



LONG ISLAND
JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE

Scholarship Awards Breakfast



Class of 2018

July 15, 2018 Huntington Hilton



Program

Welcome

Lynn Scarpati
Chairperson Scholarship Committee

Pledge of Allegiance

Joan Connor

Blessing

Michael D'Ambrosio

Breakfast

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Closing Remarks

Lynn Scarpati

About the Scholarship Awards

We are privileged to present these 29 awards to some of the finest student athletes in LIJSL. Although 18 of these scholarship awards are memorial awards, these scholarships memorialize 14 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

Erica & Peter Harold	Ronin Chasan Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship
Erica & Peter Harold	Caitlyn Humann, Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship
Erica & Peter Harold	Alexis Quealy, Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship
Richard Frazita	Diana Hadjiyane, Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship-Female Student Athlete
Joan Connor	Colin Fitzgerald, Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship
Pat Grecco	Emily Zeblinsky, Pat Grecco Scholarship
Chris Scarpati	Tyler McElhinney, Michael Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Chris Scarpati	Leo Musacchia, Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Joan Connor	Erin Fitzgerald, Eurosport Scholarship
Lincoln Page	Katelyn Byrnescunningham, Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship
Lincoln Page	Robert Cydzik Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship
Frank Vertullo	Kailee Vaseghi, The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship
Nicole and Gary Urda	Konstantine Mendrinios, Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship
Maria Morelli	Mackenzie Griffin, Dalia Morelli Memorial Scholarship
Lisa Amoroso	Andrew Wagner, Rocco Amoroso Sportsmanship Award Scholarship
Bill Roller	Brandon Rodriguez, Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship
Randy Vogt	Nina Macagnone, Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship
Pat Grecco	Colin Capece, Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship
Randy Vogt	Jaclyn Corbin, John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship
Pat & Mark Secko	Nick Mastroianni, Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship
Addie Mattie-Iaia	Michael Mulqueen, Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship
Cheryl and Tom Walsh	Caitlyn Lopeck, Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship
Cheryl and Tom Walsh	Jack Zaretsky, Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship
Joan Connor	Fiona McCaul, Modell's Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Matthew Barresi, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Liam Farrell, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Connor O'Callaghan, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Jerilyn Marinan	Ryan Mehryari, Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Allison Kunstler George Hoffman TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Samantha Rini, George Hoffman TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Jack Costa, Modell's TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship



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.



Ronin Chasan

Ronin Chasan is a graduate of Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School and received a National Merit scholarship Commended scholar award, 2018 Scholarship for Academic Excellence from the NYS Education Department and is Nassau County Bar Association Mock Trial Champion. He has a cumulative GPA of 99.7051. He has done community service with Teens as Leaders, National Honor Society, Science, Business and Spanish Honor Societies. He has worked as a Day Camp Counselor, Soccer Referee and Basketball and Hockey referee. He had a SAT total score of 1530. He has been involved with Mock trials competing with other teams across Nassau County. His team advanced to Nassau County quarterfinals in 2017 and won in 2016. He is also a member of Moot Court Club where students in teams of three are given a civil law case to prepare for in 10 minutes and must present at a trial which would include opening statements, cross examinations and closing arguments. Also, he is a member of Model United Nations Club where students represent an assigned country. He played soccer with Plainview Old Bethpage Club (2009-2014), Soccer Club (2014-2016) and Syosset Soccer Club (2016 to present).

Coach Daniel Kramer of Syosset Cyclones writes, "He always takes the time to try and speak with every single one of his teammates and is always willing to lend a helping hand if need be." "The players feed off of his energy and try to work just as hard as him."

Plainview Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School Counselor, Jason Miller wrote, "He is in the top 5% of our largest and most competitive senior class. He takes the most challenging courses our school has to offer. As a freshman he took all honors courses, the highest level he could that year, as a sophomore he took the first AP class he was able to take and has not slowed up since."

Ronin stated in his essay, "One way in which soccer has shaped his life is by giving me many of the friends I have today and helping me learn how to build strong, lasting relationships. Nothing compares to the relationship you make with someone by playing your favorite sport with them on your side for a decade...Another way soccer has helped me build character is by showing me the importance of hard work and practice."

Ronin is a recipient of a **Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will attend **Cornell University** and plans to major in Information Science.

Ronin's personal statement:

"I hope to one day change the world. After years of hard work in school and in sports, I know that's the one way to do it. "



Caitlyn Humann

Caitlyn Humann is a 2018 graduate of Sachem High School North. Academically, Caitlyn achieved a weighted GPA of 102.7, an SAT score of 1410, was ranked 8th in a class of 507 students, a member of National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, Science and Social Studies Honor Society and President of Class Government for her four years of high school. Athletically, Caitlyn is just as impressive. Caitlyn has been Team Captain of the East Meadow Hotspur, a five-year varsity starter at Sachem and a three-year starter of Eastern New York ODP Team. Caitlyn has served as Communication Director and then President for the Model United Nations Club. Caitlyn has participated in many fundraising events to support the community.

In her essay, Caitlyn wrote, "...My coach's name was John R. Balzarini, but I called him "JR". In our first year the "Hotspur" was arguably one of the worst teams in the county. We lost to almost every local team, notably because JR always put us into matches that were way over our heads...As the years passed, my team became one of the best teams in the region with a reputation of "winning by work-rate"...Throughout my soccer career, I have worn the quote that JR gave us in the beginning on the back of every practice jersey – "**One Agenda: Excellence**". I have a drive and a hunger for excellence. I have experienced the success that follows hard work...Whether in athletics, academics, charity or community, hard work and dedication will make a profound impact. To me, though, there is no true definition of excellence...I believe that excellence is synonymous with continuous growth, so to never stop getting better is to be excellent..."

Congressman Lee Zeldin wrote, "Caitlyn took on many essential roles as an intern and worked closely with my staff. Her responsibilities went far beyond those of a typical Congressional intern, and included assistance with constituent casework, letter writing, serving as a representative for my office at events throughout the district, and much more."

Caitlyn is a recipient of a **Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education at **Fordham University**.

Caitlyn shared that she plans to be part of the Fordham University Honors Program, with the intention of double majoring in political science and math to best prepare for a career that will allow her to positively influence society through a future leadership role in government. She plans to continue her soccer career through participation in local club teams.



Alexis Quealy

Alexis Quealy is a 2018 graduate of Island Trees High School. Alexis has played for the Island Trees Shooting Stars, was a member of ITHS Varsity Soccer Team, captain in her senior year and recognized as All Conference and All County. She is committed to her school and community and has been on the Yearbook Club, Key Club and has managed to participate in community fundraising activities while playing varsity lacrosse, varsity basketball and Hip-Hop Kickline.

In her essay, Alexis wrote, “The greatest gift I’ve ever received were a pair of cleats and a soccer ball. I was three...Multiple different aspects of soccer provided many lessons, all of them profound...As the oldest on my team, I had to make sure that I was a role model.... Competing in soccer led me to stick up for myself on and off the field...Positive actions bring families together. My success showed me those who truly care for me. My grandparents... Failing can teach even more than winning. Any failure showed me how I needed to improve and made me analyze what I needed to do differently...”

Coach Danielle Hastings wrote, “From the moment Alexis walked onto the field, I knew she was special. Alexis was incredibly talented and worked hard to not only maintain her talent, but to grow as a player and as a leader. She is someone that I would count on during practice help teammates who struggle and always lift them up....”

Alexis is a recipient of a **Bobbie Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education and soccer career at **Queens College**, where she is considering a major in physical education.

Fun fact:

Alexis was voted homecoming queen in the Fall of 2017.



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 Comissioner 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.



Diana Hadjiyane

Diana Hadjiyane is a 2018 graduate of MacArthur High School, with a weighted GPA of 101.9, an AP Scholar with Distinction, member of National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, World Language Honor Society and Gold Renaissance Card recipient. Diana is a member of the Levittown Lady Tigers, a four-year member of the MacArthur Varsity Soccer team, a four-year member of Varsity Track as a Sprinter/Pole Vaulter, and Captain for two years. Diana was named All Conference and All Division in Long Jump and Pole-Vault, and County Champion in Pole-Vault. Diana was a three-year Vice President of Student Government, a four-year member of Orchestra-Viola, competing in concert performances.

In her essay, Diana wrote, "...The earliest memory I have as a soccer player is as a young snooply player. I don't remember much, but I do remember I always wanted to have the ball regardless of where I was on the field. Quickly I learned that this method wasn't as effective as I wanted it to be. This allowed me to learn the benefits of teamwork from a very young age.... My coaches through the years, particularly Coach Tim Zorn, took my personal playing style and gave me the knowledge and coaching I needed to be a significantly more successful player...From being a member on a soccer team, I learned to support my teammates whether on or off the field. And in doing so, I have learned to be a strong leader and advocate for those whose lives I am able to help."

In his letter of recommendation Thomas McDonald wrote, "Diana is a dedicated and mature person who volunteered many hours of her time to help the poor. She has understood early in her life the importance of helping other and has made it part of her life's mission to be an advocate for social change...Among the service projects that Diana has organized and implemented are food and clothing drives, selling Christmas Wreaths to purchase gifts for children placed in group homes, children with special needs social events, and senior citizen gatherings. Diana has helped organize a fund raiser/community awareness event for a children's orphanage in Tanzania, Africa... Her confidence, leadership traits, strong values, and respect for others has enabled her to make a huge difference."

Diana is the recipient of the **Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship for a Female Student Athlete** and will continue her education at **Boston College**.



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. She also served as a Vice President on the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association Board of directors.

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.

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.



Colin Fitzgerald

Colin attended Smithtown High School and participated in many activities besides playing many sports. His club team coach, Scott Weber, of the Smithtown Kickers gave an unsurpassable recommendation for the Long Island Junior Soccer League Scholarship. He stated, "Colin represents the consummate teammate. He has frequently played every position on the field, not only because he can, but more importantly because his teammates needed him to. Colin is a teammate first, whose actions are driven by the goals of the collective group. It is specifically because his willingness to support others that Collin is admired and respected by his teammates. Colin's leadership skills transcend the soccer field. His involvement in countless volunteer programs within the Smithtown community over the past nine years is truly indicative of the selfless individual Colin represents."

Christopher Passaretti, the President of the St. James Smithtown Little League and the St. James Athletic Association stated, "I was always impressed by Colin as he not only participated in Baseball, he also played Soccer and Volleyball. While doing all that, he was able to maintain his grades at an honors level. Many times, Colin would come running on to the field for warmups directly from another sport. His commitment and passion to his teammates was unmatched."

While in High School, Colin was part of Athletes Helping Athletes and Relay for Life. He also helped blind children learn to play baseball as a member of BEEP Baseball. He was also an assistant coach for the middle school team. Colin stated that the most fun he had was teaching disabled children, one on one, to play soccer, as part of the Smithtown Kickers Soccer Buddy program. All of these volunteer programs reminded Colin that he was so lucky to be able to play soccer. Besides doing all these activities Colin maintained a GPA of 4.11 out of a possible 4.4. He also scored 1380 on his Sat with a 730 in Math and a 650 in Reading.

Colin is the recipient of the **Addei Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Florida** this Fall where he will be studying Engineering.

Colin shared:

"It is my intent to become an engineer & to hopefully work at NASA someday. While I love sports & have played soccer & volleyball at very competitive levels, I also love basketball, baseball & I play golf with my dad, sister & friends. Fun fact, I took 4 years of breakdance in my early teens & still enjoy dancing a great deal & as a result, I am usually the one counted on to provide the music playlist at parties!"



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."



Emily Zeblinsky

Emily Zeblinsky is a 2018 graduate of Northport High School, where she was a member of the varsity soccer for three years, named All League in her senior year, a member of the Suffolk County AA Team Champions and Division II League Team Champions in her junior and senior years. Emily is a member of the Northport Cow Harbor Hurricanes. In addition to soccer, Emily belongs to the East Northport Jr. Firefighters, is a volunteer at the East Northport United Methodist Church and earned her Bronze Star as a member of Girl Scout Troop 110. She has trained and coached boys and girls in Brentwood Soccer Club, aged 4-14 and trained 7-9-year-old girls at NHS Summer Basketball Camp. Emily has been an active member of Northport High School, participating in fundraising efforts for cancer. Tracy Braun, Health Education, Exercise & Health Science teacher at Northport High School stated, "Emily has been instrumental in the continual success of the CPR/AED Awareness Day that has been held at Northport High School...Throughout these three years, I have been impressed by Emily's commitment and dedication to her schoolwork, the students of Northport High School, and the community."

In her essay, Emily wrote, "...My character building started the very moment I stepped on the field at age 4. I was taught to be a good sport, play nice and congratulate the other team no matter who won or lost. I never forgot the lessons of "good sportsmanship" I learned and never will. That part of my character has become part of my soul, I step off the field and see someone who needs a hand up and I am there to offer that hand. I am sure that is why I joined our local Jr. Firefighters where I've learned how to care for fire victims through special training that we Jrs go through. Just like my soccer team, I know how to function, as a team player to get a job done, be compassionate and supportive. Perhaps that is also why I want to study to be an environmentalist in college. I want to take care of the world..." In his letter of recommendation Coach Cliff Winnegar wrote, "I have known Emily for the past ten years as her travel soccer coach. Aside from being an outstanding soccer player, she is an excellent team-mate, has great competitive drive and sportsmanship. She is extremely coachable and has a great understanding of the game of soccer. She is extremely well-liked and is a clear team leader."

Emily is the recipient of the **Pat Grecco Scholarship** and will continue her education and soccer career at **Johnson & Wales University**.

Emily shared:

"I would describe myself as a serious soccer player that puts 110% of myself on the field. I hold nothing back and look forward to every competition/match. I hope to become an environmental researcher, concentrating on the protection of marine habitats. A fun fact about me is that I actually considered playing football at the age of 6, while being a cheerleader for a pee-wee football team but decided to play soccer (the other football) instead, giving up cheer and never looked back."



Michael B. Scarpati *Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship*

(January 3, 1981-May 14, 2001)

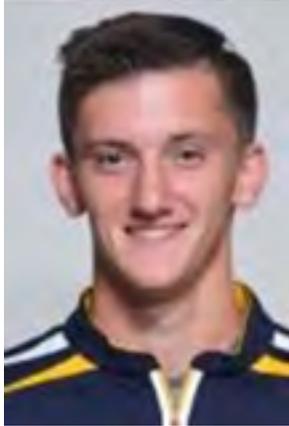
Born at 9 lbs. 12 ½ oz and happy, Michael embraced life and people with arms wide open from that moment and all of the moments of the rest of his life. His bear hugs became legendary in our family.

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.



Tyler McElhinney

Tyler McElhinney is a 2018 graduate of Jericho High School, where he was a four-year starter and Captain for Jericho Varsity Soccer, named Conference A1 Player of the Year, All State and All Region in his senior year. Tyler is a member of the Dix Hills Hurricanes and was a member of East Meadow Hawks. Tyler has been a member of ENY ODP since 2012 and a member of the ENY ODP Boys 99 National Championship team. Tyler has been a member of the Region One ODP team and has competed internationally. Tyler is a USSF Grade 7 Referee and was awarded the Rising Star Award from LISRA.

In his essay, Tyler wrote, "...Growing up as the youngest of three, I was forced to go to sporting events and dance recitals ...However my brother's soccer games were always my favorite...My grittiness and desire to succeed in life is relevant to a goalkeeper's life as they will do anything to keep the ball from going in. My family takes pride in doing our best when it comes to being successful...My precision to execute under pressure has been built off the foundation of last minute breakaways, or penalty shootouts to decide a National Championship. Of course, I have not been perfect. Similar to anything in life, nobody can be perfect. The beautiful game of soccer has taught me how to bounce back after a mistake. Many understand that mistakes happen, but people are annoyed if the same mistakes re-occur.... Had I not found soccer, I wouldn't be half the man I am today."

In his letter of recommendation Adam Janowski wrote, "Tyler's character and work ethic have allowed him to be a successful student, goalkeeper, referee, and Goalkeeper instructor. He devotes his free time outside of training and playing to learn the game visually as a referee and to give back to the soccer community."

Tyler is the recipient of the **Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship** and will continue his education and soccer career at **Loyola University**.

Tyler shared.

"I am considering entering a career that will allow me to keep soccer in my life. I have been refereeing since I was twelve and have been selected to high level matches."



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.



Leo Musacchia

Leo is a 2018 graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School West. Leo has played for the Dix Hills Hurricanes, four-year member NY State team and a three-year member of Region 1 team, travelling to Europe for tournaments. Leo joined the HHH West Junior Varsity team as an eighth grader and was a four-year member of HHH West Varsity Soccer, named captain in his junior and senior year. Leo has been named All-League, All-Conference, All-Suffolk County, All-New York State, All-Northeastern Region League IX MVP, Suffolk County Large School Player of the Year and First Team All-Long Island, to name a few. Academically, Leo is strong as well, with an SAT score of 1430 and a weighted GPA of 96. He has been a religion class helper at St. Matthew's Church. He has participated in NYSSMA for piano. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Italian Honor Society.

Christina Reynolds, Guidance Counselor, wrote, "Leo is the student every teacher wants in his class, he is the athlete every coach wants on his team, and he is the young man that every parent wants their child to be."

Coach Jose Luis Rebay wrote, "I have been training Leo since he was 12 years old. Since then and through his hard work, respect, commitment, passion for the great game of soccer and leadership, Leo became the Captain of the Dix Hills Hurricanes Soccer Team, helping to conquer four consecutive State Championships and many other great achievements at the regional and national levels."

Leo is the recipient of the **Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education and soccer career at **Stevens Institute of Technology**, where he plans to major in engineering.

Fun fact:

"I have been playing the piano since I was four years old. Also, my future plans are to attend Stevens where I will be playing soccer and to pursue a career in engineering."

Eurosport Scholarship

Eurosport is the sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League in cooperation with Inaria. 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 Inaria we are able to continue many of the programs that help to develop and benefit our young athletes.



Erin Fitzgerald

Erin attended Harborfields High School in Greenlawn where she played Soccer with coach, Scott Wallace, the head coach for Harborfield H.S. and Smithtown SC Firebirds. Scott stated "It has been a thrill to watch Erin grow and develop through the years both as a soccer player and as a student and person. Erin has an unmatched work ethic as she strives to improve her game every chance she gets both in formal training sessions as well as at home. When Erin steps on the field, she always represents our team, our club and the LIJSL, at the highest level"

Robert Kuletsky, Erin's teacher of AP English Language and Composition stated " Erin proved to be such a positive influence on others. She stood out as one of my best writers."

Erin remembered that she had been continuously told that if you want to be good at something you must work at it. She states that she has taken this motto and made it a part of her everyday life to motivate herself to stay focused and driven. She believes that communication is a key part of Soccer. She explained that she was exposed to a whole new kind of relationship when she had the opportunity to participate in the Smithtown Kickers Special Soccer Program. Because of this program, Erin believes that she became more compassionate and understanding toward others. As a captain of both her high school and travel teams, Erin enjoyed being the one that others depended on.

"Through leading, communicating with others, and pushing myself to become a better player, my character has been built tremendously through soccer and the qualities I have gained through the sport will continue to be valuable throughout my life."

Erin is the recipient of the **Eurosport Scholarship** and will continue her Soccer career, this Fall, playing for **Drew University** where she will be majoring in Biology.

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.



Katelyn Byrnes Cunningham

Katelyn is a graduate of Massapequa High School. Katelyn has played for the Massapequa Soccer Club Travel Team-The Fusion, as well as being a member of the Massapequa High School Junior Varsity and then the Varsity team. In addition, Katelyn was a member of the Massapequa High School Varsity Track & Field team, Captain for the Winter and Spring varsity. Katelyn has an interest in American Sign Language/Deaf Community Support, as well as AHRC.

Per her Coach, Diane Cordano Conlon, Katelyn is an extremely hard-working, self-driven young lady, both academically as well as athletically. This is clearly evident from her rigorous honors academic course lead, extensive involvement in athletics, extracurricular activities and volunteer programs. Katelyn takes her commitments seriously and consistently gives 110%. Having been her coach through these developing years I can speak specifically to her work ethic surrounding sports. Katelyn demonstrates an exemplary and consistent work ethic. Whether she was at a practice, scrimmage, game or tournament, she creates a positive impact on her teammates. She would step into whatever position she was needed in and never left the field without a "Thank You Coach!"

Katelyn put her love for soccer to another level. She became a referee. Katelyn states, "Passing the referee test and class was easier for me as I had more than ten years of experience playing soccer. Once I passed the class. I then had a responsibility on the sidelines that I never had before: make sure the game was played fairly. Once I stepped onto the field in that bright yellow shirt, I was no longer a player, I was an official. I knew that players yelled at the refs and made it more difficult for them to do their jobs correctly. It was even more difficult for me because I'm a skinny, 5'4" blond girl, so no one saw me as an authority figure on the large field. I was ridiculed, questioned and degraded because I raised the flag the wrong way. I was undermined by coaches, parents and players. I now understood that I had to apply my knowledge, from being a referee and an athlete, to make sure that everything was safe and fair. From this I have a greater respect for those who referee my games. The knowledge I took from being a referee gave me a competitive edge that I used to make the varsity team at my high school. I've always loved the game, but now I love it from both sides of the field."

Katelyn is the recipient of the **Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship** and will be majoring in Medical Diagnostics at the **University of Delaware**.

In Katelyn's words:

"My experience with soccer has left a lasting imprint on my life that I will carry with me forever. I enjoy life on the beach, learning American Sign Language, track and field, and keeping active in general."



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.



Robert Cydzik

Robert Cydzik is a graduate of Herricks High School and received most improved player voted by coaches in 2013 and 2015. He played on Herricks JV Soccer team was team captain in 2014 and 2015, He also played on Herricks Varsity team from 2016 to present. Robert has a weighted GPA of 3.681 and scored 1250 on his SAT score. He has volunteered at St Hedwigs Church the summer of 2017, helped with the North Hempstead Columbus Day tournament in 2015 and 2016 by raising money for his travel team by helping collect scores, set up fields and coordinate fields with parents, coaches and referees, and coached a youth soccer team from 2014 to 2017. From 2016 to present Robert is a soccer referee. He joined the New Hyde Park Wildcats travel team as an U11 travel team player.

His coach, Andrea Garabedian, New Hyde Park Flying Tigers, said “I recommend Robert to be a recipient of the LIJSL Scholarship with reservation. His passion for soccer is unmatched. He is one of the kindest, most gentle young men on this squad and he is deserving of this honor. “

Reverend Piotr Rozek from St. Hedwig’s Catholic Church writes that Robert Cydzik, who has been doing community service for the church, demonstrated tremendous effort and dedication to helping the church in any way he could. Robert distinguished himself by consistently performing exceptionally well, whether on the phone with people needing help or face to face solving their issues.”

Robert wrote about his mom in his essay and how sick she was from cancer and what it meant to him and how he used soccer to help him feel that his mom was still with him. Soccer helped him live through the ordeal of his mom having cancer and not surviving. “I did small things at every game to help me feel like she was with me. I cut my blue socks and started wearing pink socks on the bottom to show my mom that she will always be with me and I will always be thinking of her. Every goal I scored, I dedicated to her. These small gestures did not help her but it helped me cope with what had happened.”

Robert is the recipient of the **Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Fordham University**. He plans to major in Business Administration/Pre-Law and will be a redshirt athlete in the Fall.

Robert shared:

“I have always been an achiever, be it academics or professional life or sports. I believe in success through hard work & dedication. My motto in life is to “If you want something, work hard & you will achieve it; there are no shortcuts”. I enjoy life to the fullest & love humor. I am going to be going to Fordham in the fall and hope to go to law school after I finish my undergrad.

Fun Fact:

Robert will be in Poland playing with an Academy team through August 17, 2018

The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarships



The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation awards a scholarship to a student that participated in the Long Island Soccer League that has either

- 1) Personally supported or currently participate in a program(s) that help enrich the lives of people living with special needs or,

- 2) Personally have mentored a person living with special needs to help them overcome their challenges and achieve personal successes.

It is our honor to help make your dreams come true.



Kailee Vaseghi

Kailee is a 2018 graduate of Oceanside High School, where she played varsity soccer, captain of the Oceanside United Soccer Club Riptide, captained the varsity Track and Field team and a member of the Cross-Country team. Kailee has volunteered for Oceanside United Stars since 2011, a soccer program for special needs children and has volunteered for Camp A.N.C.H.O.R., which has resulted in being hired. Kailee stated that this camp has provided her with responsibilities and challenges and have helped her realize what she would like to do in the future.

In her essay, Kailee wrote, “My parents signed me up for the earliest soccer program they could find. My Dad coached my first soccer team and to this day he still does. As I grew older I found that soccer played a big role in my life. I gave up dance because soccer was a priority...I tried out for travel soccer in the fourth grade and made the A team, first try. Playing in games with the travel team I felt confident. Later on, I became captain of the travel team, Oceanside Riptide. Being captain has changed me for the better. I am a strong leader on and off the field...People with disabilities are very close to my heart... I have been surrounded by children and adults with disabilities ever since I was little. Believing in these programs that I have attached myself to, have helped further guide me into the person I am today.”

Coach Jose Urquiza wrote, “For as long as I have been coaching, Kail has always been a team player and a very hard worker. She is a skilled player and always up for the next challenge whether it is during training sessions, tournaments or games. Not only is Kail an extraordinary player, she adds much more than that to the team. Kail is remarkably humble, caring and also volunteers her time to help out with OUSC Special Needs Soccer Team. This is a maturity you don’t often see in many kids, teens or even adults. With her determination and hard work, I have no doubt that Kail will succeed in all her endeavors.”

Kailee is the recipient of the **Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship** and will continue her education at **Molloy College** and her athletic participation in Track and Field.

Kailee shared:

“In my free time I enjoy going on runs with my dog Emily, that we foster from the Guide Dog Foundation. I will continue my education at Molloy College where I will be studying special education.”



Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship

On January 26, 2015 in his senior year at John Glenn High School, Sean Urda tragically lost his life in a sledding accident. He was one of those special people that lived every day as if it were his last. He knew that a smile made a difference and that laughter could warm your heart. He touched everyone he came in contact with in a special way. “Work hard, play hard” is a phrase that applied to the way Sean lived his life. He was always aiming higher and working to become better whether in school, on the field, or in life. Above all else Sean loved his family, friends and soccer and he was loved in return.

At one year old Sean got his first soccer ball and it has never left his side. By three years old, Sean was a soccer dynamo and the Elwood Soccer Club allowed him to begin playing early. By eight, he was playing on both his team and his older brother’s team, when they needed subs. Later, he went to play for Northport Soccer Club and his tournament team the Score FC. He was recognized as a leader on his teams and named captain. In high school, Sean was a three year varsity player and awarded All-League in his senior year. The #14, Sean’s jersey number, has become very important to his family and friends. His HS will retire his number once his younger brother graduates. The # 14 has become a symbol of Sean to many that cared about him.

Sean was an all-around athlete and enjoyed lacrosse, skiing, snowboarding, and his favorite gym sport – pickle ball, but his passion was always soccer. In addition to high school athletics, Sean was a member of Natural Helpers, National Honor Society, the marching and jazz band and a counselor at the Huntington Playground Camp.

His dream was to play at a collegiate level and he hoped that his academic achievements and goals would align with a school that he would attend and competitively play soccer for. Sean was accepted to all 14 schools he had applied to but unfortunately, he never got the chance to choose.

What we would like you to know of Sean is that for him people always came first – family, friends, teammates, classmates, everyone. He went out of his way to listen, to make someone smile, and to help anyone when they were down. He was 100% genuine and a true friend to all.



Konstantine Mendrinos

Konstantine is a 2018 graduate of Northport High School. Konstantine has played most recently for the Dix Hills Hurricanes and HBC Chelsea. He was a two-year member of Northport Varsity Soccer Team. He was named as a Suffolk County All-Conference Player in his senior year. He was involved at NHS and a member of the National Honor Society, NYS Technology & Engineering Education Honor Society and World Language Honor Society.

In his essay, Konstantine wrote, “I value and respect good, clean and honest play and players. This is how I am viewed by my coaches, teammates and friends. I set high standards for myself and I work hard to give one hundred percent of myself on and off of the field. I believe that if I work hard and play hard not only will I be helping my team, but also myself.”

Damianos Loizos wrote, “You will never find him celebrating his goals and excellent plays. You will always see him encouraging his teammates to work hard and play together as a team with a common goal. He celebrates others and never seeks the limelight. These are two characteristics that make Konstantine mature beyond his years.”

Konstantine is the recipient of the **Sean Urda Memorial Soccer Scholarship** and will continue his education and soccer career at **Queens College**.

In Konstantine’s words:

“In the fall, I will be attending Queens College where he will pursue a degree in Civil Engineering while also playing for the Men’s Soccer Team. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, volunteering for various causes, and learning new languages.”



Dalia Morelli Memorial Scholarship

Dalia Morelli was a resident of Bellmore, New York. She was the loving wife of Rocco Morelli for 29 years and the mother of four outstanding children, Maria, Dahlia, Rocco, and Ettore. She shared a true unconditional love for her husband and children. Dalia graciously extended this love, care and concern, without effort, to her extended family and friends as well. She was simply an amazing woman. There was nothing that Dalia would not do, in a positive effort, for those that were dear to her. She loved her children equally and unconditionally. She embraced everything that made them whole. They are all so completely different yet the presence of Dalia is evident within each of them. She proudly praised all of their successes, admired their individuality, and always encouraged them to believe there was no feat they could not accomplish regardless of set backs that may occur throughout life. Dalia made sure that God was a strong presence in their lives at all times. Her children are clearly a true testament of who Dalia Morelli was.

Dalia was a hero to all who knew her, and was loved by everyone. Those that knew her felt blessed to have been able to call her a friend. Always giving and never seeking anything in return. She managed a thriving business, while performing all her other family responsibilities. Dalia knew how to lift your spirits when you were feeling down. She had such dignity unlike anyone you knew. She had the grace of a queen and the presence of an angel. With all that, she was suffering, because the cancer was taking over her body. She would greet anyone who entered a room with such a warmth and kindness, that you would forget she was ill. The first question she'd ask would be, "How is your family?" or "How are you feeling?" Dalia was simply amazing. Her courage kept those around her strong. She was a positive force in all the lives she touched.

Dalia Morelli is missed everyday but will never be forgotten.



Mackenzie Griffin

Mackenzie Griffin is a 2018 graduate of New Hyde Park Memorial High School. Mackenzie has played for the New Hyde Park Wildcats since U4; at U9 transitioned to the NHP Lady Pumas and then brought her talents as a five-year starter to NHP Varsity Soccer and captain for two years as well as LIJSL PDP Program. She has been named Nassau County Girls All Conference, All Class and All County. Her athletic talents extended to lacrosse and basketball. She has also been a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Photography Club, Best Buddies and Modul United Nations. Mackenzie has been a volunteer referee for TOP Soccer Tournament for the past four years.

In her essay, Mac wrote, "...for the three years that I played on Long Island Junior Player Development Program team the teaching and coaching style was different from my regular travel soccer coach's style. In a larger sense, soccer has prepared me to handle and succeed under different teachers and mentors. I may not agree with or even like every single teacher, but soccer has helped me realize how to work well with people even if I do not necessarily get along with them...I am thrilled to have the opportunity to play soccer at SUNY Geneseo next year."

Coach Kieran Griffin wrote, "Mackenzie is most proud of how well her high school team continues to blend underclassmen with juniors and seniors. The club is most proud of how well Mackenzie lives the club's values of sportsmanship and community soccer."

Mackenzie is the recipient of the **Dalia Morelli Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education and soccer career at **SUNY Geneseo**, where she plans to major in secondary education.

Mackenzie's Fun Fact:

"Away from soccer and other school sports, I have enjoyed dancing for the Joy School of Dance and volunteering as an assistant teacher. "

Rocco Amoroso

Sportsmanship Award

Scholarship



“Mr. Sportsmanship”

Rocco was a **US Soccer Life Member** and a member of the **Hall Of Fame** for **LIJSL** and **Eastern New York**. Rocco cared about the sport and the effect it could have on players, parents, coaches and referees. He left his mark on all of us with his kindness and love of the game of soccer in more ways than many know. He should be remembered as the founder of the **LIJSL Sportsmanship Program** “Building Character through Soccer” in 1980, the first program of its kind in youth sports. He wanted to remind all of us about the lessons of civility, teamwork and fair play. He is not here today, but his spirit will live on. He was a blessing to all who knew him.

“Remember, greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service and character and that character, once acquired, becomes one’s most valued possession.” - Rocco Amoroso



Andrew Wagner

Andrew Wagner is a 2018 graduate of Kellenberg Memorial High School. Andrew has played most recently for the Levittown Force, and Merrick South Me/Cyclones, was a four-year member of Kellenberg Soccer Teams playing both JV and Varsity. He was an active participant at Kellenberg, as Junior Retreat Staff, Marianist Mentor, Founder's Keepers and Sodality. As a member of Band, he has participated in six NYSSMA solos for trumpet and three for piano. He is a member of the National Honor Society and still has time to work for Brands Bicycle and Fitness in Wantagh.

In his essay, Andrew wrote, "I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge my three coaches...What I have learned from these men was priceless. They all volunteered their time. They all taught me that playing the game hard and the right way was more important than winning I learned by watching them and their dedication to the team that you have a level of responsibility to your teammates; that is to always be on time and always try as hard as you can...I hope the committee looks favorable on this submission. If not, all is not lost. I never realized until I sat down to write this, how many of life's lessons I learned by being part of a soccer team and for that I am grateful."

Coach Jeff Boccio wrote, "Andrew is very coachable and is a natural leader on and off the field. He is always working very hard to improve himself and takes pride in how he performs and acts on and off the field. I wish I could have an entire team like him. He makes my job easier."

Jack is the recipient of the **Rocco Amoroso Sportsmanship Award Scholarship** and will continue his education and soccer career as a Devil at **Fairleigh Dickinson University**, where he plans to major in computer science.

In Andrew's words:

"I love to cook and experiment with new recipes so in my spare time I am in the kitchen fine tuning my culinary skills. If I was wealthy, I would travel the world. I would love the opportunity to explore different countries, their culture, food and traditions."



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.



Brandon Rodriguez

Brandon Rodriguez is a graduate of Patchogue-Method High School and has been selected by the LIJSL Scholarship Committee to receive one of the league scholarship awards. Brandon started his LIJSL experience with the Bohemia Soccer Club and since 2011 has played with the Hauppauge Soccer Club, and his club team the Hauppauge Eagles coached by Roger Hug. This upcoming fall, Brandon will be attending **Suffolk Community College-Ammerman Campus**.

During his days playing with the Hauppauge Eagles, Brandon was always striving to be the best on and off the field. During his time on the field, he was always looking to be a leader for his teammates and trying to be a positive role model.

Coach Hug stated in his recommendation for Brandon, “Instrumental in building team chemistry with his skills and positive attitude. Working with the coaches and all of his teammates, he helps make the game very successful and incredibly fun to watch.” In the other recommendation that we received, Nicole Lupo had glowing remarks about Brandon as she stated, “He has the heart of gold and is one of the most compassionate people I know. His smile lights up the room.”

While not playing games on the weekend with his club team, Brandon found time to be an Assistant Referee with Long Island Junior Soccer League running the sidelines assisting the Center Referee. Also, he found time to volunteer at the Last Chance Rescue, at Mt Carmel Church and for the Breast Cancer Walk.

Brandon summed himself up with these simple words: “Soccer has taught me to never give up, to follow your dreams and to embrace your life one day at a time, one game at a time. I like to hope my kindness and goodwill to others will inspire people to see that being there for each other could change that person’s life in ways that they never imagined. Supporting people, leading people, being there for those you care about is what life is all about, on and off the soccer field.” We know that Brandon Rodriguez will be successful in whatever fields or direction he chooses.

Brandon is the recipient of the **Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship**.

In Brandon’s words:

Brandon lives his life believing that success is not an accident but is achieved through hard work and determination.



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.



Nina Macagnone

Nina Macagnone is a 2018 graduate of Northport High School. Nina plays for the Northport Cow Harbor United Hurricanes and was recently a member of the Brentwood Soccer Club Tournament Team. Through hard work and perseverance, Nina landed a Varsity Girls Soccer spot in her junior year and senior year, the Suffolk Count Champions in both years.

In her essay Nina wrote, “The Northport team has taught me what it’s like to play alongside sisters. People that have your back not only on the field but in life and I couldn’t be more grateful for what it has taught me about hard work and family.”

Amanda Cuiffo, Northport High School Counselor wrote, “She has been an integral member of Students for 60,000 since her freshman year. Through this organization, students help those less fortunate...She has slept in cardboard boxes, stood in the rain and snow, and traveled to distant countries all to help those less fortunate. ...For the past 3 years Nina has helped plan lessons, prepare materials, translate them and then train her peers to teach lessons during the club’s annual trips to Nicaragua. Nina has taken a leadership role through almost every aspect of the club.”

Northport teacher, Kristen Cogan stated, “Nina is a well-rounded student, participating in several Northport clubs, working two part-time jobs and excelling in athletics. Playing both Varsity Girls Soccer and Track, she received the scholar athlete award last year.”

Nina is the recipient of the **Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending the **University at Albany (SUNY)**.

Nina shared:

Attending the University of Albany as Psychology Major will also be in the Airforce ROTC program at Rensselear Polytechnic Institute Planning to play UALBANY Club Soccer



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.



Colin Capece

Colin graduated from Chaminade High School with a GPA 97.9. He is the Editor-In-Chief of the school-wide, student-produced newspaper, Tarmac. Under Colin's guidance, Tarmac has thrived, as the newspaper's website (which Colin edits) now attracts over 10,000 clicks per month. All the four years that he has been a member of the staff, Tarmac has been named the Best Overall Newspaper in New York State by the New York Press Association. It's not a coincidence. Colin's ability as a writer and editor is only surpassed by the effectiveness with which he manages a staff of over 50 of his fellow students.

Colin's even-keel approach to each and every day of high school has had a calming influence on his peers and will be a trait welcome on any college campus. In this modern age of quick takes, his thoughtfulness and emotional maturity distinguish him from the crowd. Also, Science Olympiad, C.R.O.S.S., Senior Leader Program, Parish Religious Education Program, National Honor Society, Honor Roll (all four years). Press Club of Long Island 2017 Median Award Student Journalism Narrative Feature (2nd place) Stony Brook University Japan Center Essay Competition 2017 Finalist (3rd place), Catholic Daughters of the Americas Essay Contest 2015 (2nd place) and many others.

Colin plays for the Hauppauge Eagles and of per his coach Roger Hug, "Colin has the ability to see the big picture in almost any scenario and he can quickly assess what is transpiring, especially on the field." He played with a purpose and always took on a leadership role on the field. He did this by playing a very smart defensive position. He uses this asset very well and can usually redirect his teammates to shut down the other team or set up for a counter offensive. He is hardworking and dedicated. He works well with the coaches, trainers and players, whether on the practice field or in the game. Colin is an integral part of the chemistry and flow which makes his team look so darn good when they play."

Colin believes that when he first began playing soccer, he was a quiet and reserved individual. As a center back, he learned that a lack of communication would be inauspicious for the rest of the team. Over the course of his soccer career, he has developed into a vocal leader. However, he has discovered that being a true leader requires more than just shouting out directions. Leading by example is more important than leading with words. He has also learned that a great leader must possess humility. Every player on a team has a specific role, and while the center back may lead the defense, his role is no more important than any other. The leadership skills he honed on the pitch have also translated well to my role as an editor-in-chief.

Colin will be attending the **University of Notre Dame** and is the recipient of the **Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship**.

In Colin's words:

"I am a 2018 graduate of Chaminade High School who will be attending the University of Notre Dame next fall. In addition to my love for soccer, I also enjoy writing, mountain biking, and spending time with my three younger brothers."



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.



Jaclyn Corbin

Jaclyn is a graduate of Wantagh High School and was a finalist in Trust for Sustainable Living's International Essay Contest and has had numerous works published in school literary magazine. She has been on the Varsity soccer team 10th grade through 12th and was team captain. She was awarded all class and all scholar athlete in 12th grade. Academically she has a weighted average of 99.97 and obtained a 1430 total score on her SAT and is an honor student. From 2012 to 2016 she was on the LIJSL ODP/PDP Select team and has played for Wantagh Seaford Waves in 12th grade and 2010 through 2016 on the Merrick/South Merrick Lady Cyclones. She played defensive center midfield. She has done various volunteer work, and some are she has volunteered from 2016 to present at Northwell Health Hospital, in 2016 and 2017 summers at the Wantagh Public Library, 2016 Adelphi-Winthrop Summer Science Institute, intergenerational dinner for senior citizens, STEAM nights at Wantagh elementary schools.

Her coach, Dario Radoslovich, from Wantagh Seaford wrote that "Ms Corbin is an excellent example of what the LIJSL wants in their players and what they are looking for in a scholarship recipient. As a dedicated, hardworking, competitive player who also displays the highest level of sportsmanship, she is truly a team player that any coach would be pleased and proud to have on his/her team."

Wantagh High school counselor wrote "She sets her internal bar exceedingly high, yet is not envious of other's successes. She is a natural leader, in a most unusual, selfless, pragmatic way." She was named a "finalist in the Trust for Sustainable Living's International Schools essay contest. To further underscore this accomplishment, this summer Jackie will be traveling to Oxford, UK, to participate in a conference on climate change and sustainability." Her history teacher wrote "She is one of those kids you can never be angry wit, she is loud and fun, she is full of joy and life, and there is never a dull moment when Jackie is around." "In my opinion, Jackie is an extraordinary young woman with a lot to offer the world".

Jaclyn wrote "I would not be the person I am today without soccer. Some of the girls I played with when I was two are still on my team now and I consider them to be my best friends. Playing has helped me realize what is truly important in life. I have matured tremendously and became more respectful towards others, dependable, reliable and a true team player. If I never signed up to play in 2002, I would have not led the lifestyle I have thus far."

Jaclyn is the recipient of the **John R. Pinezich Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending and playing DIII soccer at **Haverford College**.



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.



Nick Mastroianni

Nick is a 2018 graduate of Commack High School, where he played varsity soccer for three years. Nick has been a member of Levittown Rage, HBC United, as well as the Syosset Warriors. In addition, Nick has played with Long Island PDP and the ENY ODP program.

In his essay, Nick wrote, “Soccer is a game of challenges and situations that make you who you are. When the games take an unexpected turn how do you handle yourself; how do you handle that challenge? My father always said to me, ‘What are you going to do next; it’s all about what you do next that determines the person you are.’ ...part of character is what you do next. Do you rise above and make the best of the situation or do you back away and let the obstacles or challenge take over, becoming too much to handle...Soccer not only helped build my character, but it has prepared me for life.”

Coach Ray Anderson wrote, “Nick plays with everything he has every game and for whatever duration of time he is provided. He goes in and puts his heart into the game. I have never seen a more enthusiastic kid than Nick. He lives for soccer and has been involved in many different programs. I was thrilled to hear about his commitment to Trinity because I knew they were getting a star. He is a great all around kid and takes many different things from soccer...Soccer isn’t just about wins and losses with Nick. Yes, he is a winner and wants to be the best, but it’s much more than that...There aren’t many kids that can lead like Nick; can wear a Captain’s band whether he is a senior or a freshman...”

Nick is the recipient of the **Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education and play soccer at **Trinity College**.

Nick shared:

“I take pride in leadership and my ability to lead. I display my best qualities to make sure myself and my teammates are successful. I am excited to continue my academic and athletic career in college and continue to lead by example no matter what year of college I’m in.”

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.



Michael Mulqueen

Michael is a 2018 graduate of Division Avenue High School. Michael has played most recently for the Oceanside Magic and was a member of Varsity Soccer, Track and Tennis. He was involved in Peer Leader, co-president of Big Dragons-Little Dragons (volunteer tutor and teacher's aide) to name a few. He was named to the National Honor Society, Art Honor Society, Math Honor Society, World Language Honor Society and Long Island Science Congress Certificate of Excellence. He has been a member of the Science Olympiad Team since 2012.

In his essay, Michael wrote, "I was fortunate enough to play soccer with Levittown, East Meadow, and finally Oceanside clubs within the LIJSL. The experience led to long term friendships with many of the players from many of the clubs through the years. It was always nice to meet a player that was on your team from years past. It was also a thrill to play against my own teammates from travel clubs from different high school teams. In an unexpected way it also developed my sense of humor. Not every play is perfect, and it is good to laugh at yourself sometimes, when things don't go your way...I hope that one day, I can be a soccer coach and help children learn the many things that I learned from the LIJSL organization."

Lynn Castellano, School Counselor wrote, "Mikey would describe himself as a "nerd", but I see him as a passionate, sensitive, kind-hearted and likeable young man who enjoys life...I was the chaperone at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition, where Mikey beamed with excitement from the moment he was dropped off at 6AM until after he won 3 medals that evening. No matter what the setting, Mikey stands out---NOT because he is loud nor holds leadership titles, on the contrary. Mikey speaks in a low voice, is humble about his accomplishments, and displays genuine commitment in each activity in which he partakes. In addition, Mikey's teachers and peers respond favorably to him as evidenced by his nomination and selection into our highly respected homecoming court."

Michael is the recipient of the **Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Cornell University**, where he plans to major in biological sciences.

In Mikey's words:

"I am an adventurous scuba diver who wishes to pursue my passion for biology through my studies at Cornell University. I plan to become a doctor and utilizes my knowledge in medicine to help those in underserved impoverished communities all over the globe, while doing so I also hope to contribute in any way possible to maintain the marine ecosystem in any area I go to."



The Brittney Walsh Memorial Scholarship

Brittney Walsh was a proud graduate of class 2012 from the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. This is where she would challenge herself and her friends to make everything she was involved with just a little bit better. Being ranked number 22 in her class, Captain of her winter track team and 3-year Captain on the Girls Varsity Soccer Team, she was often the one to follow. Her passion for track came when she lost a close friend in the 10th grade due to a brain aneurism. She made a promise to her friends that she would continue running for him. Making the Spring track team in 11th grade she quickly pranced her way to Penn Relays where they placed 3rd in the 4x4 (never done in Copiague). Her track coach and fellow runners would comment on her constant talking when running. "How could she do that".

Brittney's long-time passion was for soccer. She started playing soccer at the age of 5 and continued playing. Brittney played soccer for Lindenhurst early on and finished her club career in Massapequa while helping out from time to time in West Islip tournaments. Because she was involved with Long Island Junior Soccer League she was exposed to other kids from every town. When she played soccer for school she often knew someone from the other team. The exposure to people from other towns, doing other things, was really where she grew.

One of Brittney's dreams was to go to college. She was accepted to York College of Pennsylvania where she planned to study sports management, run track and play soccer. But her dream was cut short.

On June 24th, 2012 Brittney was killed by a drunk driver, just 2 days after her high school graduation. She was coming home from her summer job. Her loss shook the community island wide. It's amazing how a selfishness and such a senseless act could cause so much pain.

To tell you what kind of person Brittney was, her yearbook quote was ***"Be a Fruit Loop in a World of Cheerios"***.



Caitlyn Lopeck

Caitlyn Lopeck is a 2018 graduate of Valley Stream South High School. Caitlyn has played most recently for the New Hyde Park Roaring Tigers and NHP Cheetahs and the Lynbrook Synergy, was a four-year member of Valley Stream High School South Varsity. She was an Ambassador of Class Council and involved in History, National, Athletic Occupational and Language Honor Society. In addition to Varsity Soccer, she also participated in Varsity Basketball and Lacrosse.

In her essay, Caitlyn wrote, "Soccer made me stronger. I started later than most people, at eight years old. However, once I almost scored my first goal against the other Valley Stream team, my career changed. Valley Stream Lightning taught me to be strong...By the time I was 10, I was going against girls that were 13. Girls that were bigger, stronger and more intimidating. My coach always told me to not be afraid to go against girls that were older than me, and so I saw every game as a challenge. Every trip, push, bump, and foul against me built my character and made me stronger, mentally and physically."

AP Physics Teacher Jeffrey Hsi wrote, "Caitlyn's peers often praised her intellectual abilities and how easily she often grasped the concepts. However, they overlooked how Caitlyn vigorously worked to earn her high grades in all of her classes, as well as mine. Caitlyn planned out time for homework each and every night after her many extracurricular activities and sports."

Caitlyn is a recipient of **The Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship** and will continue her education and soccer career as a Gator at **The Sage Colleges**, planning to pursue a career as a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Caitlyn shared:

"When I was younger, I used to play sports like soccer and baseball, along with dancing at competitions. One day, I had a recital and a tournament on the same day around the same time. So, I danced five routines and made it for the last game with my hair gelled back, blue eyeshadow on, and bright red lipstick as well. I scored the winning goal in the finals."



Jack Zaretsky

Jack Zaretsky is a 2018 graduate of W.C Mepham High School and was an active member in Pirates Fundraising, Mepham Sports Booster Club, Long Island Cares food and clothing drives, and shoveling snow for the elderly. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

Pirates Coach Zachary Gosse wrote, “This year we entrusted Jack to captain and anchor our back four at center back because of his excellent vision and ability to distribute to his central counterparts, spray balls laterally to our wingers and outside backs, and effectively clip balls into our target forward’s feet. Jack is one of the most dedicated players I have had.”

Jack is a recipient of The Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship and will continue his education and soccer career as a Devil at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he plans to major in computer science.

In Jack’s words:

“In June 2018 I graduated from Mepham High School in Bellmore New York. I was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and was selected to be a mentor in the Athletes Helping Athletes Program. This involved visiting local elementary schools speaking to the students about the importance of academics, dangers of drug use and how being part of a sports team can impact their lives in many positive ways. I was the Varsity captain of the Mepham Pirates Soccer team, a member of the track team, Captain of the South Merrick Cyclones and Captain of the Levittown Force. At Mepham I received the Ken Hunte Memorial Scholarship for maintaining high academic achievements while demonstrating team work, pride, and School spirit. In October 2017 I was voted Nassau Country’s All Conference Academic Athletic Scholar. This August I will be fulfilling my dream by joining the Fairleigh Dickinson Devils. I want to thank my coaches Jon Unterberg and Jeff Boccio along with my parents for all their support and encouragement throughout my years in LIJSL.

Soccer has always been my passion since the age of 5. Every free minute I had was spent with a soccer ball at my feet. Our living room would serve as a makeshift soccer field with the couches positioned as goals when the weather was not suitable to go outside. My senior year I joined the track team for the purpose of getting into the best possible shape for when I begin my college soccer career and I surprisingly won Rookie of the Year for sprinting. I am excited for my future and I am honored to have been chosen for a scholarship.”

Modell's Scholarship

Modell's Sporting Goods has been a sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League for more than 30 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.



Fiona McCaul

Fiona McCaul is a graduate of Archbishop Molloy High School. Fiona has played for the Little Neck Douglaston Youth Club, most recently with the Titans, and previously the Crimson and the Little Neck Leopards. Fiona has played junior varsity and varsity soccer at Molloy, where she was an active member, participating as Associate Editor of The Stanner Newspaper, contributing editor for Blue and White yearbook, Junior Leadership Committee, Student Ambassador and Irish Club. Fiona has a 99.6 weighted GPA and a 1460 SAT score and has been named to the Principal's List for Academic Excellence, National Honor Society and National Society of High School Honors.

Fiona wrote, "I never planned to be a soccer player. When my friend asked me if I wanted to join her at a practice for her travel team, I never expected the lifelong impact it would have. Now, seven years later, I am captain of my team and an infinitely better player and person than when I started. Soccer taught me how to work effectively as a team member, how to adapt to unexpected challenges, and how to become a leader. I will be forever grateful for these experiences, and to my friend who brought me to practice all those years ago."

Coach Gerry Esposito stated in his recommendation, "If I limited myself to Fiona's soccer contributions, I would be shortchanging you. Fiona is an intelligent and caring young woman. Her strong grades and test scores while maintaining a very high level of commitment to her soccer team are an indication of her ability to manage competing, demanding interests simultaneously. I have been actively involved in coaching youth soccer at a competitive level for over 20 years. I can say unequivocally that of all of the youth soccer players that I have actively coached, Fiona is one of the finest young adults that I have had the pleasure of coaching I consider it an honor to have had the opportunity to work with her."

Fiona has volunteered for Stepping Stones Day School, Queens Center for Progress and Queens College Speech Language Hearing Center, to name a few.

Fiona will attend the **University of Scranton** and is the recipient of the **Modell's Scholarship**.

Fiona shared:

"I was inspired by my summer job working with preschool children with disabilities and I am very excited to begin a five-year Occupational Therapy program in the fall so I can continue to be an advocate for people with disabilities."

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.....



Matthew Barresi

Matthew is a graduate of St. Anthony's H.S. Academically, Matthew has excelled in St. Anthony's rigorous Franciscan college preparatory environment. He further challenged himself by studying seven honors courses as well as Advanced Placement (AP) Biology prior to senior year. He emerged from the demands of this coursework earning the Saint Bonaventure Academic Achievement Award for maintaining a grade average above 94.50% every year of his high school career. Matthew continues to demonstrate his serious approach to his intellectual growth by tackling (AP) Calculus A/B, AP Statistics, AP Economics, Physics Honors, Literature of NY honors (College Level) and Modern Drama Honors (College Level) senior year. Achieving academic honors remains a priority for Matthew.

Matthew has played with the Dix Hills Hurricanes from U11 to present. Matthew decided to make the move to this team, he said it was a difficult decision but ultimately landing him and his team in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Final. Unfortunately, they lost that day, but that experience helped him to learn from defeat and how to be persistent in his efforts to succeed.

Coach Don Corrao wrote, "Most importantly, Matt is the consummate student athlete and has received All-Academic Highest Honors all four years. Matt's dedication and commitment to excelling in the classroom transcended to the pitch and had much to do with him being named Captain his senior year as did his leadership qualities and the respect he earned from his teammates."

According to his Guidance Counselor Trevor Anderson, "What impresses me most about Matthew is his humble nature. The only way a person would discover the depth of his athletic success would be through the report or sharing by somebody other than Matthew. He has been competing internationally with the United States Region 1 Olympic Development Team since 2014. This level of competition led Matthew to competing in tournaments in Germany, France, Italy, Barcelona and Scotland. The kind of disciplined work ethic required to maintain this skill level while striving academically is ineffable."

Matthew will be continuing his education at **American University**, where he will be playing on their D1 Men's Soccer team. He believes this is a place where he can continue to grow as a player, a student, and most importantly as a person.

Matthew is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship**.

In Matthew's words:

"I'm not quite sure what my plans are for the future. At the moment I'm trying to find my passion away from the field as I am pursuing a degree in Finance, but I would also love the opportunity to go to medical school as I am also interested in being a surgeon. A fun fact about me would be that I was a very good football player as well, and it wasn't until middle school where it was played in the same season as soccer, that I chose to fully pursue soccer."



Liam Farrell

Liam Farrell attended West Islip High School where he was elected to the National Honor Society. The advisor, Linda Gifford, writes “Liam emanates a sense of self-assuredness. Yet his confidence can never be confused with arrogance or conceit. Simply stated, Liam is humble. His desire to lead well, while still being able to put the needs of others before his own, speaks to his character and humanity.” As the president of the National Honor Society he worked at starting a Chapter of Lazarus Rising, a club that gives homeless men assistance with basic computer skills and creating a resume’. She continues “Liam Farrell will make not only a positive mark on his new community, but he will be a blessing to it like he has been here at West Islip High School.”

Thomas Landhauser, assistant coach of the U19 West Islip Heat, stated “Liam is a goal oriented, dedicated and self-motivated individual. His work ethic on and off the field is outstanding. He rises to the occasion and is at his best when his best is needed. His competitive nature makes him an outstanding performer under pressure. He also displays sportsmanship at all times and is an excellent role model. Liam is looked upon by his teammates as a tremendous leader and understands the importance of leading by example. He has earned a reputation as a hard-working, trustworthy individual who always looks to excel. Liam realizes that success can only be obtained through hard work and approaching each task with a positive attitude.”

In Liam’s words “I think the most important thing soccer has given me are the friendships and memories with my teammates. The sense of camaraderie we have is unmatched, and the guys on my team have shown me what true friends really are. Soccer has been ingrained in my being and has made me the young man I am today.”

Liam is the recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will be attending **Cornell University**.

Liam shared:

“I will be attending Cornell University in the fall with a major of Industrial and Labor Relations. In addition to soccer, I am involved in student government at my school, serving as class President and captain of the Mock Trial team. I currently intend to pursue a career in law.”



Connor O'Callaghan

Connor O'Callaghan is a graduate of Smithtown High School West. Connor has played his entire youth school career with the Smithtown Kickers Soccer Club and his current team Smithtown Roma. Connor played high school soccer for the Smithtown HS West program as well.

In the fall of 2018, Connor will be attending Quinnipiac University in Connecticut and will be looking to major in physical therapy with his dream to work with children with special needs. This idea was stated in his essay to the LIJSL Scholarship committee as Connor stated, "Working with such children (Special Needs) holds a special place in my life, through a program called Special Soccer, I have helped teach physically/mentally challenged children how to play soccer for the past six years." Further in his essay he speaks about a child/buddy Zachary and how he and Zachary have become lifelong buddies.

While not spending time with the Special Soccer program in Smithtown, Connor has found time during the weekend to compete with his Smithtown Roma club team which competed in EDP. Also, Connor helped the other Smithtown team in his age group by being a dual carded player, so the team would not fold. His coach states, "Without being asked, Connor volunteered to dual-roster in order to allow his former teammates the opportunity to continue to play youth soccer."

Finally, while in the classroom and receiving a weighed GPA of 4.05, he found time to be involved in the following: English Honor Society, German Honor Society, and National Honor Society and was an active member and competitor of the DECA business club.

Connor is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship**.

Connor shared:

I am attending Quinnipiac University in the fall where I will be studying Physical Therapy. In the future I hope to be a successful physical therapist for a professional sports team.



Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship

Jerry was a member of the Levittown Soccer Club for over 35 years. After a short but hard battle with cancer, he passed away in July 2016. Up until that time, he was the President of the Club. In his years, he held many positions including Coach, Travel Director, Social Activities Director, and President. He was also very involved with LIJSL throughout the years serving as a Supervisor, Coordinator for the league and the LI Cup, Registration Committee, Games Committee, and was heavily involved in the Waldbaums Cup and Liberty Cup. In 2004, Jerry was inducted into the LIJSL Hall of Fame, an honor he was extremely proud and humbled by.

He maintained true fairness and caring for all players, coaches, and volunteers till the end and it is with great pleasure that we honor him with a scholarship in his name. We know that he is watching over all of our players including his grandchildren and want to wish everyone the best of luck as they enter a new phase of life.

May you continue to always reach your "GOALS!"

- Marinan Family



Ryan Mehryari

Ryan is a 2018 graduate of General Douglas MacArthur High School. Ryan has played for the Levittown Rage and has been a three-year member of MacArthur Varsity Soccer. Ryan was named All Conference in his senior year and Newsday All Long Island Honorable mention. Academically, Ryan is strong as well, with an SAT score of 1280 and a weighted GPA of 3.8. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a Gold Renaissance Scholar.

Ryan's community service is impressive as he has volunteered at the Mary Brennan Inn Soup Kitchen, coached a U7/U8 intramural soccer team for two years; worked on several food drives for Long Island Cares, and has volunteered with Nassau BOCES to assist children with special needs, to name just a few.

Social Studies Teacher, Ms. Reynolds wrote, "He always strives to achieve perfection, and let the record show that school is no exception. As a testimony to his humanitarian side, his list of community service shows a plethora of both school related and extracurricular activities...A natural born leader, Ryan's convictions guide his every decision and make him a positive role model for every student, while his modesty keeps him well-grounded and approachable to all."

Ryan is the recipient of the **Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education and soccer career at **Molloy College**.

Ryan shared:

"Soccer and studying science are two things I enjoy doing and I am planning on pursuing both in my collegiate years."

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.



Allison Kunstler

Allison Kunstler has been a volunteer with Lynbrook/East Rockaway TopSoccer for the past four years. Her coach says she has proven herself as dedicated, sincere and capable. She is obviously at ease with the players, whatever their personality. She is able to understand each player's individual needs, treat them with respect and get them engaged. She is committed to these children, treats them as the special people they are, and enjoys herself along the way.

Allison is a busy person. Besides TopSoccer she manages and initiates school and community service projects thru the Key Club. She volunteers with Challenge Basketball, is counselor at Camp Anchor for men 23-25 with severe autism, and organized football games and practice in order to raise money for breast cancer for the Powder Puff fundraiser. As a volunteer of Challenge Dance School she attended and participated in the annual spring dance for students with special needs. She was responsible for choreographing and teaching dance routines. Allison is involved with Sulam-LI Temple Israel and provides one on one assistance to students with disability, giving them the opportunity to connect with Jewish tradition.

Allison is an AP Scholar, National Honor Society member, regular on the Principal's Honor Roll and is in the top of her class. She pursued Science Research which entailed working with children with ADHD and will enter her project into Regeneron this year. She has played varsity soccer, kickline and track.

Allie states that she learned soccer is not just about kicking a ball, but it is about making lifelong teammates. In addition she learned that a simple kick to the net can leave an everlasting smile on a child's face. The athletes have taught her the importance of little things in life. Helping those who do not have all the same abilities of others is one of the most rewarding feelings. She says helping those that may be in need is something she wants to pursue and continue to make it the focal point of her life for years to come.

Allison has been accepted to **Duke University** on early decision and will attend in the fall.

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Samantha Rini

Samantha Rini worked with Smithtown's TopSoccer Program for 5 years, including summers. She has been an important part of the growth and success of the Smithtown program. As one of the best volunteers the coach says she gets the more difficult assignments. Sometimes with a non verbal autistic child or one with emotional or severe physical difficulties. When they had trouble with new volunteers she became a roving "buddy" instructor and helped new volunteers get up to speed. This demonstrated her natural skills as a teacher.

Samantha's counselor states that she is intelligent, hardworking, and good natured. Also humble, motivated and polite are three words that come to mind when he thinks of Samantha.

She has been a camp crew leader for St. James Lutheran Vacation Bible School, TopSoccer buddy, math tutor and math-themed carnival coordinator. As a High School Heroes she prepared and taught a full day lesson plan to a second grade class. She did an Improv Comedy performance for Chuckles for Charity. As a volunteer with Boo Boo Bears Charity she purchased bears and personally delivered them to children that are burn victims at local hospitals. Samantha was part of Acoustic Cafe' by performing music in a show dedicated to raising money for Habitat for Humanity.

Samantha is part of the National Honor Society, Italian and Math Honor Societies. She played varsity soccer, was part of the Drama Club and Women's Choir.

Samantha claims that Special Soccer introduced her to a new definition of success; and found how truly satisfying and enjoyable it is to work with children. These children have found a way to put the brightest smile on her face week after week. Each season she could not wait for the next to relive that exhilarating feeling she got with each week of progress. She now imagines herself as a special education teacher and is inspired by some of the special athletes.

Samantha will be attending **Manhattan College School of Education and Health**. Hopefully she will become a special education teacher. Everyone wishes her lots of success and Smithtown will surely miss her.

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 30 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.



Jack Costa

Jack Costa has been with Rocky Point TopSoccer since it started its program two years ago. Jack is a dedicated, responsible and hardworking young man with great potential. He has been able to effectively manage his busy lifestyle and keep his priorities in order. He exemplifies love, tolerance and kindness with the special athletes. He has a gentle way with the athletes showing compassion and patience as he demonstrates and participates in drills with them.

Jack has volunteered at summer camp for special needs campers and was junior counselor at North Shore Youth Counselor Summer camp. He mentored an elementary school student with school work and forgoes study hall every other day to help students in Special Ed art class. Jack worked on community projects such as collecting supplies for soldiers (hat and gloves), sock collection for homeless and food drive for local food pantry. He worked on Senior Citizen's Prom and Veteran's Recognition Day. He participated in Challenge Day in which teachers and students work together to create a school where everyone is included and thrives. Also he was intramural youth trainer and referee for Rocky Point Youth Soccer Club.

Jack played JV and varsity soccer, basketball, lacrosse and tennis, and was varsity football kicker. He was Student Government class president and belonged to the Science Club, Chess Club, and Varsity Club. He was an Athletic Scholar and was on the Honor Roll and High Honor Roll.

Jack states that TopSoccer requires human compassion. Working with the special athletes he realized that they are no different than any other child. They each were unique in their own way but still fun-loving kids who want to play soccer, be part of a team and have fun. One athlete in particular taught him to be more positive and enjoy whatever life gives you. Also to be happy in the moment, whatever it may be. He has learned to look past the physical or mental challenge the person may have and simply look at the person. It has made him more patient and compassionate.

Jack plans on attending **Springfield College** and begin study in the Movement and Sports Studies Curriculum and the Teacher Preparation program in Physical Education. He plans on being a teacher and coach.



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.

