yaeger, Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship- Female Student Athlete
Peter Collins	Harrison Weilbacher, Addei Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship
Pat Grecco	Alyssa DeFalco, Pat Grecco Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Samantha Cobic, Michael Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Gregory Schultz, Michael Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Zachary Lewis, Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Joan Connor	Shannon Myers, Eurosport Scholarship
Joan Connor	Djerry Lorenzo Pierre-Louis, Modell's Scholarship
Lincoln Page	Margaret Shanley, Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship
Lincoln Page	Derek Robinson, Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship
Tina Arce	Shauna Henderson, Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship
Rocco Amoroso	Jarred Dull, Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship
Bill Roller	Sean Nealis, Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship
Randy Vogt	Mark Soldatic, John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship
Pat & Mark Secko	Catherine Smith, Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship
Peter Collins	Alexander Goodman, Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Greg Baumstein, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Kali Moss, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Nadia Moumine, George Hoffman TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Brooke Salmon, George Hoffman TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Kathleen O'Sullivan, Modell's TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship



Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship

Vincent Gubin was born in Siberia Russia in 1935. He played soccer as a youth from Poland to Austria while he and his family were avoiding the turmoil of World War II. He witnessed so much tragedy and for years was so poverty stricken that he didn't even own a pair of shoes. His father literally walked them from country to country. As a teenager, Vincent finally wound up in New York City with his family not knowing the English language and seemingly always against the odds? The one true joy was always the love and passion of playing soccer. At the age of 16, he was selected to play professionally but, his mother insisted he finish high school.

He met his wife, Joan, in Queens and they had a son who learned to play soccer along with learning to walk. They relocated to Holbrook, NY where Vincent obtained a job at UPS and worked as a mechanic for the next 30 years. His wife, Joan, passed away suddenly in 2001.

Vincent began coaching in the early 80's and continued to do so for the St. John's CYO in Bohemia for many years. The players' parents were amazed at Mr. Gubin's coaching ability and when it came time for the coaches games, it was always a battle as to who was going to obtain this exceptional player.

Vincent Gubin always put himself second to his family and friends. He was the most kind, gentle and humble person with an unyielding work ethic. Everyone that met him became a better person for it. He tragically passed away in February 2006 from complications following heart surgery.

He is survived by two sisters, one brother, a daughter-in-law, Renee and son, Vincent, who only hopes to be a fraction of the amazing man that he so proudly is named after.



Miltride Chalumeau

Miltride Chalumeau is a 2015 graduate of Hillcrest High School, where she was a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer team, Track and Field and is a member of the Cambria Heights Club Team. Miltride is fluent in French and Creole, volunteers for the West Cunningham Park Civic Association.

Aarti Bhanot-Haque, School Counselor, wrote, “Miltride came from Haiti in 2010 after the devastating earthquake. She left her family back home to start a new life and achieve the American dream....Miltride is enrolled in the Teachers of Tomorrow small learning community where she is exposed to the educational field. Miltride learned basic theories of education and best practices. Miltride had the opportunity to participate in Junior Achievement, which is a program that provides high school students with tools to create classroom lesson plans in an elementary school setting. Miltride was able to carry out her lesson plan at a local elementary school. Miltride recently joined student government. Miltride takes an active role in lifting school spirit and promoting a safe learning environment for her peers. Outside of school, Miltride volunteers at the Forest Hills Care Center, where she assists the elderly.”

Miltride wrote in her essay, “The more I play soccer, the more I realize how it helps me grow not only as an athlete, but also as an individual. Whenever I am feeling dismal, playing soccer is always the best pick-me-up; once the ball is at my feet, I feel free from all of the negative thoughts, struggles and circumstances. The soccer field to me is the most magical place. Through soccer, I learned how in life there will always be unpredictable obstacles, doubters, mistakes, but with hard work and commitment there are no limits. The time I spent on the field is a time spent for amelioration and self-reflection. Through soccer, I learned to become a normal teenager again. But by playing soccer I learned that when I commit to my goal and reach it, the result will be worth it. Soccer taught me there is no such thing as failure because mistakes will always be made, there will always be a lesson to learn and room for improvement.”

Miltride is one of three recipients of the Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship. Miltride will be attending Nassau Community College, where she will be a member of NCC intercollegiate women’s soccer team.





Daniel Paulos

Daniel “Danno” Paulos is a 2015 graduate of Chaminade High School, where he was a two year member of Chaminade Varsity soccer teams, CHSAA League Co-Champions both years. Danno received All League and All State honors. He has been a member of the East Meadow Strikers since U10. He has been named a Scholar Athlete and an All-Conference Player. Academically, Danno has an SAT score of 1260 and a 98 un-weighted GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a four year recipient of the Character Award, a three year participant in NYSSMA Music Festival and a participant in the Oltre Oceano Music Festival Singing Competition.

Coach Lew Goldman wrote, “As a coach, I have never been more proud of any one player. Danno has been our co-captain since we began travel soccer at U10 and has always been our go to player when the team needed leadership. He is the glue that keeps our team cohesive, focused and determined to win. On the soccer field Danno goes about his work in an unselfish manner and with a purpose. He leaves everything he has out on the field, never giving less than 110% effort, and is always leading by example.”

In his essay Danno wrote, “My number one fan, my dad, was always on the sidelines cheering me on and screaming “Danno”, whenever I got the ball. However, my life turned upside-down when he passed away from a sudden heart attack when I was ten years old. Stepping on a field for the first time after was extremely difficult....I decided to dedicate my soccer career to my father. I would relentlessly train to become the best player I could be. I knew my father would enjoy the games from heaven, and I wanted to make him proud....Soccer gave me the strength to overcome an extremely difficult hardship in my life.”

Danno is one of three recipients of the Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Boston College.



Kevin Williams

Kevin is a 2015 graduate of Mattituck High School, where he was a four year member of MHS varsity soccer team and captain in his senior year. Kevin has received such honors as All League, All Conference and All State, as part of Mattituck High School Boys Soccer, winning Class B NYS Championship. Kevin is a member of the Middle Country United.

Lu Anne Nappe, Business Teacher, wrote in her letter of recommendation, “I admire Kevin’s focus, determination, and altruistic nature. He knows exactly who he is and what it takes to be successful. The fact that he has successfully handled an admirable academic career, while finding time to be involved in athletics, various school organizations, employment, volunteer work and taking college credit courses only proves to highlight the preparedness and promise of Kevin”

Coach Mathew Litchhult wrote, “Kevin is now an integral part of keeping our team very close knit and his leadership led us to currently being ranked #2 in New York State for our classification...This summer off the field, I saw Kevin grow into a man. He took on a full time job to help support his family and his college dreams. He worked six and sometimes seven days a week and still found time two nights a week to join his teammates for our summer soccer season...Kevin is truly one of my favorite players that I have ever had the privilege to coach... He is a versatile young man who adapts to change very quickly. This was evident on the soccer field this year when I played Kevin in every position on the field besides goalie. He did this out of necessity for our team and always did it without one complaint.”

Kevin wrote in his essay, “I would not have half the character I have without my travel soccer experience. My coaches were my role models and I admire and respect the time and effort they put in for kids such as me. My travel coach, Bill Hayes, taught me how to look someone in the eye, extend a hearty handshake and how to thank people that have been a help to me. He also taught me about playing with heart and never giving up.”

Kevin is one of three recipients of the Vincent Gubin Memorial Scholarship and is looking forward to continuing his education at High Point University.

In Kevin’s words:

“I am looking forward to going to college at High Point University in North Carolina and meeting new friends. I will miss Long Island very much because there is no place better. Long Island Junior Soccer has been a second home for me and I will miss all the coaches and referees and everyone that helped me grow into the man I am today. Thank you so much.”



Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship

Bobbie Marks was born in Nottinghamshire, England in July of 1923. She grew up in the small village of Attenboro with her mother, father, older sister, and a pony named Snowflake. Growing up in Nottinghamshire, her family was a strong supporter of the Nottingham Forest Football Team.

During World War II, she was a young adult. In 1943, she met an American soldier who was stationed near her home. They eventually fell in love and were married at St. Mary's Church, Attenboro, England, in October 1945. While serving in England, Bobbie's husband, David, was introduced to English football by his father-in-law, who took him to a Nottingham Forest game.

At the war's end, Bobbie and her husband, David, returned to the United States to start their new life together. They eventually settled in Port Washington with their two children. Bobbie was an avid sports fan. She loved to watch ice skating, tennis, golf and soccer.

When her grandchildren started to play soccer in the LIJSL, she was happy to hear about their games. As they became older and better players, Bobbie started to learn how the game could really help young people grow into responsible young men and women. Soccer helped her grand-daughter get a scholarship to a great university.

Bobbie loved coming to the annual LIJSL convention, where she learned of all the activities going on within the league. At that point, she realized she wanted to contribute something to the lives of the young people involved in this sport of soccer. With the help of her husband, David, they decided to start giving to the league in various ways. At first they contributed to the Special Children's program. Then, they established the Bobbie and David Marks Family Scholarship Fund for promising young men and women.

She loved coming to the Scholarship Brunches and meeting the young people. She was always impressed with their accomplishments and aspirations. In September of 2004, Bobbie passed away, and is dearly missed by her family. To honor her memory, the Bobbie and David Marks Scholarship Fund has been renamed the Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Robert Clarke

Bobby is a graduate of Garden City High School, where he was a three year member of GCHS varsity soccer team and a member of the Garden City Centennials Warriors. He has been named a Scholar Athlete and an All-Conference Player. Academically Bobby has an SAT score of 1440 and a 95 weighted GPA. He was a two year member of the GCHS varsity baseball team. Bobby has a list of impressive volunteer efforts. He has dedicated many volunteer hours to such organizations as Homerun Hopefuls, Garden City Community Church Mission trips to Mississippi, the Bahamas, South Carolina, and more locally, Long Beach after Sandy. Bobby has been recognized for his leadership and community service from local organizations, Adelphi University and the White House. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the German Honor Society and a recipient of a Bronze Award at the Long Island Mathematics Fair. He enjoys making time for Challenger Basketball and TOP Soccer. He is also a referee for the Garden City Centennial Soccer.

Bret Kalikow, founder of Homerun Hopefuls, stated, "Bobby has a palpable sincerity and natural ability to relate to others that I have seldom seen in other student volunteers. On the trips he quickly befriended every person in our group became the guy everyone could count on for any task at hand."

Coach Russ Joseph wrote, " During my thirty-seven years of teaching and coaching, I have worked with countless young people....Seldom have I had the pleasure of encountering a young man with the unique blend of athletic talent, leadership ability and positive outlook as found in Bobby Clarke....".

Bobby is one of three recipients of the Bobbi Marks Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Boston College. BC will be the better for him.

In Bobby's words:

"Many would describe Bobby Clarke as someone who is always smiling, always moving and who always has some kind of ball in his hands. He is a two sport varsity athlete who enjoys hanging out with family, friends and his dog, Dusty."



Tyler Fenton

Tyler is a 2015 graduate of Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, where he was a member of varsity boys' soccer and a founding member of the club team, POB United. He has been named a Scholar Athlete and an All-Conference Player. Academically, Tyler has a perfect ACT score, a nearly perfect SAT score of 1530 and a 102 weighted GPA, as well as a host of academic accolades, which include National Finalist - Siemens, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and National Business Honor Society. Tyler is the Head Trainer, supervising and assisting 15 high school players for 90 three-year olds enrolled in the POB Soccer Tots program. Tyler also referees intramural and travel soccer. Tyler had a summer research internship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and published research for submission to Siemens and Intel Competitions.

Coach Russell Willens wrote in his letter of recommendation, "Tyler has always been a fierce competitor on the field, while at the same time demonstrating the passion, energy and patience of what it takes to excel in a team environment....If he's involved in a "hard play", whether it be a tackle, shoulder to shoulder play or foul, he will check to make sure the opposing player is "ok", a true sign of sportsmanship and maturity.

Jason Miller, School Counselor, wrote, "A young man, who no matter how dark the day, is able to brighten it with his smile.....He is a scientist doing research year round, an athlete competing in travel soccer, a role model to younger students, a philanthropist running his own fundraiser, and a business student competing at the highest level....Tyler is not like many of my science minded students who sometimes see things in black and white only. With Tyler, you get the full spectrum of color. Tyler has his opinions yet is open minded to hear other points of view." Mr. Miller shared that Tyler's success at DECA county and state allowed him to be the first sophomore from JFK High School in at least 20 years to compete at the national level.

Tyler is one of three recipients of the Bobbi Marks Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Duke University.

In Tyler's words:

"As a senior looking back on my high school experience, I realize that I have been very fortunate to achieve great success both in and out of the classroom. I have been named valedictorian of my class and I've earned the distinct titles of AP Scholar with Honor and National Merit Scholar. I held the role of treasurer of DECA, a business club at my school, and I was also the Vice President of the Peer Mentor Club. Over the past five years, I have organized, coordinated, and hosted my own fundraiser called Ride 4 the Ribbon to benefit cancer research and I have raised nearly \$20,000 for the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Additionally, I served as a tutor to my peers and helped students of any age in all academic subjects."

Rachel Kantor

Rachel Kantor is a 2015 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and the recipient of the Bobbi Marks Memorial Scholarship. Rachel was a member of the Merrick Raiders Varsity Soccer team as well as captain. Rachel is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society. Rachel has a weighted GPA of 95 and an ACT Composite score of 29.

School Counselor, Matt Grasso wrote, “Rachel has impressed outside of the classroom, with a litany of accolades and activities. She was our high school’s recipient of the HOBE award, recognition of Rachel’s ability to lead her peers as a sophomore. She is co-editor-in-chief of the yearbook and a writer for our literary magazine and newspaper.....She has exhibited responsibility and trustworthiness as a tutor, babysitter and camp counselor, and she embarked on several volunteer efforts for local charities.”

Rachel shared how soccer had awakened her spirit. “...I was tired of being a bench filler, yet I did not want to walk away from a sport that I loved for so many years just because one coach decided I wasn’t good enough. So I walked in another direction. I got the girls who were in the same position as me and we created our own team with my father as coach. We wanted to prove we were more than just cheerleaders on a bench and resurrect the meaning of soccer, a sport played for passion and teamwork and not just focused on winning....We may have had to start from the bottom, but we stuck together. Skill sets didn’t define playing time and everyone got an equal shot to contribute to the team and our team kept growing and girls continued to join because they too didn’t need a win to have fun. This helped build my character because I learned that by taking action, not only could I prove that I was more than what someone else defined me as.....”

Rachel will be attending the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.



Eileen Frazita

Memorial Scholarship Female Student Athlete

Eileen Frazita was born in Brooklyn on April 13, 1940, a descendent of two ancient Irish clans, O'Leahtobhair (Lalor) and Ó' Broin (Byrne). She grew up in Bedford Stuyvesant, graduating in 1958 from Bishop McDonald Memorial High School. An enthusiastic Brooklyn Dodger fan, she was unaware of the beautiful game except for a few tales her mother spoke of a distant Irish relative named Willy Lynn, supposedly a famous soccer

Married in 1960 to Richard (Dick to their soccer friends), they began their 54 years of married life in Deer Park, where they raised two boys, Richard Edward followed by Stephen five years later. Their home was a few blocks from a neighborhood park, with a baseball diamond and football field and a full size dirt soccer pitch for the U19 boys who were just getting started in a fledging LIJSL league under Commissioner Jack Maher's initiative.

In 1969, Saints Cyril and Methodius CYO held registration for the coming fall season and for the first time included soccer for young boys due to Jack's urging. Eileen wasn't fond of little league baseball or football, too much adult pressure and possible injury, so Eileen was curious about this other alternative for young Richard. That evening, Eileen and Dick met Jack and a few other coaches, George Beigler and Chris Halpin and shortly became good friends with a common goal – establish this sport at the youth level here in America. It became clear in short order that these well intentioned men needed lots of help and Eileen and Dick both jumped in on the organizational side, hook line and sinker. In the process, Eileen became an enthusiastic soccer mom, met so many new friends and became a fixture and leader in the parish soccer program. Excellent with people and having the patience to deal with the growing pains, everyone knew and respected her for her fair and friendly way. Jack Maher's dream became a reality and in a few years with the help many others, the Deer Park Celtics Soccer CYO was a well-funded, well coached and recognized successful intramural and travel team program which overtook the other organized sports in enthusiasm, numbers and coverage in the local papers. Even Marco Malusa's young team from Glen Cove played in our intramural league as it became well known on the Island. Eileen was keeper of the keys to the park's lighting system which the Town of Babylon donated due to the lobbying effort of our growing program and friends in Town Government. For years, she fed many a coach coming back from evening practice in exchange for returning the keys and good dinner talk about the teams.

Not content with the boys having all the fun, Eileen decided it was time for the girls of Deer Park. She recruited and coached their first girls' team in the mid '70's. Initially, there were only a few others on LI, nevertheless lively competition developed among Deer Park, Hicksville (Ann Camara), Massapequa (Lisa Gosley) and East Meadow (Manfreid Weirich). Following that first year of competition, more club programs sprung up and the girl's division of LIJSL became firmly established, just as other similar programs were emerging across the country. History speaks to the amazing progression of women's soccer at all age and skill levels, culminating in a major milestone in 1991 when the United States won the first ever FIFA Women's World Cup.

Eileen was elected to the LIJSL board of directors in 1978. With help of steady volunteers, she successfully managed the summer tournaments at CW Post for years. Peter Collins then asked Eileen to manage the Boys Select Team Program. This became her signature achievement for the league. She applied her talents towards a higher level of team excellence by recruiting college coaches, provided them with resources and a modest financial incentive in return for commitment and accountability, and most importantly instituted a fair and open player selection proces, while managing the coaches and the daily business of the program. Her accomplishment is noteworthy as a significant step towards the evolution of the LIJSL Select Team initiative into today's PDP program. In 1987, Eileen received the LIJSL Gordon Bradley award and is an LIJSL Hall of Fame member.

Sadly, she passed on June 9, 2014. Eileen would be delighted that this award is going to an outstanding female student athlete of the beautiful game.



Megan Yaeger

Megan is a graduate of St. John the Baptist, where she was a three year varsity starter, senior captain and received the Coaches Award in 2013. Megan has played on the Farmingdale Phoenix since the 6th grade and serves as a captain of this NERP team. Megan does quite well academically with an SAT of 1350 and a weighted GPA of 100, she is a member of the National Honor Society and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Her volunteer efforts are many – ranging from the Retreat Leader, Eucharistic Minister, Catechist, NYC Midnight Run to help the homeless and a student mission trip to Chaclacayo, Peru working in a home for sick and injured children. Megan also plays CYO volleyball.

Coach John Stazler wrote, "...She is reliable, respectful, responsive and gives great attention to her responsibilities in her day to day personal interactions, in the classroom, and on the soccer field....It has been my sincere privilege to have been both Megan's High School and Club Coach. She has helped her teams in so many ways, but especially by demonstrating strong leadership and character traits which have helped her friends, teammates, and coaches to achieve great success."

Megan wrote, "Soccer has opened the doors to all the opportunities I have today and shaped me into who I am. I can now use the values I've learned from soccer off the field, and bring my hard work, leadership, persistence, friendship, and passion to real life...."

While soccer may have opened doors, Megan has seized all of those opportunities. Megan is the 1st recipient of the Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship for a Female Athlete and will continue her education at Providence College.

In Megan's own words:

"I have just graduated from St John the Baptist Diocesan High School, where I have been very involved through both soccer and service over the past four years. Next year, I will be attending Providence College and will be majoring in Biology on a pre-med track."



Addie Mattei-Taia *Presidential Scholarship*

In 29 years of dedicating herself to youth soccer on Long Island, Addie Mattei-Taia touched nearly every aspect of the game. It started in Smithtown, where she continued to coach and then helped co-found the Smithtown Soccer Club. Later, she created, organized, and ran the Smithtown International Tournament that brought teams from around the world to Long Island.

Soon she was volunteering at the league level, where amongst many other things, she served for 25 years as the chairperson of the LIJSL Convention. Addie served on the LIJSL Board of Directors for 18 years, and in 2004 she succeeded Peter Collins as president of the league.

In ten years under her watch, the league's enrollment grew annually, and she increased sponsorships and revenues to support league programs like TOPSoccer, the Scholarship Program, the Player Development Program and more. Addie also spearheaded an agreement with the New York Red Bulls that allowed the LIJSL's top players to take part in the MLS club's Regional Developmental School. She also made improvements to the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park in Plainview, making it one of the finest soccer only facilities in the region, provided support to families and soccer communities in need after 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy, and secured a new office facility for the league.

Addie continues to serve as vice president of the ENYYSA. She has been recognized as an ENYYSA and LIJSL hall of fame inductee, and in 2007 she was honored as the USYSA Region I Administrator of the Year.



Harrison Weilbacher

Harrison Weilbacher is a 2015 graduate of Sachem North High School and the first recipient of the Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship. Harrison was a member of the Sachem North Varsity soccer team, listed in the Fall of 2014 by MSG Varsity as a LI Soccer Player to watch and described as a “dynamic scorer with 13 goals and 16 assists last season”. Harrison is a member of the Smithtown Arsenal. Harrison also knows something about community service, serving as an ACS’s Relay for Life team captain, participating in the Mentoring Club and participating with The Dirty Dozen, collecting food for needy families at the holidays, boxing the food and helping to deliver meals. In the process, this group broke the school record by providing food for 768 families.

Coach Chris Russo wrote, “As the soccer coach of Sachem North High School, I cannot speak highly enough of Harrison’s contributions to our program. Harrison has been an integral part of our team for the past four years. ...Harrison was selected as a team captain. Harrison has certainly left his mark on our program. During his tenure, Harrison broke the Sachem High School Soccer records for both career goals and assists. He earned All-County honors the past three seasons and All-State honors in both his junior and senior years. Additionally, he has been named a New York State Public High School Scholar Athlete in all four of his Varsity years....I feel Harrison is an outstanding representative of our young people.”

Harrison wrote in his essay, “Although I have heard it said that playing a game is not about winning or losing, I think both outcomes have served to teach me valuable lessons. Knowing what it is like to be on both side of a game’s outcome has taught me to be empathetic. Knowing the heartbreak of a game, hard fought and lost, has made me try to be respectful of my opponent...Soccer has given me great memories and wonderful friends. Playing has given me a way to keep my mind and body strong. The “Beautiful Game” has left a permanent mark on my character.”

Harrison will attend and play at Binghamton University.

In Harrison’s words:

“I am Captain of the Smithtown Arsenal BU18. The Arsenal won the US Youth Soccer National Championship in 2013. I will be attending Binghamton University in the fall and look forward to continuing my soccer career there on the men’s team.”



Pat Grecco Scholarship

Pat Grecco is the quintessential volunteer and LIJSL players, parents and leadership have often been the beneficiaries. Pat joined the Scholarship Committee in 1991 and was Chair of the committee from 2000 through 2013, leaving this post only because of her relocation to North Carolina. Pat is a 30+ year volunteer within the soccer community and was inducted into the Eastern New York State Soccer Hall of Fame in 2008 and The Long Island Junior Soccer League's Hall of Fame in 1998. Pat has been the Director of College Bound Player Program for the LIJSL, serving as Director of Girls LIJSL ODP, Exceptional Senior Games and Scholarship Committee. Pat and her husband Frank Sr. have three children; Ellen Grecco-Gilmore of Fairfield, CT, who played club and Varsity soccer and graduated from Fordham University, Beth Grecco-Gothers of East Granby, CT, who was a National Pool Player and received a full scholarship to The University of Connecticut and was a 3 X All-America Selection and Frank Jr. of Cary, NC, played collegiately at The United States Naval Academy where he was a four-year Varsity soccer player and later served six years in the United States Marine Corps. A genuine soccer family, Frank Sr. was a long-time soccer referee.

Pat has personally helped more players get to college, many with full scholarships... than anyone on this planet. Mrs. Grecco has volunteered thousands of hours of her time and always finds time to help a disadvantaged family with a difficult problem. She is currently working to identify Hispanic players in her region who need help with the college search process, sometimes offering pro-bono help to anyone who asks; however, in recent years, a spinoff of her volunteer work, came about. In addition to Soccer, Lacrosse and Football, she has worked with numerous student-athletes, representing nearly every sport, as well as lesser-known sports such as Fencing, Rifle/Pistol, Crew, Cheerleading and even Chess, to name a few. It gives her great pleasure to help others, be they the best athletes, best students, or perhaps a student who struggles in school. She has worked with a diverse group of student/athletes, including a home-schooled soccer player from Florida to many international soccer players, placing a female soccer player from Bangkok, Thailand to Hofstra University on scholarship. Best of all and it is true, she does boast a 100% success rate. "There is a school for everyone to play at as well as to study, that's what makes America such a great country."

When asked the true value of her work, Pat continually replies "my most important offering is to find the very best academic opportunities for the student athletes I work with. Using their sport to open the heavy door of the admissions process and finding money to pay for it."



Alyssa DeFalco

Alyssa is a 2015 graduate of John H. Glenn High School, a three year varsity player and two year captain. Alyssa has been recognized as All League and All County, as well as being a three year recipient of the Scholar Athlete Award.

In addition to Glenn, Alyssa is captain for the Sound Beach Stingrays United, a Region 1 Premier Team.

When Alyssa is not studying or playing soccer, she can be found devoting time to Habitat for Humanity, Community Service Club and Mathletes. Alyssa is a member of the National Honor Society and LOTE Honor Society (Spanish).

Alyssa wrote, "...soccer has taught me that life is not always fair. There have been many games I have played in which the better team has lost. No matter how hard the better team plays, they just can't seem to find the back of the net. This has taught me that I must fight extremely hard in order to make my dreams happen. Nothing will be handed to me in life and if I feel as though I am the better person in a situation, I must prove myself to those who are evaluating me."

Coach Noah Stiles states, "I have come to appreciate her many fine qualities as I have watched her grow as a player and a person. Alyssa is an outstanding soccer player that combines her skill, speed, vision, as well as her commitment and passion for soccer, which has allowed her to advance her game to a very high levelI am extremely to have had the opportunity to know and coach her over the past several years. She is an extremely caring and responsible individual that has tremendous pride, character, heart and determination that will allow her to be successful in the classroom and on the soccer field at the college level..."

It is a pleasure to award the Pat Grecco Scholarship to Alyssa DeFalco. Alyssa will be a student athlete at NYU.



Michael B. Scarpati

Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarships

(January 3, 1981-May 14, 2001)

Born at 9 lbs. 12 ½ oz and happy, Michael embraced life and people with arms wide open from that moment and all of the moments of the rest of his life. His bear hugs became legendary in our family.

He began to play baseball, tennis and soccer at the age of six and was one of the youngest competitors on the Half Hollow Hills Swim Team. Somewhere along the way, soccer became his passion.

About the age of 10, his abilities as a keeper began to show. He understood the game, loved the people he met and enjoyed the places soccer took him, - Columbia, MD, Springfield, VA, Coco, FL, State Cup Finals, Regionals, England, Chaminade High School and Bryant College. He was the biggest supporter of his two younger brothers and always shared the goalkeeper's perspective with his field player brothers.

Michael enjoyed working with the younger players, trying to give them the benefit of some of his hard won experience. Paul Riley said that Mike had something no one could teach, - he had passion and heart.

Mike died suddenly on May 14, 2001, the day after Mother's Day at the age of 20. There is a void for all who loved him that can never be filled. We had a glimpse into his future and only saw promise.



Samantha Cobotic

Samantha Cobotic is a 2015 graduate of St. Francis Preparatory High School, a 4 year member of the varsity soccer team and a goalkeeper for the Auburndale Avengers Region 1 Premier Team. Samantha was named All League CHSAA and to the All New York City Girls Soccer Team. She has been a part of LIJSL PDP Select, ENYS ODP Tournament Team and ENYS ODP Showcase, Samantha is a member of the National Honor Society, NYS Science Honor Society and the Italian National Society.

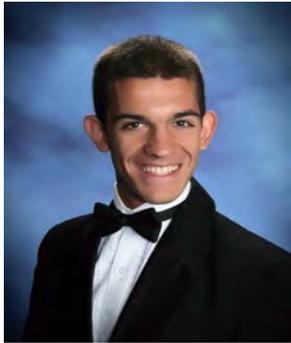
Robyn Armon, Director of Guidance, wrote, “A dedicated and hardworking athlete, Samantha is the goalie on the Varsity Soccer Team. Her quickness and agility at this position make her a very important player on this team. Throughout high school, she has also played on a travel team called the Auburndale Avengers and has participated in the Olympic Development Program playing tournament. Samantha is preparing to play soccer at the collegiate level.”

Samantha herself wrote, “I strongly believe my position as a goalkeeper has had the most impact on shaping my character. As a goalkeeper, it is my responsibility to see and analyze the entire field and communicate to my teammates in a constructive and assertive manner. As a result, I find that I am a good communicator off the field as well....”

Samantha must report to pre-season at the University of Maine and cannot be here today. However, we are pleased to award the female Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship to her and wish her much success on the field and in her intended college major, Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

Samantha shared the following:

“I am an individual who continuously challenges herself to succeed. It is important to be supported by people along the way so that I can achieve my goals and help others do the same.”



Gregory Schultz

Gregory Schultz is the 2015 male recipient of the Michael B. Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship. Greg was a two year member of the Sachem varsity soccer team and a two year member of the junior varsity soccer team and a member of the Middle Country Cobras. Academically, Greg ranks 18 in a class of 554, has an SAT of 1300, is member of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, National History Honor Society and several others. Greg is an Eagle Scout, a soccer referee and team captain of varsity Winter and Spring track.

Head Coach Matthew Stallone wrote, "Gregory has been selected to represent Sachem East as the Academic All County soccer player for 2014. He has developed a great work ethic and sense of responsibility as a senior player. This past season, Gregory was selected Captain of the team by his peers. There was not one minute he did not act like a captain the entire season. Gregory is the epitome of class....He has a great ability to lead, work with others, and make those around him better."

In Gregory's essay he wrote, "Life as I know it would not have been as amazing and rewarding without the presence of soccer. Soccer has become less of a hobby and more of a doctrine to succeed through life. There will always be an opponent who is as good as or better than you, and it is your job as a team to outwit, outmatch, and outstand your opponent to achieve victory. These subtle lessons have guided my life, and have shaped me into the person I am today."

This well rounded young man will continue his education at Cornell University. We look forward to hearing about it.

In Greg's words:

"My desire to help people and passion for excellence inspired by soccer has gone farther than either the classroom or the field, it has impacted my career. This year I designed and founded a school website to facilitate communication across the 2200+ students in the school. As I will be doing Information Science which deals heavily with website design, I am already a step ahead of my future classmates. This passion for bettering myself and the abilities of others that started on the soccer field has had an everlasting effect that will continue to impact myself and my fellow students as I continue into college at Cornell in the upcoming fall."



Matthew Logan Scarpati
June 26, 1990 to July 20, 2009

Glory, Glory Matt United! Matt's favorite team was Manchester United. It pained him greatly that his cousins are Chelsea fans. With his first nephew born on June 1, 2009, he looked forward to teaching him how to wear the appropriate jersey and cheer for the appropriate teams. That will never happen because a drunk and speeding motorcyclist left the Wantagh State Parkway, at approximately 100mph and collided with Matt, who was out for a bike ride and had stopped to fix a flat on the Wantagh State Bike Path. He attended the 2009 LIJSL Scholarship Awards on 7/19/09.

Matthew L. Scarpati

Memorial Scholarship

Matt is the youngest of four boys, all of whom played soccer. Soccer was a passport to many places from Italy and England to Maryland, California, Pennsylvania, Virginia and New Jersey. Matthew was a 2008 graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School East and had completed a vigorous academic freshman year at the University at Buffalo. He made friends easily, but he always seemed to have a center compass. He loved all sports-soccer, lacrosse, tennis, golf, basketball and cycling. He made excellent choices in his friends.

Matt started with Northport Soccer Club, since they had a program for four year-olds. He played travel for Northport, Brentwood United, Auburndale Supersonics and East Meadow Jets. Matt was selected as an alternate for the ENYSSA ODP team and played with LIJSL ODP team. He played varsity soccer for Half Hollow Hills East and was a co-captain in his senior year. He played JV and Varsity lacrosse as well. He wanted to play soccer in college. However, the schools that were thinking of Matt were not the schools Matt wanted to attend. A fractured and dislocated ankle in his senior year of high school made that decision a sound one. When he had completed two surgeries and physical therapy at the end of October 2008, he was able to play some intramural soccer at the University at Buffalo. He said he had forgotten how much he loved playing and he was determined to get back in the game, working out with a friend from his dorm.

Matt was an Economics major at UB, loved Disney World, video games, music, fun and cooking. Yet he could be serious about politics, faith and fashion issues. He was a Renaissance Man. I was not totally surprised to learn that he was a Sunday evening regular at the UB Newman Center for Mass and pledged Pi Lambda Phi. He was a wonderful blend of curiosity, generosity. He was a best friend to his family and friends. He had just finished reading "Liberty and Tyranny" and "The Three Musketeers" and had Wealth of Nations on deck for the next read. He was working as a doorman at 24 Gramercy Park South during the summer of 2009 and was enjoying the eclectic group of people that he met.



Zachery Lewis

Zachary is a 2015 graduate of Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, where he was the class President for all four years. Zach is a member of the Syosset Fire Premier team. Zach is the owner/operator of Lewis Brothers Snow Removal. Academically, Zachary has an SAT score of 1370 and a 3.76 weighted GPA. Zach is a member of the National Honor Society, Business Honor Society, Peer Mentor Club, Wall Street Investors Club and DECA International Association of Marketing Students.

Sharon Lasher, Assistant Principal, stated, "Zach is an extremely organized, responsible and ambitious young man. In addition to his involvement with our student government, he is involved in the Model United Nations Club, Wall Street Investors Club and DECA, an association of business students... Zach is an outstanding young man who possesses the maturity and leadership skills necessary for success."

Coach Matthew Verdi wrote, "Zach Lewis is a prime example of why the Long Island Junior Soccer League is such an amazing organization. As we all know playing soccer is not just about the beautiful game, it is also about the team and the development of exceptional young men and women. We are trying to create not only good soccer players, but exceptional members of society. I have had the privilege of coaching Zach for the past 6 years and I can think of no one better who benefitted from playing for the LIJSL....Zach Lewis is the perfect example of what we are trying to accomplish. He's not only a young man playing at a very high level (Division 1), but he is succeeding in all areas of life from what he has learned on and off the field".

Zach is the 2015 recipient of the Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Indiana University-Kelley School of Business.

In Zach's words:

"In 2012, I initiated a fundraiser to benefit the scholarship fund in memory of a classmate that we lost to cancer. I ran this fundraiser every year since 2012 and raised over \$20,000 to date. I was an intern for Congressman Steve Israel throughout my Junior year of high school and held down 2 jobs in my Senior year of high school, at the Mid Island Y JCC and Catch The Wave Frozen Yogurt, both in Plainview. In the fall, I will be attending the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, where I plan to major in Finance and International Business."

Eurosport Scholarship

Eurosport is the sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League in cooperation with adidas. They are a major sponsor of the LIJSL annual convention and supporting sponsors of almost every other LIJSL program from TOPSoccer Special Children's program to LIJSL PDP. Thanks to the generosity of Eurosport and adidas we are able to continue many of the programs that help to develop and benefit our young athletes.



Shannon Myers

Shannon Myers is a 2015 graduate of Hicksville High School and this year's recipient of the Eurosport Scholarship. Shannon was a two year member of the Hicksville Varsity Soccer Team, as well as a member of Hicksville United and more recently Hicksville Freedom. Shannon takes her academic life as seriously as her sports life. She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. She participated in National Key Club and Ecology Club and has a long resume of volunteer activities. We do not know which came first-Shannon's participation in the Ecology Club or her irritation with the mess of plastic bottles left at local soccer fields. Coach Jeffry Karcz wrote, "Shannon founded a program to address it. Without parental help, she worked closely with one of her teammates to try and adjust the attitude toward the mess with an emphasis on the inherent value of trash. The trash had a monetary value as well as a recycling benefit to our environment. Shannon made a trifold handout describing her vision of removing waste, recycling it and donating the funds to Kids Against Cancer and the Wounded Warrior Foundation..."

Shannon wrote in her essay, "...It started early for me, my mom was coaching my sister's team while she was pregnant with me and my dad used to coach my brothers' teams with me on his back in a carrier. Through their actions, I learned what being part of a team means...My parents had four children and busy lives but still made time to coach all of us. They also taught us, by their unselfish actions, the importance of volunteering...I didn't realize the deep value of being part of a team and helping a teammate out until our first game of the fall season of 2009. The game was very rough and intense and we ended up losing, but the worst part was that near the end of the game, one of our team mothers suffered a stroke on the sideline. At that point, the result of the game wasn't important...In all my years playing soccer for my club, I have been proud to be a member and have learned how great it is to be part of a team..."

Shannon will be attending the University of Tampa. We know she will make her mark as she moves toward her goals. She is a proven leader.

In Shannon's words:

"Thank you for selecting me as one of the scholarship recipients. I was very shy when I was younger and soccer helped me to become a more confident person. It helped me come out of my shell".

Modell's Scholarship

Modell's Sporting Goods has been a sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League for more than 20 years. They are a major sponsor of the LIJSL sportsmanship program and supporting sponsors of the LIJSL Convention. Thousands of LIJSL players have proudly worn the sportsmanship patch on their uniforms over the years. Thanks to the generosity of Modell's, we are able to continue these programs that help to benefit our young athletes.



Djerry Lorenzo Pierre-Louis

Djerry Lorenzo Pierre-Louis is a 2015 graduate of the High School For Innovation in Advertising and Media and this year's recipient of the Modell's Scholarship. Djerry has been a member of the Rosedale Rockets All Stars. Coach David Abrahams stated, "Djerry is an excellent soccer player, in terms of his ability, skill level, athleticism and his understanding of the game. He is one of the fittest players I have ever met, and his hard work and dedication are almost peerless. Djerry is one of those uncanny players that can and has played every position extremely well depending on what we needed for that particular game...He was the best player this season on his High School soccer team, which he captained with great leadership, poise and determination. He helped the team reach the playoffs and win a game in the first round of competition. Djerry's determination is evident in his zeal for practice where he is always on time and exerts 100%. He travels on public transportation an hour and a half each day to reach practice in Queens from his home in Brooklyn no matter the weather...He is extremely coachable ...and is one of the few players that are graduating early..."

Djerry wrote, "Soccer has played a beautiful role in my life. Ever since I was 7 years old, soccer was my number one interest back in Haiti....Soccer has motivated me to become a better person, better than I could ever imagine. The sport has taught me how family really works and how we should keep each other balanced."

Djerry will continue his education at Borough of Manhattan Community College – CUNY, where he will also continue to play.

In Djerry's words:

"I'm a very hard working person, type to never give up. A funny guy with a great personality."



Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship

Carolyn Page of the Massapequa Soccer Club left behind a tremendous legacy. Carolyn passed away after a fourteen-year battle with cancer but remains in the hearts of her husband, Lincoln Page and her three daughters, Lorraine, Cynthia and Pamela as well as all who knew her.

Carolyn began coaching her daughter when she was told, "if you don't coach, there will be no team for your daughter to play on." Carolyn coached for the Massapequa intramural program and later in the travel team program. She was involved with the Massapequa Memorial Day Tournament, specifically taking care of the trophy presentations.

Carolyn later became an administrator for Girls Select and was a chaperone for the distant tournaments. Carolyn was totally supportive of her husband and daughters, and took on any job necessary to help.

Lincoln mentioned that he could not have gone on to be President of Massapequa Soccer Club, Tournament Director, State Cup Commissioner, LIJSL Arbitration Board Chairman, only to name a few jobs he held, without the support of Carolyn. In fact, she used to say in jest, "I did all the work and he took all the glory."

Carolyn, a true-soccer Mom/Wife, and consummate volunteer.



Margaret Shanley

Maggie is a 2015 graduate of Massapequa High School and a three year varsity soccer player. Maggie has helped to clinch the 2013 and the 2014 NYSPHSAA Class AA State Championship. Maggie has been recognized with a 2014 All-Conference Award and a Sportsmanship Award for the State Championship Tournament. Maggie is a member of the Massapequa Explosion. Maggie is a member of the National Honor Society, SADD, PB & J Club and participated in Peer Mentoring.

In her essay, Maggie wrote, "...The game has taught me that hard work and determination pays off in the end. I have taken this lesson and applied it to my life outside of soccer, causing me to work for everything I want to achieve. Soccer has taught me to give a 100% effort in every tackle, pass, or run I make. It does not matter if I am in the classroom or on the soccer field, I give 100% of my effort to ensure I reach my full potential....I know that I will always be able to do this in life because I have witnessed someone I love climb countless mountains; she is my inspiration and my motivation to never give up. This strong woman is my aunt Maureen..."

Kenneth Wing wrote in his letter of recommendation, "...Living in the same neighborhood as Maggie has provided me the good fortune of watching her grow and mature through the years. Along with her busy academic schedule, she finds a perfect balance through her passion for soccer. She has participated on the Women's Varsity Soccer Team for the past three years and has helped Massapequa win a State Championship. In addition to academics and athletics, she manages to be employed at a local business. I have only known her to be a polite, genuine and loyal young lady. In all she does, Maggie exemplifies my two class rules, Respect and Responsibility..."

Maggie is well prepared for the next chapter as a student athlete at Marist College and a recipient of the Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship.

In Maggie's words:

"I would describe myself as a hard worker, both on and off the field, and a consummate team player, who gets much more satisfaction from team accomplishments than individual ones."

The Sandra Atlas Bass and Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund, Inc. Scholarship

This scholarship award was established through the generosity of the Sandra Atlas Bass and Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund, Inc. A real estate executive and philanthropist, involved with many charities in the Long Island region, especially health care, youth development and animal welfare, founded the fund.



Derek Robinson

Derek Robinson is a 2015 graduate of Smithtown High School East and this year's recipient of the Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship. Derek has played for the Smithtown Kickers Gladiators and more recently, Village of the Branch Panthers, as well as a member of Long Island Select program for two years. As a member of the varsity Smithtown East Soccer team, he was awarded an All County Academic Award, a White Letter Award and the Heart of the Bull Award. Derek started a recycling project at two companies and at his home soccer field. The proceeds of the recycling go to the Wounded Warriors Project in an effort to fulfill a dual responsibility-giving back and saving the earth. Academically, Derek is impressive. He has a 4.15 unweighted GPA and an SAT of 1290. Derek is a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Spanish Honors Society and a Business Awards recipient.

Coach Chris Leidner wrote, "I have had the pleasure of coaching Derek in soccer for the last 8 years. I have learned a great deal about his abilities as a soccer player and more importantly about his character...He was voted captain by his teammates for three straight years.... Derek is heavily involved in school service and community. He helped organize and run the Smithtown Kickers Soccer Club Turkey Trot, which helps benefit Angela's House and the Smithtown Children's Foundation. Derek also played a huge part in collecting used soccer equipment to send over to Africa."

In his essay Derek wrote, "My older brother was and is one of the athletic players who stand out because he's big, tough, outgoing and skilled. Everyone seems to like him no matter where he goes or how old the people are. I too am athletic but I was small and on the quiet side...Soccer leveled the playing field for me. .. I've since grown and am no longer one of the small players on the team. Yes, I've grown physically, but soccer gave me the opportunity to grow emotionally, athletically and socially. I am now almost the same size as my brother. We can actually share clothes...He is still more outgoing and probably even more popular, but we are on par athletically and I have him beat academically. I'm happy with the person I am..."

Derek will be attending Binghamton University- SUNY. As Derek stated in his essay, "Soccer is more than a sport; it's part of who I am."

In Derek's word:

"Focused, hardworking scholar athlete with a sense of humor. I enjoy traveling, sports, movies, going to the gym, and the beach."



Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship

According to Newsday's article, "Everybody Loved Him" Frank was a Brentwood resident for 26 years who had recently moved to Farmingville. He was hit by a car and died on January 5, 2003. Those who knew Frank said he didn't merely strive for perfection, he achieved it! The former Brentwood High School track and soccer star ran more than a thousand miles a year to keep in peak condition.

The 26-year-old soccer coach and youth leader was an All-America in the 3200-meter run after he earned third place in a 1994 national competition while attending Brentwood High School. Frank began his soccer career when he was 3 ½ years old in Brentwood where he also served as a referee, assistant soccer coach and trainer of youth teams. He later played for Hofstra University where he was known as "Stormin Gorman." He graduated from college in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. After graduation, Frank divided his time between a job at his mom's All-State Insurance office in Bay Shore, coaching junior Varsity at his high school Alma Mater and playing soccer. Frank also worked with Adelante, where he enjoyed being able to talk to the kids one on one about their future plans. A tribute to Frank given by Hofstra University soccer coach Richard Nutall, which he said, "Frank had a fantastic ability to bring people together. He was more instrumental than anyone in bringing the men's soccer squad together as one. He was a major catalyst for team harmony, the "foreigners" and the "Americans" were made to mix by his constant Gorman social diplomacy.

"We always thought of him as "Little Frank" to distinguish the difference between his Dad, "Big Frank" but "little Frank" wasn't small, but just how grand was he?" The answer to the question of how grand was "little Frank" is easy, Frank was MASSIVE-MASSIVE in our heart and massive in our minds forever.



Shauna Henderson

Shauna is a 2015 graduate of Brentwood High School, where she has played varsity soccer and captain in her senior year. Shauna has played for the Brentwood Soccer Club since 2005, most recently as a member of the Thundercats. She has been on the Honor Roll all four years and was a NYSSMA Solo Vocalist from 2008-2013. Shauna is proud of her involvement as a volunteer trainer for Brentwood Soccer Club.

Shauna wrote, “The smell of the cut grass and the freshly painted box soothes my nervousness. As I tuck my shirt in, I know game time is getting closer and closer. Whatever might have happened earlier can’t affect how I play today. I must be fearless and remember to keep my eye on the prize, get the ball into the goal and help lead my team....As the final whistle blows, I know I left everything I had on the field. Every last piece of energy, every play left in me, every tackle, every pass. Yet, I am not satisfied. Once you settle for your performance, then you will never improve. And that is what I have learned for playing soccer for the last ten years.”

Coach Jorge Martinez wrote, “As great as she is on the field, she is even more amazing off the field. She still finds the time to help and volunteer in the Brentwood Soccer Club...Shauna shows what a role model should be.”

Shauna is the recipient of the Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship and will continue her education and soccer career at Dowling College.

When Shauna was asked what she wanted people to know about her, she said:

“I worked within Brentwood Youth Soccer Club as a trainer for children ages 3-6 for the past 5 years. And was a Senior Captain of the Brentwood Girls Varsity Soccer team.”



Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship

Joe Lombardo was born and raised in Astoria, Queens, where he met his wife, Mary. They were blessed with two children, Joey and Michelle. The Lombardo Family decided to move and raise their family on Long Island. Not long after moving to South Huntington, Joe began coaching soccer. He started off coaching Joey's team and then Michelle's team to many first place wins and NY State championships. Joe loved the sport. In addition to coaching, Joe helped start the HBC TOPS Soccer Program and Special Olympic Soccer League, organized and managed the HBC Peter Renzulli Labor Day Tournament and was a champion of sportsmanship.

Joe became President of HBC Soccer Club and in 1989 was inducted into the LIJSL Hall of Fame. You could always find Joe on a soccer field, whether it was watching a game, lining fields or handing out trophies.

Joe was a man who touched the lives of so many people. He was a kind, generous and loving husband, father and grandfather. Joe was a man of integrity, who always saw the good in everyone.

Joe Lombardo passed away on June 26, 2014 from complications from pneumonia.



Jarred Dull

Jarred Dull is a 2015 graduate of Kellenberg Memorial High School, a four year member of Kellenberg soccer, was honored with a MVP award in his sophomore and senior year and has been a member of Hicksville LI Colts. Jarred has been a Junior Lector, a Marianist Mentor and Eucharistic Minister.

Kellenberg Varsity Soccer Coach William Masiulis wrote, "I have seen over my ten year career more athletes only interested in what they do on the field and not what they can do off the field. Athletes are still one of the most influential models in our society, and it seems that many are not taking advantage of this amazing opportunity to really inspire and lead by example. This is not the case when it comes to my player, Jarred Dull. Over the last two years, not only has Jarred led by example on the field as one of my strongest midfielders in the most competitive league on Long Island, but he also has taken his leadership skills off the field as he has volunteered at The New Hyde Park TopSoccer program....Mrs. Mary Jo Bursig, Director of the TOP Soccer Program, could not have enough to say about how important players like Jarred are to the success of this amazing program."

Jarred wrote in his essay, "Soccer has taught me that one must be committed and willing to overcome any obstacle to reach success. Since the age of about thirteen years, it has been my aspiration to play college soccer... I realized that to reach my goal, I would need to persevere through this hard time. To this day, I am proud to say that I have accomplished my goal and I am committed to play Division II at Colorado School of Mines."

Jarred is the first recipient of the Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship. Jarred plans to major in geology and play collegiate soccer.

In Jarred's words:

"Complacency kills because once we feel that we have accomplished enough that is when we stop growing. Every person no matter how old has room to grow to better himself, and to do this he can never stop working."



Peter C. Collins

Presidential Scholarship

Peter became LIJSL President in 1977 and stepped down from that position on January 1, 2004. Under Peter's inclusive leadership, the LIJSL more than quadrupled in size and now sports 1,500 teams. These significant achievements have occurred during Peter's leadership of our league; In 1978, the LIJSL became the first formal soccer league to begin a Special Children's Program. In that same Peter became LIJSL President in 1977 and stepped down from that position on January 1, 2004.

Under Peter's inclusive leadership, the LIJSL more than quadrupled in size and now sports 1,500 teams. These significant achievements have occurred during Peter's leadership of our league; In 1978, the LIJSL became the first formal soccer league to begin a Special Children's Program. In that same year there was the creation of a springtime annual cup competition for all LIJSL teams. Originally named the Long Island Cup, it morphed into the Chase Cup in 1982 and became the Waldbaum's Challenge in 1996.

The esteemed LIJSL Sportsmanship Program began in 1980, now copied around the world; Peter was influential in starting the high school all-star competition, known as the Exceptional Senior Games, which also has been copied across the United States by other soccer leagues. In 1983, the LIJSL Convention was created and it quickly became and still is America's largest soccer convention.

Creation of the Long Island Soccer Park in Plainview, which has been used by the LIJSL's Special Children since 1985 and our other teams on a rotational basis during the past decade is another testament to Peter's tenacity. The LI Soccer Park was renamed the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park.

Peter coached the Hicksville Minutemen to the McGuire Cup finals in both 1979 and 1980. Peter has been inducted into the LIJSL, Eastern New York and National Soccer Halls of Fame and is a lifetime member of the United States Soccer Federation.



Sean Nealis

Sean Nealis is a 2015 graduate of Massapequa High School, a member of the Massapequa Celtics from U8 to present and captain of his Club Team as well as his high school varsity team. Sean is the 2015 recipient of the Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship. Sean was a member of the National Honor Society.

Guidance Counselor Colleen Parkes wrote, “Sean has been described as hard working, committed, and ambitious—a student who is not afraid to challenge himself, a member of our National Honor Society and an athlete who is a star on the soccer field. Sean’s transcript clearly represents his academic successes...I have worked with the Nealis family for approximately eight years, Sean being number three out of four children. Without a doubt, I can share that they are the most respectful, kind, nurturing family. They expect the best effort from their children both in the classroom and on the field but as a family they support each other to help achieve the highest potential.”

Sean wrote in his essay, “...playing college soccer had become a serious objective for me, deserving more commitment and dedication in school and on the field. Early in the spring season, a college soccer showcase tournament approached that was popular among college coaches. The weekend before the tournament, disaster would strike as I learned that I sprained my ACL and I was going to be sidelined for at least two months. This news devastated me....The two months slowly drifted by and I was finally allowed back onto the field. After the first practice, I noticed that I was not up to par. I was out of shape, and my teammates’ soccer skills were superior to mine...I dedicated more of my free time to getting into shape and improving my foot skills speed and agility...I realized that no obstacle in life is too great to overcome and hard work and persistence can help achieve goals in life.”

Sean will continue his education at Hofstra University where he will take the field for the Hofstra Pride.

In Sean’s words:

“I am a friendly person with a diligent work ethic that loves all aspects of the game of soccer.”



John R. Pinezich Memorial Scholarship

John Pinezich was born in Astoria, Queens in 1933 to immigrants from what is now Croatia. He was a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School in 1951 and was awarded a scholarship to Pennsylvania State University where he played on the varsity soccer team for 4 years. As a freshman, he was part of the first U.S. diplomatic mission to Iran as the youngest member of the Penn State Soccer team. They played a series of goodwill games with Iranian teams throughout the country. In 1954, he captained the NCAA championship team for Penn State and received First Team All-American honors. He was a member of the U.S. National Team in 1955, and had one cap in a game against Iceland. He also traveled the world as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces soccer team.

Throughout his youth, beginning in the early 1940s, he played soccer for Eintracht Soccer Club in the former German-American League. His team won the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup in 1955, the highest achievement in soccer at the time. He scored two goals in the last six minutes for a 2-0 win in the championship game against the Los Angeles Danes (one with his left foot and one with his right, as he liked to point out.)

In 1958, he met the love of his life, Evelyn Reis, and they were married for almost fifty years. They moved to Northport, Long Island in 1962, and raised three children, John, Lyn and Karin, all of whom played soccer. His love for the game lead him, in 1971, to help found the Northport Soccer Club. He spent the first 5 years as Club President and remained on the Board of Directors for many years. He was actively involved in coaching teams for Northport and the Long Island Junior Soccer League for almost 30 seasons, even after his children were no longer playing for the club. He coached the Long Island Region gold medal winning Scholastic Girls teams for the Empire State Games in 1983 and 1984, and the Open Women's team to a gold medal in 1982. He was also a USSF Region 1 girls select staff coach in 1983 and coached the LIJSL Boys select in 1975-76.

He passed away in 2008 at his winter home in Stuart, Florida of a stroke. He lived a very full life pursuing his endless interests: soccer, landscaping and bonsai, history, sailing, airplanes, architecture, design, travel, his Croatian community and his wonderful extended family. Throughout his life, he touched us all with his strength, modesty, dignity, curiosity, and passion. His openness of emotion, love and generosity embraced us all. We are honored to establish this memorial fund in his memory.



Mark Soldatic

Mark Soldatic is a 2015 graduate of Valley Stream North High School, where he was a two year member and captain of the Junior Varsity soccer team and a two year member of the Varsity Soccer Team and Captain in his senior year. Mark is a member of the New Hyde Park Thundercats, as well as a member of LIJSL Select Player Development Program for the past three years. Academically, Mark has a 92 weighted GPA, is a member of the National Honor Society and the Language Honor Society. He was a member of the LIJSL Referee Association. Mark has volunteered as a classroom aide at St. Catherine of Sienna Roman Catholic Church and has participated with TOPS Soccer New Hyde Park for the past four years.

Sharon Zovich, Physical Education/Leadership, stated, “Mark has a warm, kind, caring heart. Last year, the Physical Education Leadership class engaged in socialization with the Vocational Life Skills special education class. Mark worked alongside these special needs students and they don’t always socialize with the regular population of the school. Mark helped the VLS students plant a garden and during that activity many things were accomplished...Whichever path Mark takes with his future, I have no doubt he will be successful. He follows through with everything he commits to. He can communicate, listen and has a huge amount of enthusiasm. “

Mark wrote in his essay, “Committing myself to soccer throughout the years was meaningful because it allowed me to meet different people, see other places and participate in programs that became significant to me. TOPS, sponsored by the New Hyde Park Wildcats Soccer Club...was a program where I knew I would feel perfectly content because it focused on helping children with disabilities to learn and play soccer. Since I knew this would be a place where I could be of great help, I decided to join. I foresaw some challenges but never realized how much effort, or how hard it would be to train these special children. ..One time I had Chris, a loveable, curious energetic young boy with Down Syndrome....Chris, for some reason, was attracted to the Arsenal jacket I was wearing on the day of the tournament...he stopped playing, came running towards me, tugged on my jacket and shouted with a big smile from ear to ear asking if he could wear it. Finally, I took it off and helped him put it on, since the jacket was too big for him. It brought another big smile on his face that made me feel good inside. As a coach, it made it all worthwhile and meaningful, knowing that these remarkable children like Chris, benefitted from having a magnificent time. Indeed, the program recognized my need too.”

Mark is the 2015 recipient of the John R. Pinezich Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Fairfield University.

In Marks words:

“Mark Soldatic, Senior at Valley Stream North HS, has played with LIJSL affiliated clubs since the age of 5, beginning with the Franklin Square Raiders and finishing as Co-Captain of his New Hyde Park Wildcats club team while also playing on LIJSL ODP teams. Mark cites playing soccer and volunteering with the TOPS program at New Hyde Park as the things that have shaped him most personally. Mark will be attending Fairfield University, majoring in business,



Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship

Some people make a difference by being who they are. That was Mike Secko. He touched many lives in all areas of his life, family, work, soccer, and community. The ultimate volunteer, he shared his wisdom and set a good example to those under his care, and he put great emphasis in work done well, especially pertaining to the sport he loved most, soccer. Never did he guess that his involvement would take him places both domestic and abroad. A positive person, he looked for the good in everyone he met and every challenging situation that arose along the way. Starting his career in the Father Joe Basel Sports Program through St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, Mike volunteered as a Munchkin League soccer coach for his eldest son, Michael III. Soon after, Mike became the program's director and he remained in this position for twenty years. As time went on and his children grew, Mike's career moved forward as well. Looking for a solid soccer program in which to enroll his children, Mike discovered the Sound Beach Soccer Club. As a committed father and fan of the sport, Mike took on the role of head coach for two teams, the Sound Beach Wildcats, Michael's team, and the Sound Beach Breakers, Matthew's team. For many people, this would be enough. Not for Mike. As Mike's children grew, so did his love for the game. It comes as no surprise that Mike would eventually become the club vice president, and then president. In addition, Mike's affiliation with LIJSL led him to serve on various committees: Games, Convention, and Waldbaum's coordinator. He also helped with presentations for the College Bound Player Committee and was on the Exceptional HS Senior Soccer Game committee. On a state level, Mike coordinated for the State Cup Tournament and was team administrator for the State Olympic Development Program.

Over the course of his life, many admired Mike's overwhelming accomplishments, including a number of Waldlbaum's Cup wins, out-of-state titles, several sportsmanship awards, taking the Sound Beach Wildcat team from 9th Division in 1987 to 1st Division in 1992, and a personal highlight, winning the State Challenge Cup in 1994 with the Sound Beach Breakers. Aside from the medals and trophies, however, Mike's most cherished accomplishment was being an assistant coach and administrator for Terryville Fire in which his youngest son, Mark, was a member. In 2007, the Terryville Fire won the State, Region I, and National Championships. It was a proud journey to have shared with his son. Beyond soccer, Mike was a kind, loving, and generous man. His love of family knew no bounds. For Mike, soccer was about spending time with family, and all three of his sons will forever remember their biggest fan, the man who supported their entire journey. Sadly, in December 2012 Mike lost his battle to cancer, almost one year to the day he discovered his diagnosis. The void left behind can never be filled by the ones who loved him most. For them, it was Mike who made this world a little bit better, a little bit brighter. In his memory and in celebration of his life, we hope that his memory continues. Much like Mike who made a significant difference in all those around him, we hope this scholarship will make a difference, too.



Catherine Smith

Catherine Smith is a 2015 graduate of Ward Melville High School and the recipient of the Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship. Catherine was a four year member her Varsity Soccer team and has been a member of Stony Brook Elite and co-captain for her team. Catherine has been recognized at a NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete for four years in Soccer and Lacrosse. Catherine received a Presidential Fitness Award, was a member of the National Honor Society, Global Language Honor Society, French Honor Society and Orchestra Chamber Ensemble. Catherine earned a 100 GPA, is a member of the St. James RC Youth Group, and has numerous other volunteer hours, helping others.

Coach Dan Balzan wrote, "Personally, I admire and see Catherine as an exceptional person. Leading her teammates with respect, befriending them, giving back to the community, and the soccer club she grew up playing for. She does these great things not because she has to or was appointed to, but because that's what and who she is. Catherine conducts herself professionally, with character and loyalty. Catherine Smith is the type of person you want to be around as a friend, and want to have on your team as a coach. She is truly the most deserving player I have ever coached and is the perfect candidate for LIJSL scholarship."

Catherine stated, "Soccer, like all games, comes with victories and defeats, pride and disappointment, highs and lows. Each game, each practice and each day of rest can build upon a player's character and determination. Obstacles such as injuries, poor attitudes, fatigue, and hubris continuously test players and their teams. It is so easy to give up when things get difficult. For me, soccer has helped to develop my character and has allowed me to be greater than the sum of the obstacles I have faced."

Catherine will be attending Pennsylvania State University.

In Cat's words:

"Catherine has been playing soccer for 10 years starting out as the only girl on her coed team. She is friendly, compassionate, a great dancer, makes people laugh with her humor and loves to explore and learn more about the world around her."

Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship

Jonathan Marc Serota was a 9 year old Rockville Center Soccer Club travel team member who passed away on January 9, 1983 after a sudden and brief yet virulent illness. Even at that young age, he displayed a special gift and passion for soccer that lit up the sport for teammates and opponents alike. He was the leading goal scorer in the travel division and captain of his championship team. Nevertheless his own greatest pride was in making assists and his greatest joy came from his team's and his teammates' successes.

Jonathan Serota is remembered not just as being what many considered the dominant player in the L.I. Junior Soccer League in his division; but as a nice boy, a truly kind human being, who enjoyed the real and mutual friendship of his teammates on and off the field - such that every year on January 9th, since his passing, his teammates and their parents continue to make an effort to get together in his memory.

Jonathan Serota is remembered by the Rockville Centre Soccer Club who have for the past 29 years sponsored The Jonathan Serota Memorial Soccer Festival on the Saturday of each Memorial Day weekend in his memory. And, believe it or not, in keeping with the special light brought to everyone around him, the sun has always been shining while the many games of The Jonathan Serota Memorial Soccer Festival are being played. In 29 years, there has not been one rain out.

Jonathan Serota, who was also known for academic excellence and love of learning, is remembered by the Rockville Centre Public Schools with a playground named after him at the elementary school he attended. As a result of the special outpouring that occurred from the community after his passing, The Jonathan Serota Memorial Foundation was founded. It continues to provide college scholarships each year for the high school graduating senior boy and girl soccer players who are the kind of scholar athletics helping others that Jonathan hoped to be.



Alexander Goodman

Alex is a graduate of Roslyn High School, where he was a three year member of the Roslyn varsity soccer team and a captain in his junior and senior years. Alex is an active member of the Albertson Academy Club Soccer, playing most recently for the Albertson Strikers. He has been named a Scholar Athlete and an All-Conference Player. Academically, Alex has a composite ACT score of 34 and a 102 weighted GPA. He has been acknowledged as an AP Scholar with Honors, National Honor Society, and Gold Medal winner at the Long Island Math Fair. Alex served with Athletes Helping Athletes and on the Mock Trial Team.

In his essay Alex wrote, “While the thrill of competing against some of the best teams in the country as a player was exhilarating, nothing matches the pride I feel towards our community soccer club that supports children with disabilities. As an active member of my community and the Albertson Soccer Club, I worked alongside six other students and two mentors to found “Albertson Kickers”, a soccer program created primarily to support children with autism.” Coach Steve Cadet wrote, “Alex served as one of the Captains for the Albertson soccer team for the past two years. His work rate, dedication and determination have made him a key component to the team’s success the past several years. He serves as a leader on and off the field, at times becoming a second coach on the field. His ability to communicate clearly, calmly and effectively to his teammates and officials has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, opponents, and coaches. He always exhibits the utmost in sportsmanship and fair play while still competing at an extremely high level.”

Alex is the recipient of the Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Duke University.

In Alex’s words:

“I never approach practice with the mindset that I know all I need to know. I have always understood that my coaches, trainers, parents, and teachers have wisdom to offer; wisdom that will help me achieve my goals.”

Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship



The Miles for Matt Foundation was founded after Matt Scarpati, 19, who was cycling on the Wantagh State Bike Path, was struck and killed by a drunk, drugged and speeding motorcyclist, who left the Wantagh State Parkway at speeds estimated to be 100 miles per hour. Matt was killed that day, but our hope was that we would make recreation in the area safer. Through community efforts and those of elected officials, we were successful in having guardrails installed.

In addition, the bronze sculpture of a cyclist was placed in the park. This sculpture inspires conversations about many things, such as safety, cycling and life. Through donations and fundraising events, Miles for Matt Foundation supports scholarships, athletics, MADD and medical research.

The Journey continues.....



Greg Baumstein

Greg Baumstein is a 2015 graduate of MacArthur High School and a recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship. Academically, Greg is strong with an SAT of 1310 and a weighted GPA of 98. Greg is a member of the National Honor Society, Business Honor Society, World Language Honor Society and Math Honor Society. Greg has played varsity soccer for four years, named All-County, Conference Defender of the Year and LI Players to Watch List. He co-captained his team in his senior year. Greg has played for the Massapequa Celtics for 4 years and has participated in ENY ODP for three year. Greg is a threat on the basketball court, playing varsity basketball for three years and being named All Conference in his junior and senior years.

Greg's Business Teacher, Diana Benevento wrote, "There are not enough good words to say about Gregory. He is one of a kind. A young man that I would love for my sons to aspire to be. He is not only very successful as a student in my classes but as a student/person as a whole. He has been more than the ideal student. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership and maintained a clear sense of purpose in class. He also has a heart of gold. He is kind and genuine. Gregory is a true gem."

Greg wrote in his essay, "From the record books to the stats to the awards, I could not have asked for a more rewarding senior soccer season but the most rewarding part of the whole season occurred off the field. I happened to be working with an underclassman peer of mine who suffered from autism. This boy, who was the manager of the Junior varsity team made me realize that with determination, courage and will, anything is possible. From not being able to run a lap around the field the year before, to running 3.5 miles faster than other Varsity players, this boy showed what true hard work really is...soccer over the years has filled my life with memories on the field that will most likely fade with time but it has created the character of who I am now and who I will be in the future."

\Greg will be attending the University of Rhode Island as a Rhody student athlete.

In Greg's words:

"I have played soccer since the age of three first through the Levittown soccer club, to the Massapequa Soccer Club and then 4 years at MacArthur High School. I will be attending the University of Rhode Island next year where I will be playing soccer and majoring in kinesiology."



Kali Moss

Kali Moss is the picture of a student athlete! She is a 2015 graduate of West Babylon High School, where she was a four year member of the girls' varsity soccer team. Kali has been a member of Farmingdale United, a Region 1 Premier Team, with an impressive list of achievements. 2014: Region 1 Premier Champions, ENY State Cup Champions, Disney Showcase Semi-Finalist. She has been on the Honor Roll for her high school career. Kali is a recipient of the Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship.

Elise Heaton, wrote in her letter of recommendation, "...I believe her success in school can be attributed to the hard work and determination she has learned on the soccer field. Kali has become a fierce athlete playing on a national soccer team. Her health and fitness is very important to her as she displays great discipline in working out and staying in shape. The discipline she has learned as an athlete transfers into the type of student she has become."

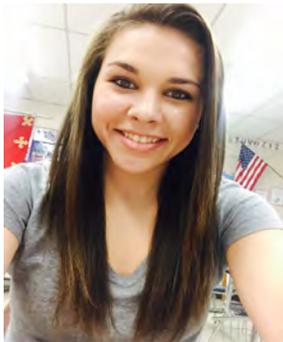
Linda Hamilton, a former coach, wrote, "I had the pleasure of coaching Kali for several seasons. Kali always displayed a competitive fire and was always one of the hardest workers, even when she was one of the smallest players out there.....She displays enthusiasm for her teammates and the sport of soccer. Kali also has participated in the Olympic Development Program as well as earned a spot on the New York State team, representing herself as a top player in the state. I am most impressed with her work ethic and her ability to push herself when no one is watching....I know Kali will have a long and successful collegiate career and I think she will be a great role model for her teammates and classmates."

Kali will attend and play at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Go, KU Golden Bears!

"Soccer is responsible for many of the qualities that I possess and appreciate about myself. It has made me a stronger person; it has taught me persistence, diligence and the value of hard work. Living with a diagnosis of epilepsy has challenged me and taught me to persevere."

George Hoffman Top Soccer Special Children's Memorial Scholarship

George Hoffman, a Long Island Junior Soccer League Hall of Fame member, served on the Long Island Junior Soccer League Board of Directors for decades before his untimely passing in 1997. George was much of the creative force behind the Long Island Junior Soccer League newspaper "Kick Off" and his Bits'n Pieces column could be controversial but it always made you think. George was active supporter of the TopSoccer Program and LIJSL sponsors two scholarships to youth volunteer coaches in his memory.



Nadia Moumine

Nadia Moumine, in her six seasons with Hauppauge TopSoccer, has shown a commitment to giving back to her community. As Youth Director she has done an amazing job with the program. She took over in 2013. She coordinates a large group of committed high school students who help her run the session each week. Nadia provides a great environment for the children and they relate to her. She has been able to adapt the program based on the needs of the participants.

Besides TopSoccer, Nadia participated in a Dance-a-Thon at school as a fundraiser for charity, tutored elementary students in math, reading and writing, and acted in a charity performance to raise money for the food drive. She volunteered at the Stony Brook University Hospital in the Neurology Department and was chairman of Hauppauge Soccer League's first charity event to help raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. As a member of Student Council, she raises money for charities and other funds.

Nadia is a member of the National Honor and French Honor Societies, the Chess Club, Varsity Club and Student Council. She received National Merit Scholar Letter of Commendation Character Award and did a solo performance on the violin at the NYSSMA music competition. Nadia played Varsity soccer, track and field and was a referee. She also takes saxophone lessons.

Nadia remarks that working with the kids in TopSoccer has been an incredible experience that has taught her so much about life and how not to judge a book by its cover. Also, she learned to truly listen and pay attention to the kids and their parents. It has inspired her to hopefully continue working with programs such as TopSoccer in college and perhaps even after that.

In September, Nadia will attend Boston College Carroll School of Management.

George Hoffman Top Soccer Special Children's Memorial Scholarship

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Brooke Salmon

Brooke Salmon has shown her dedication to the West Hempstead TopSoccer program by coming to the field since 2012. The coach says she stands out from the others. She is a role model to the other volunteers, engages the disabled players in a positive way and extends the goodwill of their program to the larger soccer community. Brooke uses her smile and easy going nature to draw the players into the game. She has brought friendship into the life of some of athletes.

Brooke is a very busy volunteer. Besides TopSoccer she coached at Kellenberg's Summer Soccer Camp for three years, volunteered for Give A Kid A Smile by helping dentists give free cleaning to underprivileged children and helped with a Senior Citizen's prom at Queen of Peace nursing home. As part of SMART afterschool program, she assists younger students with homework at St. Brigids and Cure of Ars churches. As a Marianist Mentor, she visits younger classmen's homeroom to help the student adjust to the school environment, assists at various religious retreats in the Emmanuel Retreat House, and is an Angel of Autism by volunteering selling raffles and prize baskets at the Jack Fanning Memorial Dinner Dance.

Brooke is on the Varsity Soccer team and an honor roll student for four years. She is a member of the National Honor Society, received National Merit Award for American Sign Language and Bernie Ward Commitment Award.

From the very first practice Brooke was hooked. She says that in life nothing should ever stop us from achieving a goal we have worked toward. She believes that the time she gives the athletes, they give her double the reward. When times get tough we can always find happiness in something we all love. She is truly grateful for the opportunity she has been given to work with the special children because it has made her a better person and the soccer player she is today. She lives to play competitively for those who can not.

Brooke will attend Fordham University this September.

Modell's Scholarship Top Soccer Special Children's Scholarship

Modell's Sporting Goods has been a sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League for more than 25 years. They are the major sponsor of the LIJSL sportsmanship program, TopSoccer and supporting sponsors of the LIJSL Convention.

Thousands of LIJSL players have proudly worn the sportsmanship patch on their uniforms over the years. Thanks to the generosity of Modell's, we are able to continue these programs that help to benefit our young athletes and award a scholarship to a TopSoccer youth volunteer coach.



Kathleen O'Sullivan

Kathleen O'Sullivan has been an outstanding volunteer in the Garden City TopSoccer Program for the past seven years. The coach relies on her to supervise other volunteers and set up and coordinate practices and games. She is a sought after soccer buddy to many of the players due to her fun approach to the game. She has a great attitude, and it shows in her rapport with players and other volunteers. Her approachable manner, her willingness to help others and her desire to be a team player has made the coaches take note of her leadership ability.

Kathleen has also volunteered at Camp Anchor's swimming program, was a participant and volunteer at St. Anne's Parish, distributing holiday meals and gifts to families in need. Sponsored a family at Christmas. She coached volleyball for CYO and assistant coach at Garden City Middle School. Kathleen belongs to Students Helping Students where she helps younger students on how to address bullying, cyber bullying or harassment within their environment. She did shadowing in the Occupational and Physical Therapy sector at NY Presbyterian Hospital.

Kathleen is an AP Scholar, Varsity volleyball captain and has been on the honor roll and principal's list at high school. She won the Peter Mirable Scholarship for Academic Achievement and Citizenship.

Kathleen writes that TopSoccer has taught her to grow and mature as an individual. She feels blessed to be a part of it. It has opened her life to different kinds of amazing people, children and families, also providing her with different types of acquired knowledge for the real world. These children have inspired her not to be fearful of what may lie ahead. Special soccer has played a major influence on the choice of her major: Occupational Therapist. It has prepared her for her career.

Kathleen will attend Ithaca College to study Occupational Therapy this fall.



Thank You

To all the families that graciously donated to the scholarship program in memory of their loved ones.

To our sponsors for their generosity year in and year out.

To the scholarship committee who dedicate their time to review each and every application from so many wonderful student athletes.

To all our league volunteers for your dedication.

To each and everyone of you who believe in our youth and realize that they are the future.

We believe the recipients we honor today prove that the future is in good hands.

Go Ahead...

Excellence is not achieved in the first step. Yet, that first step must be taken if excellence is to be created. Greatness is not attained in the initial effort. Yet, greatness comes only through making that first effort, and then many more.

Go ahead and begin. Get started. Take the first step toward your dreams. Make the first effort to work toward greatness. You will learn a lot as you go, and perfect your approach. The important thing now is to get started and keep going.

