

Awards Program



August 2nd, 2020

About the Scholarship Program

We are privileged to present these 28 awards to some of the finest student athletes in LIJSL. Many of these awards are in memorial of individuals who viewed soccer as not only a passion, but a way of life.

We are proud of the corporate and foundation support along with our League 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.

A message from Scholarship Program Chairperson, Lynn Scarpati,

We thank the donors who have enabled this program to enjoy our 40th year. This has not been an easy year, but even in a pandemic, we have donors who continue to be generous and recipients that are worthy. We have all found something special in crisis and ways to face these challenges.

LIJSL Scholarship Recipients, never forget that you have overcome challenges in the past by being innovators and never quitting. Please surround yourself with positive influences and continue to be the positive influence that has led you to this moment. One mistake can change all of that. Life is not always fair, but you already know how to turn lemons into lemonade. You are all exceptional in your own right.

“You could not prevent a thunderstorm, but you could use the electricity; you could not direct the wind, but you could trim your sail so as to propel your vessel as you pleased, no matter which way the wind blew.” - Cora L. V. Hatch



Awards

Award	Recipient
Rocco Amoroso Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship	Luca Rienecker
Peter C. Collins Memorial Presidential Scholarship	Rory King
Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship	Nicole Jenal
Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship	Gregory Paul
Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship-Female Student Athlete	Sarah Santacroce
Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship	Michael Leandrou
Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship	Makayla Reardon
Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship	Kaylee Hoffman
Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship	Daniel Conigliaro
Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship	Halle Trahey
Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship	Tyler McElwee
John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship	Conor Andrews
Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship	Ross Gossett
Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship	Michael Koutsouras
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	Declan Griffin
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	Gaetano Parisi
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	Megan McIntosh
Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship	Matthew Power
Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship	Danielle DiTomasso
Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship	Emily Rosa-Figueiredo
Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship	Scott Thorley
LIJSL Merit Scholarship	Olivia Vinson
LIJSL Merit Scholarship	Leyla Kalmaz
Pat Grecco Scholarship	Abigail Landri
Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship	Matthew Jakubowsky
LIJSL TOPSoccer Scholarship	Timothy Cappitelli
George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship	Hannah Walz
George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship	Annalea Passeggiata

Rocco Amoroso

Memorial Sportsmanship 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



Rocco Amoroso
Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship
Recipient
Luca Rienecker

Luciano is a 2020 graduate of St. Anthony's High School, playing on the JV Soccer team. Luca has played for the Mount Sinai Bandits and Barca. Luca has been an active participant in St. Anthony's HS including; Independent Science Research Program, Franciscan Youth Ministry, Friar Faithful Community Club, St. Anthony's Leadership Team, Special Needs Ministry Club, Save Our Shelter, St. Anthony's Jazz Band, Peer Tutor, Ultimate Frisbee, and Chess Club to name some of his activities. Luca has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Rho Kappa History Honor Society, Math Honor Society and has participated in the Toshiba Explora Vision Research Project for 4 years.

Justin Krause, Port Jefferson EMS Academy program director wrote, "Luca was in my rapid two-month EMT course from June 2019 to August 2019. Being a rapid course, we typically see many students struggle to keep up with the pace of the course. For Luciano, this was not an issue. He not only consistently scored above average on all of his exams and quizzes, but also could consistently be found helping other students who were struggling. Beyond his academic performance, his personality is one that is infectious. His team player, 'go-getter', attitude is something that I consistently saw spread throughout the classroom. As his instructor, I knew I could rely on pairing Luca with some of the weaker students and ultimately by the end of the day those students would be greatly improved."

Nick Gordon, Mount Sinai SC wrote, "Through the many years that I've known Luca, he has matured into a very passionate competitor and equally compassionate athlete. He also, without fail, consistently and unselfishly puts the best interest of his team 1st. In my opinion, among teenage soccer players today, he is a rare individual; a young man that gives his all to win in every game but never fails to show respect to his teammates, his opponent and the officials."

In his essay, Luca wrote, "Since the age of five, I have spent more time on a soccer pitch than anywhere else. The ground rules of the game were simple and clear, if I wanted play time I needed to go the extra mile; push myself harder, put in extra hours. So, it is with this ingrained sense of determination that I enter into everything I do. With my eyes set on being a doctor, I became an EMT at 17 and finished top of my class during training. Moreover, a loss on the field is both a reminder that success is not guaranteed and that a failure is a great learning moment. Thanks to soccer, I understand that sportsmanship is a mark of good character. Whether I win or lose, I believe I walk off the field a champion every game if I play by the rules, play with integrity and show respect to everyone on the pitch. Remarkably, the game has taught me to have an open mind. I am receptive to new ideas and willing to integrate new styles of thought into my play and my life."

Luca is the recipient of the **Rocco Amoroso Sportsmanship Scholarship** and will continue his education at the **University of Rochester**.

In Luca's words:

"Since the day I could walk I have always lived by the phrase, "Life is not a spectator's sport". I ski in the winter, Scuba Dive in the summer, and play soccer in the fall/spring. My college I am attending is the University of Rochester. My major is Biochemistry. I will be playing college soccer."



Peter C. Collins

Memorial Presidential

Scholarship

Peter became LIJSL President in 1977 and stepped down from that position on January 1, 2004. Under Peter's inclusive leadership, significant achievements have occurred during Peter's leadership of our league.

Under Peter's leadership, the LIJSL quadrupled in size and now sports more than 1,500 teams. 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 currently known as the LI Cup .

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 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 other teams on a rotational basis during the past decade is another testament to Peter's tenacity.

LIJSL's 60,000 players might not know what Peter did as LIJSL President but know of him today because of the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park in Plainview, since a home playing facility for the LIJSL was part of his vision for the league. 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 Hall of Fame, and is a lifetime member of the United States Soccer Federation. The LIJSL Board of Directors changed the name to the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park on May 22, 2004 in honor of the legendary figure who had given his life for youth soccer.

Peter did a very rare thing indeed. He made us dream of all the possibilities when people work together for the good of the game.

Peter passed away December 2018 at the age of 87.



Peter C. Collins
Presidential Scholarship
Recipient
Rory King

Rory King is a 2020 graduate of W.C. Mepham High School, playing JV soccer for two years and Varsity for two years, clinching the County Championship and advancing to regional finalists for the first time in school history in his junior year. Rory was a member of LIJSL PDP from 2013-2018. Recognized as a Scholar Athlete, Rory was fully involved in Mepham with the Newspaper, Chess, Math Team, Athletes Helping Athletes and S.A.V.E. Rory was a member of a number of Honor Societies, including National, Science, English, History, and Math to name some.

AP Physics teacher, William Leacock wrote, "One of Rory's greatest assets is his ability to work with other people. It is an absolute pleasure teaching a student such as Rory. Rory is involved in so many activities that there are times I have to stop to wonder how he is able to find time to complete his school work. His most impressive activity is the service club he started at Mepham and his work to build schools for children in nations less fortunate. It is rare to find a student so giving of their time and talents. Rory never waited for opportunities to be handed to him, he would go out and search out those opportunities."

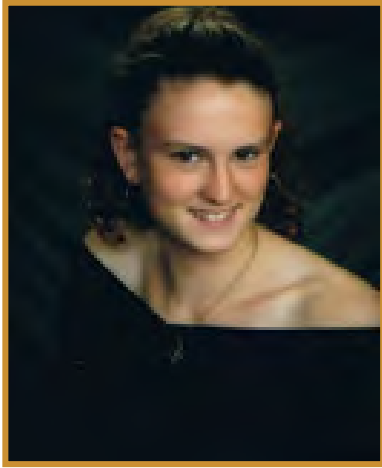
His Coach, Matt McElwee stated, "Out of a roster of 12 young boys, he is one of 4 members that is still playing currently for the Spring 2020 season. Rory has been an important member of the team. Every day, it is about soccer, schoolwork is important to him, but his love is soccer. He always has a ball at his feet and is always trying to improve his game. Rory could have easily played on higher level teams, but he always stayed because he was the ultimate team player"

In his essay, Rory wrote, "I have played soccer since I was 5 years old and it is safe to say it has made a huge impact on my life, providing me with the greatest memories. Scoring my first hat trick, going to England with my team, winning the Long Island Cup, and winning the county championship with my school, amongst many others, are some of the positive memories that soccer has given me which will stay with me forever. On nearly every team I have been part of, I have been much closer to being the slowest, weakest and shortest than the fastest, strongest, and tallest. Lacking in size and speed has forced me to build a work ethic that travels with me to the classroom, my technique and mental side of the game has done the most for me. By being steps ahead, I could move the ball and find spaces"

Rory is the recipient of the **Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship** and will be attending **Northeastern University**, studying Engineering.

In Rory's words:

"In terms of my future, I plan to be an engineer, hopefully working on revolutionary technology, and I intend to travel as much as I can. While I can't guarantee any of that, I can guarantee that I will still be an avid Liverpool F.C. supporter." Then, you will never walk alone, Rory!



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"**.



Brittney Walsh
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Nicole Jenal

Nicole Jenal is a 2020 graduate of Bethpage High School. Nicole played for the Bethpage High school soccer varsity team and has been a member of LIJSL PDP from 2016-2019 and the Hicksville Breakers from 2016-2020. She is a member of Honor Society and High Honor roll and also received the Nassau Zone Physical Education Award.

Nicole in her essay talked about overcoming scoliosis and her back brace. She had to wear a brace 20 hours a day but able to take it off for exercise and that meant when she played soccer. She said, “soccer helped me to build my confidence and be proud of how hard I have worked to get where I am. I was still wearing my back brace through my junior year of high school, but my team and I alike overcame these obstacles through teamwork and soccer. Soccer has taught me to work through these obstacles, not run away. It has made me confident in myself as well as accepting of others who are viewed as different at times, like myself, as my teammates did for me.”

Ms. Buran, Social Studies teacher said, Nicole has counseled elementary and middle school students about good sportsmanship and the dangers of drug use. She was chosen by her coaches and the Bethpage Athletic Director to attend the Student Athlete Leadership Conference in 2019. She said that “Nicole is hardworking and extremely conscientious. She has proven on a daily basis that she is committed to doing her best work at all times.”

Jillian Mulholland, Bethpage High School said, “Her determination coupled with an unrelenting attitude makes her a true role model and an embodiment of what it means to be a Bethpage Girls’ Varsity Soccer Player. “

Nicole is the recipient of the **Brittney Walsh Memorial Scholarship**, continuing her education and soccer career as a Golden Falcon at **Felician University**, majoring in criminal justice.

In Nicole’s words:

“To excel, you have to learn to be comfortable being uncomfortable.” -Rose Lavelle

I have used this quote from a role model in the past on and off the field and will continue it as I continue my academic and athletic career at Felician University.



Brittney Walsh

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Gregory Paul

Gregory is a 2020 Paul graduate from Mepham High School in Bellmore, playing JV and Varsity Soccer for four years and named All-Conference in his senior year. Greg has played for Bellmore Soccer Club, since the Fall of 2012. He has taken part in Future Business Leaders of America competitions, achieving 3rd and 4th place awards on the county level and a 4th place for Financial and Banking Systems, on the state level. Paul worked to raise money for the American Cancer and Alzheimer's Societies. He also spent time with younger students through Athletes Helping Athletes.

Mepham Soccer coach, Stilianos Fotinos, stated, "Sometimes leaders are only leaders because of the skill they possess on the soccer field. Gregory did not only lead by his skill, but also led by his positive tone and the calmness he brought to the other players... He is truly a class act and I wish I could have him around as an example for my younger players that I am developing. I want to show them what it looks like to be a perfect athlete, teammate, student, and most importantly, a good-hearted human being."

A Bellmore Ice coach said that Gregory, "although playing goalie for LIJSL's PDP program, was always willing to play any position in which his team needed him and worked with a new goalie to develop his confidence."

In his essay, Greg wrote, "Soccer was not my first sport. I was always very athletic and into sports. I tried baseball, golf, and bowling. The problem with these sports is that they were too slow for me. The first time I saw a soccer game, I knew I had to try it. My team needed a goalie so that's what I played...I wanted to learn more about the game and develop my skills. I decided to join the LIJSL PDP team, where I got exceptional goalie training...As a junior my school team was senior heavy with high aspirations. Playing time was scarce, yet I pushed myself every practice to get in the game. My coaches weren't fully aware of the goalie training I received, but my hard work and dedication earned me a chance to play goalie in the Long Island Championship game...Soccer became a big part of my life. It provides me with happiness, freedom, and a place to escape from everything and relax. Along the way, soccer has taught me valuable life lessons and helped develop my character which will carry over into the rest of my life."

Greg is a recipient of a **Brittney Walsh Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Alfred State College**.

In Greg's words:

"I will be attending Alfred State College on a full academic scholarship. I will major in financial planning. Although I am not planning on playing soccer there, I do plan on playing basketball there."



would like to thank the

Scholarship Committee

for their continued efforts and time



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 player.

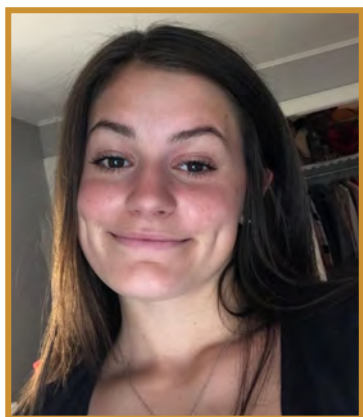
Married in 1960 to Richard (Dick to their soccer friends), they began their 54 years of married life in Deer Park, where they raised two boys, Richard Edward followed by Stephen five years later. Their home was a few blocks from a neighborhood park, with a baseball diamond and football field and a full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

In 1969, Saints Cyril and Methodius CYO held registration for the coming fall season and for the first time included soccer for young boys due to Jack's urging. Eileen wasn't fond of little league baseball or football, too much adult pressure and possible injury, so Eileen was curious about this other alternative for young Richard. That evening, Eileen and Dick met Jack and a few other coaches, George Beigler and Chris Halpin and shortly became good friends with a common goal – establish this sport at the youth level here in America. It became clear in short order that these well intentioned men needed lots of help and Eileen and Dick both jumped in on the organizational side, hook line and sinker. In the process, Eileen became an enthusiastic soccer mom, met so many new friends, and became a fixture and leader in the parish soccer program. Excellent with people and having the patience to deal with the growing pains, everyone knew and respected her for her fair and friendly way. Jack Maher's dream became a reality and in a few years with the help of many others, the Deer Park Celtics Soccer CYO was a well-funded, well coached and recognized successful intramural and travel team program. It 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 process, 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.



Eileen Frazita Female Student Athlete

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Sarah Santacroce

Sarah is a 2020 graduate of Mattituck Jr./Sr. High School, a four-year varsity soccer player, recognized as All-Conference (2017), All-County Goalkeeper (2018), All-County Center Defense (2019) and Named Top 100 High School Soccer Players in Newsday. Sarah has most recently played for Center Moriches Soccer Club Hot Shots. Additionally, Sarah has played basketball and was recognized as a Track All-League discus thrower. She has been awarded a Silver Award for Girl Scouts. Sarah has volunteered for the Cutchogue Fire Department Annual BBQ, Maureen's Haven Shelter Foundation, Ronald McDonald House and an animal shelter.

Chris Golden, Mattituck Varsity Coach wrote, "Having been an educator and coach for over thirty years, I have gotten to know numerous students. Many are easily grouped together and categorized as academic achievers, overly personable or athletic standouts. However, it's those few students that possess intangible inner traits and qualities that separate Sarah from her peers. A two-year captain, Sarah is universally respected by her teammates and coaches for the manner in which she prepares for practice and contests physically, mentally and emotionally. During last season's Suffolk County Class "B" champion game, Sarah saved four of seven penalty kicks. Without Sarah's heroic effort, the team would not have been champions"

In her essay, Sarah wrote, "This game has gotten me through everything. It has gotten me through bullying, my sister's hospitalizations, academic difficulties, and much more. Soccer has been a friend when I thought I had none, it was there for me when I thought no one else was. Soccer was my out, soccer was how I released my frustration and pent up energy. The game has made me a happy kid and it has shaped me into the person I am today. I am passionate, dependable, dedicated, and unselfish: these are the traits I learned on the field and these are the traits that translated over to my life. Soccer has brought into my life some of my best friends and role models. This past summer I was granted an internship at a local Hospital's ER. I relied on my experiences as a goalkeeper, in which you have to stand ready for minutes upon minutes without any action, and then suddenly respond to a threat on goal. After some self-reflecting I realized that what I have been doing for so long uses the same formula as an ER nurse: from mundane to emergency."

Dr. Lawrence Schiff, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, "Sarah seemed to exhibit a specific aptitude towards medicine. She actively participated in our daily teaching sessions, where she would teach the group a new medical fact every day. She had an excellent rapport with the Emergency Department nurses, techs, volunteers and even other patients-all of whom she always greeted with her naturally infectious smile. She was a true patient advocate and her tireless efforts have not escaped my eye."

Sarah is the recipient of the **Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship for a Female Student Athlete** and will continue her education at **Sacred Heart University**.

In Sarah's words:

"I am sporty, spunky and I love the beach. After High School, I plan to attend Sacred Heart University as a Nursing major and play on the club soccer team. Later in life I would love to coach a soccer team on the side while working as an ER Nurse. Something people may not know about me is that I love to go to the ocean, I love fashion, and I love to draw and craft"



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, and Social Activities Director. 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



Jerry Marinan
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Michael Leandrou

Michael is a 2020 graduate of Oyster Bay High School, a member of the OBHS Varsity soccer team for three years and an All-State Wrestler. Michael has been a member of the Oyster Bay East Norwich Soccer Club for ten years. Michael was a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society (serving as Secretary), Model U.N., G.O.Y.A., and founder of Health Club. Michael was recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction, OB HS Physical Education Excellency, National Wrestling Hall of Fame Wrestling Takes Down Drugs Award, Century Challenge Completion Award and Foreign Language Honors in Greek. Michael has served as an Altar Boy at Church of the Holy Resurrection as well as a pantry volunteer.

OBEN Soccer Club President, Stella Leandrou wrote, “Michael is a strong soccer player that loves the game, his team and his community...He volunteers to assist as an intramural coach once a weekday and on Saturday...Michael also tries to bring other travel players to help and coach. As we do not have paid coaches for intramural, Michael’s support is vital to our program...Our club relies on him to get to the fields and make sure they are ready for the weekend. He also helps with keeping the equipment shed stocked and alerts us for reordering materials. But my proudest moments are during our fundraiser, Oysterfest Weekend. We have five food booths and they are our only source of financial assistance for our scholarship players...Michael has been a consistent volunteer for the last six years. He helps get the booths ready and then works from 8am to 8pm for the three days and then helps break them down. I know that he could be out on the rides and enjoying himself, but with limited volunteers, we rely on the same people year after year.”

Richard Regino, OBEN SC All Stars coach stated, “Coming from a small community like Oyster Bay, to keep a team fielded is no small feat. A vital part of that is Michael’s commitment to his team and his motivation to keep the team united and playing.”

In Michael’s essay, he wrote, “My papou was the founder of the Eleftheria Soccer Club in Astoria, NY. My dad became my coach of my team from the moment I started playing intramurals in Oyster Bay. He not only coached my team, but my sister’s team and my brother’s team. But my mom’s role in OB Soccer really influenced the volunteer aspect within all of us. Soccer has built my character in many ways, but one that I really appreciate is believing in myself with everything I do, not only soccer. I learned that I didn’t always have to be perfect, and it wasn’t the end of the world if a player was faster than me or more skillful. I just had to be able to think fast and learn how to get around the problem.”

Michael is the recipient of the **Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **American University** and wrestling!

In Michaels words:

“ I want to thank you for your dedication and hard work to recognize all us seniors this year, greatly appreciated! My quote and mantra is: “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard” At American University, I am pursuing a Justice and Law degree from the School of International Service and hope to work in government agencies such as the Department of Defense or Justice and US Department of State”



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.



Carolyn Page
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Makayla Reardon

Makayla Reardon is a 2020 graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, playing soccer for four years at Sacred Heart Academy, receiving the MVP Award from the Nassau Suffolk Catholic High School Athletic Association. Makayla has played for Mineola Honey Badgers for 8 years.

Annmarie Manasseri, St. Peter of Alcantara Church and School wrote, “I have known Makayla for over six years and am delighted to serve as her mentor for the St. Rita St. John special needs religion class at St. Peter of Alcantara Church and School in Port Washington. Our program works with students who have varied learning styles and face many challenges including Autism and Down Syndrome, as well as speech and language delays-some of whom are non-verbal...She continues to work 1:1 with our special students while modeling to the younger volunteers the skills and forbearance needed in a program like ours. She is responsible, compassionate, and well-loved by all of our students, parents and volunteers.”

Ryan Faley, Mineola Honey Badgers coach stated, “My nickname for her is Mack for two reasons. First, it’s easier than yelling Makayla on the field. The second and most important is that she’s a Mack truck on that field, both to her opponents and her teammates...She has an amazing future ahead of her...”

In her essay, Makayla wrote, “ Growing up, school was pure torture for me because of my learning disabilities. I was the kid that sat in the back with her head down praying that I wouldn’t get called on. Soccer helped me through these hard times. When I was in fourth grade, I made Port Washington’s A team, the Sandstorms. The coaches and trainers changed my entire outlook on life and the game. My trainer pushed me so hard to become an amazing soccer player, but his lessons were not just about the game. I used to hate when he called me out in front of the team if I made a mistake, but he was teaching me how to handle criticism. Something he told me that I will never forget is, ‘the day I stop yelling your name is the day you need to worry about. It means that I’m not invested in you. I yell at you McAllister because I know you can be a great player and an even stronger person.’ My trainer taught my team how to be good, confident and caring people both on and off the pitch.”

Makayla is the recipient of the **Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending the **Fairfield University**, pursuing a degree in Finance.

In Makayla’s words:

“This upcoming fall I will be attending The Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University as a finance major. After college I hope to become a financial advisor. Unfortunately, I will not be continuing my soccer career as a member of Fairfield’s varsity team I hope to play club. Although my soccer career might end at Fairfield my rowing career is beginning. I was asked to be a walk on member of the Fairfield Women’s rowing team.”

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.



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

Scholarship

Recipient

Kaylee Hoffman



Kaylee is a 2020 graduate of St. Anthony's High School, playing Soccer for St. Anthony's for one year and a member of the East Islip Surge since 2014. Kaylee has volunteered with East Islip SC Just for Kicks, a program to build team, soccer, and relationship skills for children on the Autism spectrum. Additionally she volunteered at St. Anthony's Challenger Camp, bringing summer camp sports to individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. Kaylee has an SAT score of 1280.

Br. Michael Sullivan, School Counselor wrote, "She is an incredible and upbeat personality that is infectious to all who come in contact with her. This is a testament to her loving and supportive family who Kaylee is quick to explain as an inspiration success. Kaylee is indeed a success, from her stellar Honors and AP academic track, to her athleticism on the soccer field, to her extracurricular Faith activities in helping the poor and being a leader to the younger classes in faith formation leader."

East Islip SC coach, Dominic Furci, who has coached Kaylee for 6 years wrote, "I have witnessed Kaylee demonstrate leadership qualities in many forms. As a player, she is always willing to do whatever her coaches ask. She is the first player to arrive to practice and the last to leave. She is a fierce competitor but also shows ultimate sportsmanship, showing respect to her teammates, coaches, referees, and opponents alike."

In her essay Kaylee wrote, "When I was in eight grade, I faced adversity that challenged my ability to play anymore. I was diagnosed with a heart condition called Ectopic Atrial Tachycardia. It was Mother's Day, and I came home elated after finishing a game, scoring the game winning goal. I should have been on top of the world, but my heart felt like it was beating out of my chest and I was dizzy. After several doctor's appointments and many tests...I was put on medication, my activity was limited and I was closely monitored. Slowly I was able to ease back into practices, back to the sport I loved. This scare proved to me that while I am not invincible, I am strong and that I could do whatever I set my mind to...I often call the Surge a 'second family'...I thank the game I keep so close to my heart for teaching me how to push through the most trying times."

Kaylee is the recipient of the **Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship** and will continue her education at the **University of Georgia**.

In Kaylee's words:

"I am super excited to continue my education at the University of Georgia, my dream school, where I will study Animal Health. Ever since I was a little girl my two favorite things were dogs and soccer. Now, I get to further develop my love for animals and make a career out of it! I also hope to join the club soccer team at UGA to keep my soccer career going at a different level!"



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, 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.



Sean Urda

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Daniel Conigliaro

Danny Conigliaro is a 2020 graduate of General Douglas MacArthur High School, playing Varsity soccer for four years, captain in his junior and senior years. Danny was named All-Conference and All-County. Danny has played for the Levittown Gunners and has been a 5-year member of the ENY ODP Team. Danny was a member of National Honor Society, Business Honor Society and World Language Honor Society. Danny was a Gold Renaissance Member, Peer Leader, a member of Key Club, Athletes Being Charitable Club, and Science Olympiad.

Nicole Dawson, MacArthur HS Spanish teacher wrote, “Daniel’s dedication does not only apply to his academics. Additionally, he has demonstrated his leadership skills by helping others to see their full potential. Aside from everything he does in school, Daniel positively impacts the lives of others around him, he even spearheaded fundraising efforts for childhood cancer throughout the district.”

MacArthur Varsity Soccer Coach, Andy Atkins stated, “He was a two-year captain of the varsity soccer team, a scholar athlete with a 93.2 average, ran track, and played basketball for the MacArthur Generals. Danny was one of our leaders on and off the field. He was a valuable role model for the younger players on our team. Danny has earned All-State, All-Long Island, All-County (3 times) and was named the 2019 A1 Conference player of the year. While this is impressive by itself, it is not what impressed me most about this young man. I could list all the things Danny is able to do athletically. However, his work ethic and attitude are what really defines him. He is one of those very rare individuals that have a refuse to lose attitude...”

In his essay, Danny wrote, “I have been able to play in many competitive games, travel to many states, and play in Barcelona, Spain, representing USA in the Gatorade Global 5v5. How you act will define you.”

I played with my best friend as we moved through our soccer paths. My friend Lorenzo Fernandez was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 10. It was devastating news, not only for me, but the soccer community. Lorenzo took this tragic news as a challenge and continued to come to training. I had admired his strength, courage, and positive attitude, saying he would return to the soccer field. Unfortunately, he passed away at the age of 12. This was a hard life lesson for me and still lingers. His fight and courage gave me the inspiration to be a better person. I honor him on the field by wearing an armband in his memory. It is a tribute to him but reminds me about how easy we can get caught up in life.”

Danny is the recipient of the **Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Adelphi University**, continuing his education and soccer career.

In Danny’s words:

“I have always been interested in history which lead me to my major in education. Soccer has always been a passion of mine and has been in my DNA since I was 4 years old. LIJSL has been a major part of my life and I am grateful for that which has taught me many life lessons.”



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-American 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 in our heart and massive in our minds forever.



Frank Gorman
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Halle Trahey

Halle is a 2020 graduate of East Islip High School. She was a three- year member of the varsity team and voted Captain her Senior year. Halle was recognized as All-League in her junior and senior years. She has been a member of the East Islip Lightning for six years. Halle also participated in Varsity Track and participated at the Penn Relays. She was recognized as All-League and All-Division. Halle was a member of the National Honor Society and Foreign Language Honor Society. Halle has participated in NYSSMA, SCMEA, Tri-M Music Honors Society, and Honors Choir.

Kimm Schwarz, East Islip HS Girls Leaders Club Advisor said, “ Halle does not give into the typical pressures associated with high school, and therefore was able to remain clear headed, morally, and ethically driven. Halle feels strongly about issues that pertain to responsibility and compassion towards others. She is without a doubt one of those students/people whom you would hope others would follow, not only in the classroom, but out in the ‘real world’, where it really matters!”

In her essay, Halle wrote that as a 4 year old, she had “lots of energy” and was enrolled in East Islip Soccer. She went through some tough times trying to find her place with some teammates but finally found the right fit. New friends, a coach who believed in her, and a team that worked together like a family and could do good for the community. Soccer taught her a sense of community and volunteerism. Her skills and knowledge of the game improved immensely. Her last game, her coach pulled her aside with tears in his eyes saying “I told you that you would make it. I cannot wait to see where you end up.”

She carried that with her all these years as she ended up on her third and final team. He fostered not only my capabilities, but team spirit and good sportsmanship, earning junior and varsity girls' soccer captain status.

Andre Dattero, Head Coach of the East Islip Lightning wrote, “She is a self-motivated student, open to new ideas and learning experiences. Halle excels in challenging situations and she accepts full responsibility for all her obligations and takes a great deal of pride in her work. She brings great enthusiasm and inspiration into the classroom and is admired by her peers for her academic diligence and leadership qualities.”

Halle is the recipient of the **Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Molloy College** in the Fall.

Halle shared:

“I am going to Molloy College for Music Therapy. I am excited to see what the future holds and to use the dedication I had for soccer, in every aspect of my life. Thank you so much!”



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 Waldbaum'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.



Michael Secko

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Tyler McElwee

Tyler is a 2020 graduate of Mepham High School in Bellmore with a 98 grade point average. Besides living in a Soccer home since his birth, he has been involved in many other community activities: St. Baldrick's Day, Stepping Stone Day School for children with special needs, Bellmore PAL Lacrosse Clinic, Bellmore PAL Soccer referee, and a peer model for the School Leadership Program.

One of Tyler's coaches, Brendan Murphy wrote, "Tyler constantly gave it his all, whether it was in practice or the game, Tyler never quit and kept the same demeanor whether we were winning by a lot or losing, he never complained. Tyler exemplifies what it means to be a good student athlete as well as a great teammate."

Coach Adam Gossett said, "Tyler was always very unselfish and helpful to his teammates. He never talked down to his teammates but lifted them up during mistakes and miscues. Tyler is compassionate, hard-working and diligent with the qualities of honesty, integrity, and citizenship."

In his essay, Tyler stated: "My Coach for most of my playing career in soccer has been my dad. I remember going to some of his practices when he was coaching those guys since they were little. That's crazy to think about how there are people who are in their late 20's and early 30s that were coached by the same person as I was, and it was my dad, it was fun to watch how they all looked up to him and listened to everything he said. To my little kid's eye, he was the first thing I thought of when thinking of a coach. I believe that what I have learned most from soccer and my Coach, is that when you have fun doing something with people who appreciate you, the score doesn't matter, you will always win. I hope to apply this idea to my future career."

Tyler is the recipient of the **Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at **SUNY Oneonta**.

In Tyler's words:

"I will be attending Oneonta in the Fall and plan to study Biology. I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease when I was twelve and began weekly injections and chemo infusions every 8 weeks since that time. Not my fun fact, but it has guided me towards my major since I would like to become a medical researcher and hopefully keep another little kid from going through what I have. Now my fun fact....I am an artist. I have taken art classes every year since middle school and just completed AP ART in high school. Most of my drawings have a "sports" theme; cleats, soccer balls, lacrosse sticks, etc. I attached a pencil drawing for you to see. This way I am able to combine the two things I really enjoy."





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.



John R. Pinezich

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Conor Andrews

Conor is a 2020 graduate of Sanford H. Calhoun High School, playing JV and Varsity soccer and serving as captain in his senior year. Conor was selected as All-Conference in his junior year and a Top 100 Soccer Players to Watch on Long Island. Conor has played for Bellmore Ice for the past four years. In addition, Conor has played JV and Varsity Lacrosse, he was selected captain in his senior year. Conor was a member of the National Honor Society, English Honor Society, and World Language Honor Society. He was also a member of Athletes Helping Athletes, Model United Nations, and volunteered for Agents of Change in Far Rockaway.

Ricky Posner, Calhoun HS School Counselor wrote, "If you asked who the face of Calhoun is, the majority of our staff would say Conor; he represents the many qualities that we hope high school students can accomplish while in their teen years. His pride in his school and his school spirit is through the roof. He has a gift in being able to seamlessly balance being a scholar athlete and play it is clear why he is a starting varsity member. He possesses some of the finest leadership skills, determination, and extraordinary work ethic I have ever seen."

Bellmore soccer coach, Matt McElwee wrote, "Conor is the type of person on the field that never complains about anything, his love or the game rubs off on his teammates. It does not matter what the score of the game might be, this kid does not quit. I am so glad that I had the privilege to coach him when he was young and for the past 3 ½ years with the Bellmore Ice. In my opinion, in all my years of coaching, Conor Andrews will be a player that I will not forget, not because he was the best player, but because of the type of person he is. I hope the best for Conor in the future."

In his essay, Conor wrote, "Striving to be a better player and man the game has shaped me into is what my love for the game has really been about. What I've cherished most about my time with the game of soccer is the relationships that I've made. I will constantly run into old teammates of mine at tournaments and other soccer related events. Soccer has introduced me to teammates and eventual close friends. To this day, I am congratulating some of my oldest soccer buddies on their commitment to pursue soccer at the collegiate level. I have met coaches who have introduced me to various volunteer opportunities. One of my best friends who I've met through soccer has the potential of being my college roommate next year. I wouldn't exchange the relationships and bonds I've made through the game of soccer for the world."

Conor is the recipient of the **John R. Pinezich Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at **The Ohio University**.

In Conor's words:

"I feel it is always important to make others feel good because when you do that, it makes yourself feel just as good seeing the smile on their face. I will be studying Accounting at The Ohio State University in the fall. I love going to the beach and playing spikeball with my friends."



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

(June 26, 1990 - July 20, 2009)

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.



Matthew Scarpati

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Ross Gossett

Ross is a 2020 graduate of Bellmore John F. Kennedy High School, playing JV and Varsity Soccer, as well as competing in Outdoor and Indoor Track. Ross has competed in Tennis as well. Ross has played for the Bellmore Ice, as one of the original members in 2011, and the Bellmore Fire. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

Ari Bisk, soccer coach at Bellmore Kennedy HS wrote, “On the field, Ross has been a valuable member of our program. He is an extremely dedicated individual demonstrated by his commitment to be at every practice and in our off-season winter and summer workouts. Ross has a fantastic work ethic, always giving it his all from the first whistle to the last. As a senior, Ross led by example as he consistently demonstrated sportsmanship and acted as a role model for the younger players. Additionally, he earned this year’s ‘Cougar Award’ for his outstanding leadership, work ethic and commitment to the program. Ross is even more impressive off the field. He carries himself in a mature and responsible manner.”

In his essay, Ross wrote, “My passion for soccer began when I was three years old, and while I played most sports at one time or another, soccer just always felt right to me. I became an avid competitor, but an even more fierce spectator and fan...I literally developed an encyclopedic knowledge of the sport. I became a sponge, always wanting to understand more...I evaluate players and opponents, follow their stats and study their history and accomplishments...I tune in for preseason, season, Champions league, and basically every professional game possible. With mathematical precision, I track how much a player costs and their weekly salary, analyzing whether it’s a good investment for the team overall...My passion for soccer has exposed me to places and opportunities that once seemed out of reach. The most memorable experience of my life was watching my favorite team, Arsenal, play in London. I’ve trained at Manchester City facilities and played tournaments around the country—a product of my work and sacrifice. When a challenge presents itself, my passion is what enables me to rise up and meet it.”

Ross is the recipient of the **Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at the **University of Maryland**, College Park.

In Ross’s words:

“A fun fact about me is that my whole life ever since I was 2, I’ve gone to the same summer camp which is named South Shore Day Camp. I was a camper then a counselor and now I am going to become a group leader this year. In college I am attending the University of Maryland, College Park, and am majoring in criminal justice criminology. At Maryland I will be playing club soccer. “



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. He 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.



Michael B. Scarpati
Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship
Recipient
Michael Koutsouras

Michael is a 2020 graduate of New Hyde Park Memorial High School, playing soccer for his Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer teams for 4 years and a member of the Lynbrook/East Rockaway Sting. Michael was voted to participate in the Nassau-Suffolk All-Star game, nominated for the All-State soccer team, and Named Conference Defensive Player of the Year (2019). As a member of GOYA, Michael participated in the preparation of the midnight run. Michael is fluent in Greek and conversational in Italian.

NHPMHS Counselor, Michele Kitson wrote, “He is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America Club and National Business Honor Society. He is a three sport athlete, participating on our school’s soccer, basketball and lacrosse programs. His main contributions are to the Varsity Soccer team, where he holds the captain position. Outside of School, Michael is an active member of his church’s Greek Orthodox Youth Association and has volunteered in the food/beverage booths at the festival of the Cathedral of Saint Paul.”

James O’Connell, Head Coach, Lynbrook/East Rockaway Sting wrote, “When you meet Michael in person, his physical traits are undeniable, 6’5” with a great athletic frame, but when you combine that with who he is as a person, you can easily see why he is a Division 1 recruit. Michael is an outstanding communicator and that trait has served him well as essentially our last defender. Our team has continued to play at the highest levels — Eastern Regional League and USYS National League, Michael is a big part of that success. Michael has worked extremely hard individually to make himself one of the best goalies on Long Island. Additionally, Michael has been a consistent and dependable volunteer when our team volunteers each season at our Club’s Intramural Program, willing to share his knowledge and love of soccer with the younger players in our Club.”

Michael is the recipient of the **Michael B. Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship** and will attend **Farleigh Dickinson University**, majoring in finance.

Michael shared:

“Thank you again for choosing me to receive this scholarship.”

Miles for Matt Foundation



The Miles for Matt Foundation was founded after Matt Scarpato, 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.....



Miles for Matt Foundation

Scholarship

Recipient

Declan Griffin

Declan Griffin is a 2020 graduate of New Hyde Park Memorial High School, playing Varsity soccer for four years, captain in his senior year. Declan was named All County and a Scholar Athlete in his senior year. Declan has played for the New Hyde Wildcats since 2010. Declan has been a member of the Varsity Track team since his freshman year, Captain in his senior year. Declan was a member of National Honor Society and World Language Honor Society. Declan has been a member and officer of Model United Nations, Class of 2020 Historian, cellist in the orchestra, writer and sports editor for The Chariot and Key Club to name a few of his commitments.

English teacher, Mary Kay Mannle wrote, "I have been recruiting Declan for a Chariot staff position since his freshman year. His friends and I were able to convince him to write for the paper and his submissions (and interest) have increased since then. I soon realized how challenging it has been for him to take on this new responsibility because of his other passions and commitments. Declan is a three-season varsity athlete, participating in soccer and both winter and spring track. He also referees club soccer games and works with kids with disabilities through New Hyde Park TOPSoccer program. His ability to manage all of this, plus school clubs and orchestra, make him a standout among his peers."

His New Hyde Park Varsity Coach, Daniel Cinelli stated, "Over the past 3 years we have seen the program transform from a 0-10-2 team to an undefeated 10-0-4 team (The First in New Hyde Park History 2019)! With three playoff appearances and one playoff win in that time span, our Center Back, Captain, and All-Nassau County Team Member, Declan Griffin, has been instrumental in our programs success, as well as helping each team over those 3 years to transform, grow, and become stronger on and off the field. Declan showed the qualities of one who will set the bar for the other players. As our center back, he played all 80 minutes of all 14 games this season, in which the team recorded 10 shutouts in the 14 games with him leading our defense...His dedication to his sports and academics speak clearly for themselves and I could not have been prouder as a coach and a father to watch him grow into the young man he has in the 4 years I have known him. "

In his essay, Declan wrote, "As my soccer skills and understanding have grown, my personality has mirrored such development. As I have matured on the field, my soccer experiences certainly reflect my own personality-vigorous work ethic, self-control, accountability, agility and perception, I could not imagine who I would be today without soccer molding much of who I am."

Declan is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will be attending **Susquehanna University**, studying Secondary Education.

In Declan's words:

"I love spending time with my family as I am the second of four children. I plan to study to become a High School teacher at Susquehanna University while running in Track and Field."



Miles for Matt Foundation

Scholarship

Recipient

Gaetano Parisi

Gaetano is a 2020 graduate of Mepham High School, playing JV Soccer in his freshman year and three years on Varsity. Gaetano was selected as team captain, named All-Conference (2018) and All-County (2019). Gaetano has been a member of Bellmore Ice since 2012. He has also participated in ENY ODP Soccer and two years in LIJSL PDP program. Gaetano has been a LIJSL assistant referee since he was 13. In addition to soccer, Gaetano played Lacrosse and Wrestling. He was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Varsity Soccer Coach's Award. He was involved with many charitable programs including Bellmore Merrick Community Cupboard, Leo's Club, Mepham Field Flag of Honor, Adopt a Family, and Adopt a Veteran.

Zackary Goose, Mepham Varsity Soccer Coach said, "Gaetano was part of the 2018 Nassau County Class A Championship side, Mepham High School's first county title in history. Gaetano's greatest attribute is his natural ability to motivate and guide his teammates, especially the younger players, both by example and devoted conversation."

Anthony Iannucci, a Construction Trades Instructor wrote, "Gaetano is a hard worker, eager not only to complete a task, but to do it well. He is a great student and has a work ethic that is unmatched by any other. I believe that his soccer career is the source of his mentality. His dedication to perfection, and a commitment to teamwork that cannot be taught in a classroom are values that make him such a wonderful student. If there was a team captain in my class, it would be Gaetano Parisi."

In his essay, Gaetano wrote, "My character was truly developed through soccer, through the coaches who taught me, the teammates I bonded with, the opponents that challenged me, and the referees who guided me through the game. A sport that has always inspired me to be the best person I can be on and off the field."

Gaetano is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Roger Williams University**.

Gaetano shared:

"I am very honored to receive this scholarship. Besides my soccer career I have recently started to pursue the next chapter in my life within construction. Over the past year, I enrolled in Barry Tech where I built a bathroom from the foundation up and learned valuable trade skills that most teenagers don't have. This was only the first step for my future career. Since I was a top student in my class my teacher offered me a job this summer for his framing company. Every day, I am on a residential construction site framing high end houses and reading plans. This hands-on experience is setting me up for success as I will be attending Roger Williams University to study Construction Management. This major will teach me how to coordinate a job site and make sure the project stays within the time frame, while also learning material types and the engineering side. This scholarship will help me further educate myself in a field that I am truly passionate about, a passion that I only felt before while playing soccer."



Miles for Matt Foundation

Scholarship

Recipient

Megan McIntosh

Megan is a 2020 graduate of Riverhead High School. She was a 5-year member of the Riverhead High School Varsity Girls Team and played for the Center Moriches Hot Shots. In her last year, she received All-County and MVP at Riverhead H.S. and was Captain. She was the first girl ever to receive the accolade of All-County for soccer in her High School. Megan has been recognized by HMEA(viola) and SCMEA(viola).

Megan was an active participant in both JV and Varsity soccer, basketball, and lacrosse, earning the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Awards for all three sports. She had numerous honors in soccer as an All-League, All-Conference and All-Division player. She was also in the National Honor Society, the Foreign Language Honor Society, Key Club, Chamber Orchestra, and Athletes helping Athletes club. Also, Megan volunteers with the fire department while holding a part-time job as a lifeguard at Splish Splash Water Park.

Robert Maccone, one of her teachers wrote, "Megan volunteers her time, working with the fire department. Megan also works at Splish Splash Water Park and at Riverhead Town Recreation department helping at soccer clinics. Her involvement in sports, volunteer work, and academic schedule have placed demands on her time, yet Megan has strived to honor all of her commitments, both in and out of the classroom. She is well respected by all, as she should be, for her many accomplishments". She is ranked at the top 20% of her graduating class.

In her essay, Megan wrote, "Playing soccer on the high school level was a very challenging feat. As a club player, the level of skill was so much higher, and the level of play was so advanced. I was not used to individuals not knowing how to pass and receive the ball...My mother told me that this period of time would be the best when you look back from high school because it allowed me to grow and accept failure. It also allowed me to have lifelong friendships of laughter and joy."

Megan is the recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will be attending **Molloy College**, Majoring in Education (Math Teacher), while playing Soccer.

In Megan's words:

"I will be playing NCAA Division II Soccer for the Molloy Lions. In addition to my resume, I recently received an Outstanding Achievement Award in Scholastic, Statistics - Outstanding Student of the Year Award and Core Base Training (physical education) Student of the Year from my High School. I was also presented with a Gold Key Award from the Section XI New York State Public High School Athletic Association. I am a determined and conscientious student who is grateful for all my Blessings. I love to play the Viola and workout at the gym."



Addie Mattei-Iaia

Presidential Scholarship

In 29 years of dedicating herself to youth soccer on Long Island, Addie Mattei-Iaia 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, Scholarship Program, 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.



Addie Mattei-Iaia
Presidential Scholarship
Recipient
Matthew Power

Matthew is a 2020 graduate of Northport High School, receiving an Advanced Regents Diploma. Matt has played with the Northport Cow Harbor Wolverines since U9 and was team captain. Matt was a member of Northport High School Track and Field beginning in his freshman year. Matt was a member of the National Honor Society, Business Honor Society (serving as Vice President), Rotary Youth Leadership Association, D.E.C.A., Academy of Finance to name a few of his school commitments.

Assistant Coach, Jack Kelly wrote, "His work ethic on the soccer field is what every coach looks for in a player. He consistently puts forth great effort and is looked upon as a team leader. He has tremendous knowledge of the game which he uses to his advantage in play, in strategy discussions with the coaches, and also in his job as a soccer referee."

In his essay, Matt wrote, "I played on one team my whole life. I should mention that I exist with the double-edged sword of having my father as a coach and now Club President. It's a tough role to be the coach's son and not easily understandable if you have never been one. Part of that reason is having to lead by example and not being able to goof off with the team. It also meant that I had to prove myself on the field so nobody could say I was playing because of my dad. Those are hard things, but when I look back and read them now, it has been a lot of fun having my dad be there for my entire soccer career. The small moments of talking about possible lineups or new formations before the game was something I loved doing. Having a role model to look up to like my dad is a great privilege. This game has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I could not have wished for a better sport to turn me into the person I am today."

Matthew is the recipient of the **Addie Matei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**, he intends to major in business.

In Matthew's words:

"I have played in LIJSL since second grade and in 8th grade I began to officiate within the league. I became a center official last year and have been working with LISRA and LIJSL ever since."



Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship

David and Bobbie Marks were philanthropists, whose planning enabled them to be generous to such organizations as hospitals, the United Jewish Appeal and the Anti-Defamation League, as well as The Long Island Junior Soccer League. The Harold children inspired this scholarship award and the benefits to soccer became apparent. This generous support helps Long Island Junior Soccer League continue the work of the Scholarship Program and supports promising young men and women.

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 were supporters 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 and David were avid sports fans. They loved to watch ice skating, tennis, golf and soccer.

When their grandchildren started to play soccer in the LIJSL, they were happy to hear about their games. As they became older and better players, The Mark's started to learn how the game could really help young people grow into responsible young men and women. Soccer helped their granddaughter get a scholarship to a great university.

Bobbie and David loved coming to the annual LIJSL convention, where they learned of all the activities going on within the league. They realized they wanted to contribute something to the lives of the young people involved in soccer, as these student-athletes started their journey to becoming capable and responsible adults. Their caring for others continues to support young adults that they have never met.



Bobbie and David Marks
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Danielle DiTomasso

Danielle DiTomasso is a 2020 graduate of Plainedge High School. She has been the goalkeeper of the Wantagh-Seaford Blue Blaze for the past five years. She was on the Plainedge High School Junior Varsity soccer team in 9th grade.

William Bertolli, Plainedge Research Advisor said, "I have yet to meet a student who accomplished so much and who set the bar so high for my students as Danielle. With Danielle, it has been an exceptional rarity to see a student who naturally melded determination, poise, and an unflappable professionalism during the intensity of our research program."

Danielle in her essay says that, "Circumstances that are handed to us are completely out of our control, and what matters is not the effect they have on us, but rather, how we respond ultimately counts. Being a member of a soccer team has taught me this lesson ever since I was a young girl, and every game I play instills this lesson within me. Soccer has done more than just give me an outlet to socialize, or a way to stay in-shape. Being a part of a soccer team has built character in a way that no other person or teacher ever could."

Robert Amato, coach of Wantagh/Seaford Blue Blaze said, "Danielle is not only a good leader, but as the team goalie, she has also proven her skill as a good team player. Danielle has shown that her teammates are just as important to her as her goal is and has never put winning before the well-being of any of her teammates."

Danielle is the recipient of a **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, majoring in Information Technology.

In Danielle's words:

"It is truly an honor, and I am beyond grateful to have been selected! I will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for the 2020-2021 school year. Furthermore, I am considering playing club soccer with RPI for my freshman year. Additionally, a fun fact about myself is that I often paint and draw in my free time, and charcoal is my favorite medium to use. Thank you so much again."



Bobbie and David Marks

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Emily Rosa-Figueiredo

Emily is a 2020 graduate of St. John the Baptist Diocesan HS, playing JV and Varsity Soccer for four years. Emily played for the Hauppauge Blue Crush and previously played for the Hauppauge Stars. Emily was a member of the National Honors Society, was a blood donor at the New York Blood Center and a retreat leader for St. John the Baptist DHS Campus Ministry. Emily has been a volunteer at Kiddie Academy of East Setauket and scored a 1320 on her SAT's.

Dean Fitrakis, Head Coach of Hauppauge Crush wrote, "Emily has grown into an excellent leader on her soccer team and in her daily life. She continues to demonstrate how hard work pays off. Her positive attitude and commitment in practice has provided her with numerous opportunities for herself on and off the field. Always willing to learn from others, she has proven that being student who is dedicated and committed, positive results shall come about."

Director of HSL Coaching, Gennaro Iamunno wrote, "Emily is an outstanding teammate, athlete and individual who supports others on and off the field. She was a pleasure to have on a team, and her positive attitude and belief in herself, even in the face of difficulty, is an immensely admirable asset. I am confident that she will continue to demonstrate the same diligence, perseverance, and optimism that she showed myself and her peers."

In her essay Emily wrote, "As a central defender, it is my job to stop the opposing team from getting past me and having a chance to score...I vividly remember a girl from an opposing team running down the field towards my goal...The only thing on my mind was getting the ball. I legally slide-tackled the other player, winning the ball back for my team. My team was cheering for me. I felt like I was on top of the world, until I heard the comment that shook me to my core. 'Gang member,' she said as she ran away from me in anger. My heart sank...Then, my coach came storming onto the field screaming at the top of his lungs to both the referee and the girl who made the comment. In a hazy frustration he said to the ref, 'You're going to let someone say that!' Continuing on, he looked at the girl and yelled, 'Everyone is welcome on my field and in this sport, and you do not get to decide otherwise.' His furious words have shaped my definition of who I wanted to be. The way he made me feel safe is something I will never forget. That is something that shaped how I would act from then on out and who I would be...Playing this sport has not only taught me the value of having a good support system, but also showed me who to be and who not to be."

Emily is one of three recipients of the **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education at **Quinnipiac University**.

In Emily's words:

"I will be attending Quinnipiac University and majoring in occupational therapy. I will hopefully continue playing soccer by joining the club team or participate in the intramurals program at my college. I love learning about and helping other people, and I am so excited to pursue this in college. Anything that puts a smile on someone else's face is definitely something that makes me happy."



Bobbie and David Marks

Memorial Scholarship

Recipient

Scott Thorley

Scott is a 2020 graduate of Eastport South Manor Junior-Senior High School, playing JV and Varsity soccer for four years, participating in Varsity Track and Varsity Bowling. Scott has played for the Manorville Knights since 2010. Scott was a member of the National Honors Society, World Language Honors Society and the Varsity Leaders Club. Scott was a Youth Ambassador for Autism Speaks, volunteers with Independent Group Home Living Program, camp counselor at ESM Soccer Camp, Center Moriches Community Center Olympic Camp, as well as a member of LISRA.

Michael Valentine, Moriches Community Center Program Supervisor wrote, “Scott has volunteered over 100 hours of service at a variety of our programs. These programs are aimed toward helping monitor and engage in various activities for children of all ages and adults with special needs. Scott assisted and interacted with kids grades 2-8, joining in and helping facilitate daily games and activities on a regular basis. He encouraged all to engage in activities and play competitively, and most importantly, kept a close eye on those who needed it. Scott is an incredibly hard working young man who undoubtedly has his priorities straight. Scott offers a breath of fresh air, as he is a very mature, responsible young man who I would trust with anything. His sincerity and honesty coupled with his gentle personality makes him, in my opinion, one of the most promising young adults I’ve come by in a long time.”

Manorville coach, Jim Corbett wrote, “He is planning on studying Kinesiology. He is doing this with the goal of developing better biomechanics and orthopedics for people in need. I highly recommend granting an LIJSL scholarship to Scott. He has saved hundreds of goals as goalie in your league, now please help him begin a career saving the quality of life for thousands of patients.”

In his essay Scott wrote, “Being a goalkeeper for ten years has taught me how to lead others, such as my teammates, and set an example for not only them, but younger players in the organization. The sport has taught me that I am far from perfect and to take responsibility and pride in my own actions. Among all these great things the sport I love taught me, the most important thing I have learned these past fifteen years is to always be grateful for every opportunity that comes your way, because you never know when you will get another chance at it. I was taught it through a severe back injury, taking me out of the sport I love, all the way back in the Spring season of my freshman year. Eventually my condition got to a point where I could not play anymore, and we found out I fractured vertebrae in my spine. The next two years proved to be one of the biggest tests I had faced, not only for the sport I loved, but much of my mobility went with it...this injury had mentally drained me. Through two failed comebacks to the sport, surgery, countless hours of physical therapy and strengthening my body, I became obsessed with returning to the field. I finally returned to the field, as a center midfielder. My senior school season came with success. Now with this journey is behind me, I can say with confidence that it taught me to never take anything for granted, and to enjoy everything while you have it.”

Scott is one of three recipients of the **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at the **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**.

In Scott’s words:

“I would like to say that I am a very health conscious, studious person, who will be continuing my education at UMass Amherst this fall, studying Kinesiology. I love Soccer, and I hope I can continue playing at school at the club level. I also enjoy playing spike ball and running.”



LJSL Merit Scholarship

Recipient

Olivia Vinson

Olivia Vinson is a 2020 graduate of Wantagh High School, playing Wantagh JV for one year and Varsity for two years, recognized as an All-Conference Player in her junior year, Captain, All-County and a Scholar Athlete in her senior year. Olivia has played for Wantagh/Seaford PAL Under Coach Polack for 10 years. In addition Olivia kept the statistics for her travel and school teams when she injured her ACL, volunteered at youth soccer clinics and was named All-County, as a runner in Track in her Junior Year.

Marie Malafis, Wantagh HS Counselor wrote, “Olivia Vinson was nervously sitting in the guidance suite earlier today waiting for our school publicist to take her picture for the local paper. She recently won a pedestrian safety contest by submitting a short video, and she has been the center of attention for it ever since, something she finds cringeworthy and embarrassing. Truthfully, I think this is something this young lady needs to get accustomed to as her accomplishments will continue to gain attention in the years to come.”

Her Coach, Peter Polack stated, “She is a fierce competitor, who doesn’t let her competitiveness translate into pettiness or meanness. Olivia treats teammates, opponents, officials and even us coaches with respect. She receives guidance and coaching with keen attentiveness and incorporates advice into her game and day-to-day-life. Olivia always made the right play at the right time. As our center midfielder, she formed the spine of our defense. A defense that was consistently the best defense in the league, at a premier level.”

In her essay, Olivia wrote, “Early on, soccer taught me about punctuality and commitment as I rushed from religion class to Tuesday night practices under the lights; it was just an added bonus that I met some of my closest friends in those first few years and a coach who quickly took on the role as a paternal figure in my life when I lacked one at home...Like rainwater soccer leached its way into my life in the form of weaving through orange cones and post-game ice cream runs. It taught me the significance of concentrating even on sweltering summer days and pushing through the weight of my legs during sprints...In a summer league game before my sophomore year, I had the unfortunate experience of tearing my ACL, MCL and lateral meniscus...During those months, I felt an extreme amount of jealousy as I watched my best friend make the varsity school team and my teammates get to step on the field with such ease. But from jealousy came a new appreciation for the sport, a motivation to get back on the field and be with my family again. Returning to soccer has shown me what I am capable of, it has tested my strength and made me rise to the challenge.”

Olivia is a recipient of the **LJSL Merit Scholarship** and will be attending **Binghamton University**, pursuing a degree in English on a pre-law track. Olivia is in Iowa, visiting family, and is unable to be here for awards.

In Olivia’s words:

“I have been playing soccer for almost 15 years and hope to continue in college through the club program. I absolutely love to write; I write mostly poetry and prose, but I enjoy all types. When I’m not writing, you can usually find me watching a sunset, running, or hanging out with my friends.”



LJSL Merit Scholarship

Recipient

Leyla Kalmaz

Leyla Kalmaz is a 2020 graduate of H. Frank Carey High School. Leyla played for the Franklin Square Strikers and was a member of H. Frank Carey's Varsity team. She was a member of High Honor Roll and the National Honor Society Member and also won the Girl Scouts Cadette Bronze Award.

Leyla wrote, "The sport of soccer has prepared me for my next step in my journey of life. I have learned in my 18 years in life, no matter what difficulties I may face, I must never give up. It sounds corny and unoriginal, although, it is the truth and I have learned the hard way... Soccer has taught me to be confident and strong. It's taught me how to be mindful and an independent woman. My teammates have taught me about the importance of connecting and forming bonds."

Alexander McKendry, President of Franklin Square Soccer Club said, "Leyla is a team player in that she is willing to adjust her playing style and positioning to fit what the team needs. She came on to the team as a defensive/midfield player but quickly stepped in to playing any position for our team. Most importantly, I believe one of Leyla's strongest assets to the team was her heart and competitiveness."

Mr. Nocella, Carey Math teacher wrote, "Her dedication to the soccer program has inspired me to attend various games to support such a great young woman." Ms. Fiore, English teacher, said "It has been said "actions speak louder than words." If this saying is true, then Leyla Kalmaz is certainly a prime example of this famous adage."

Leyla is the recipient of the **LJSL Merit Scholarship** and will be attending **Molloy College**, majoring in biology.

Leyla shared:

"I love to help others to the best of my ability. It finds me comfort and joy when my assistance comes in handy. I am attending Molloy College. Class of 2024 and will hopefully eventually play soccer on the women's team"



Pat Grecco Scholarship

Pat Grecco is the quintessential volunteer and LIJSL players, parents and leadership have often been the beneficiaries. Pat joined the Scholarship Committee in 1991 and was Chair of the committee from 2000 through 2013, leaving this post only because of her relocation to North Carolina. Pat is a 30+ year volunteer within the soccer community and was inducted into the Eastern New York State Soccer Hall of Fame in 2008 and The LIJSL 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-American 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 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."



Pat Grecco Scholarship

Recipient

Abigail Landri

Abigail Landri is a 2020 graduate of West Islip High School. she played for the East Islip Destroyers for the last two years, they won their division last year. She was also a three-year starter on her West Islip High School varsity team, which were League champions twice and Suffolk County champions this year. Abby volunteered at Good Samaritan Hospital and Eastern Suffolk BOCES during her free time.

Abigail was part of the Century Club where she earned over 200 hours of community service while in high school. She has volunteered extensively for the West Islip Soccer Club. She was also awarded Town of Islip Triangle Award recognizing her community service with the soccer club.

In her essay Abigail wrote, "I have always been easily distracted, with the slightest distraction or side conversation having me hooked, completely rendering my focus. Soccer has provided me the skills and focus needed in order to be successful in my everyday life. Team building, communications, sportsmanship, and dedication are clichéd descriptive words but they are true descriptors of what soccer has given and ingrained in me."

Michael Lombardi, President of West Islip Soccer Club said, "Abby has demonstrated outstanding dedication and leadership and has proven herself to be an exemplary young lady." Marc Bergen, coach of the East Islip Destroyers said, "Abby's dedication and willingness to do what was needed for our team was apparent from the start. Although she played forward on her school team, when she was asked what position she played, she replied, 'Whatever position you need me to play.' Abby played both defense and midfield for us and was incredible. It was only after speaking to Mr. Landri that I learned her regular position was forward. Abby never complained. She selflessly played wherever the team needed her."

Abigail is the recipient of the **Pat Grecco Scholarship** and will continue her soccer career and education at **SUNY Oneonta**, majoring in Adolescent Education.

In Abby's words:

" A few fun facts about me are that I am fluent in sign language, I go mountain climbing every summer, and I'll be playing soccer at SUNY Oneonta this coming fall!"



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 pneumonia complications.



Joseph Lombardo
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Matthew Jakubowsky

Matthew is a 2020 graduate of St. Anthony's High School, playing both JV and Varsity Soccer, a member of the 2019 CHSAA League Champion and Catholic State Championship Varsity Soccer Team. Matt has played most recently for Longwood Soccer Club, preceded by Lake Grove-Newfield and Sound Beach Soccer Club.

Matt was recognized as NSCHSAA All-Academic Team. Matt was a member of the Future Business Leaders Program, National Honor Society, Friar Faithful, and School Chorus. Matt has volunteered as a soccer referee, a tour leader for St. Anthony's HS and as an Usher for St. John the Baptist RC Church.

Don Corrao, Saint Anthony's Boys Varsity Coach wrote, "Matt Jakubowsky is an extraordinary student athlete who made his mark here at Saint Anthony's High School in the classroom, on the pitch, and everywhere this faith-filled and community minded young man has taken him. Matt is one of those special young men who make working at Saint Anthony's High School so special."

Coach Joseph Daleo wrote, "Over the last decade I have had not only the opportunity to coach this fine young man on the field, but interact with him as a fellow community member. On the field, Matthew has continuously showed qualities to include leadership, selfless service, and mutual respect. He has always accepted any challenge I have given him on the field and performed to the best of his abilities, most times exceeding my expectations. As a long time, soccer coach, professor, and Army officer, I am asked to write many letters, I can truly say that this is an individual I would recommend without any reservation."

In his essay, Matt wrote, "I have attended a Catholic High School, St. Anthony's, where respect is a core value that the community embraces. As I become older, respect remains a part of my character, and as a player in LIJSL, I continue to foster my respect by showing it to coaches, referees, teammates, opposing players, and spectators. My respect cultivates respect from others, ultimately making LIJSL a positive environment where players can develop their technical, tactical, and mental skills, while also developing their character...The worst form of disrespect I've witnessed on the field is towards the referees...In the heat of the moment, it's so easy to lash out over a decisive call...On my school team, we have a policy where only the captain(s) are allowed to speak to a referee, and often when I propose this policy to my LIJSL teams, coaches are very accepting of this idea...I hope younger players are able to develop into the player I have become, have the opportunities I've had, grow their love of the game, and most importantly, grow their character."

Matt is the recipient of the **Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship**, continuing his education at **St. John's University**.

In Matt's words:

"I would like to thank you again for choosing me to receive the LIJSL scholarship. I will officially be attending St. John's University (Queens Campus) in the fall, where I will be majoring in finance and minoring in business law. After college, I intend on attending a top law school because I aspire to become a corporate attorney. I was also accepted into the honors program at St. John's. My soccer career was very successful, playing at high levels in LIJSL, and I am honored to say that I was able to win the CHSAA league championship, and the CHSAA state championship this past fall with my school team (St. Anthony's). Although I don't plan on playing D1 soccer at St. John's, I intend on playing club soccer instead."

LIJSL TOPSoccer Scholarship



Recipient

Timothy Cappitelli

Timothy spent four years volunteering with TOPSoccer in Rockville Centre. His coach remarks that Tim seems to genuinely enjoy coaching and playing with the athletes. He is enthusiastic, energetic, and encouraging in his interactions with the players. He also brings skills, experience and knowledge of the game. Players in return, look forward to their time playing and interacting with Tim. He has been a leader in many of his academic, athletic, and community pursuits.

Tim is a volunteer in many other ways besides TOPSoccer. As a member of Kids Teaching Kids, he mentored and coached young soccer players. He volunteered helping younger players learn and develop skills necessary to play lacrosse as part of Rockville Centre's Lacrosse League. He shoveled senior citizen's driveways during snow storms, mentored and tutored elementary school students, and played sports with them. Tim was a Leader in Training volunteer at Rockville Centre Recreation Camp ensuring the safety of twenty first-grade campers.

Tim was on the High Honor Roll, and member of the National Honor Society. He received the Soccer Hustle Award where he was voted player that exhibits the most effort through the season by the team. He played Junior Varsity and Varsity Lacrosse and Soccer. Additionally, Tim played Rockville Centre Basketball, Travel Lacrosse and Soccer.

Tim writes that a compliment, encouraging word, or a high five from a coach means a lot. When he started as a coach for TOPSoccer in middle school he wanted to make sure he was the fun, encouraging coach he looked up to as a young athlete. He has tried to do this with TOPSoccer. He says it is very rewarding helping children learn a sport he has loved playing for so many years. Although these kids have cognitive or physical disabilities it does not stand in their way of trying their best having fun. These things are the most rewarding part of playing sports and what he has tried to remember during his own struggles. Tim would like to find a fulfilling volunteer opportunity like TOPSoccer at college, in order to continue to coach kids in the sport he loves.

Tim is the recipient of the **LIJSL TOPSoccer Scholarship** and will be attending **Fairfield University** in Connecticut, majoring in business. He will be missed.

George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer 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 volunteers in his memory.



Recipient

Hannah Walz

Hannah has been a volunteer with West Hempstead TOPSoccer for the past seven years. She has been a dependable volunteer year after year even though she is a busy student. The director and coach says she always comes with a positive attitude and takes the extra steps to make sure she forms a relationship with the players. As time went on, Hannah filled multiple roles including coach, cheerleader, and role model. Hannah has an outstanding ability to empathize with the players and has tremendous amount of patience. She has made a difference in the lives of the players.

As a member of the Key Club, Hannah has served the school and community with food and clothing drives. The biggest project being the Thanksgiving food collection. Her Environmental Club was responsible for starting some recycling programs at the high school. As a volunteer at the Quiz Bowl, she participated by asking questions. As a Girl Scout, she was involved with helping at the Lion’s Club breakfast, building a small garden at Hall’s Pond, and visiting nursing homes. They also collected school supplies from the community and businesses and gave them to the high school Key Club for distribution. Aside from her work with TOPSoccer, she was a volunteer at the Summer Program at the West Hempstead Library and helped the Student Council at the holiday toy drive.

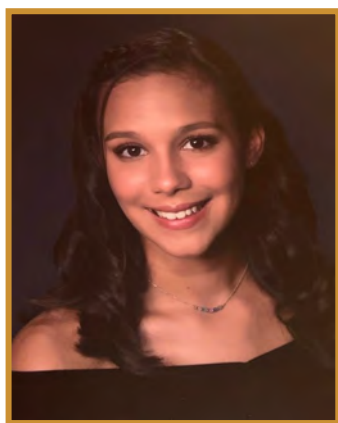
Hannah is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Fair honorable mention, and Yearbook contributor. She was part of the Student Council and ran Winter Track and Field.

Hannah said she was nervous at first working with children with disabilities. But, after a few practices, she felt so at ease with them. She claims that she has the best time with these kids and enjoys seeing the progress they make. The children in the program are amazing and they work so hard. She mentions a few athletes that she worked with were shy and did not want to listen, but she was able to get through to them. They all seem to love her, want to be with her and miss her when she is not at practice. Her biggest challenge was with an athlete whose mother was in the hospital and she was crying. Hannah was able to calm her down and forget about her mother for the short time they were at practice. She says it is rewarding to help these kids and she loves seeing the smiles on their faces when they score a goal or do something, they did not think they could do.

Hannah is a recipient of the **George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship** and will be attending **Molloy College** in the fall. She will be studying Psychology. She hopes to continue helping West Hempstead with TOPSoccer when she can.

George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer 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 volunteers in his memory.



Recipient

Annalea Passeggiata

Annalea has been an active volunteer for nine sessions in five years with Smithtown Kickers TOPSoccer. The coach says she is committed to the goal of the buddy in making the sessions more successful for all. Annalea has definitely enhanced the player’s experience of being on the soccer field in a way that might not otherwise be possible. She can be relied upon by the coach to be independent in supporting group activities as well as modifying for particular individual player needs. Her soccer coach remarks that she is respectful to adults, shows a maturity beyond her years, and expresses a continuous desire to help her teammates.

Annalea is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Math, English, and Social Studies Honor Societies. She belongs to the Red Cross Club, Symphonic Orchestra, Business Olympics, Field Hockey Booster Club, and High School Heroes. She played Junior and Senior Varsity Field Hockey and received several awards in this activity.

Along with her work with TOPSoccer, Annalea worked with children during Safe Halloween at the Haunted Mystery Box booth, assisted the elderly at graduating Class of 2019, participated in Math Fun Night, created posters for the Best Buddies holiday party and read to an elementary school class during PARP. As part of the Red Cross Club she volunteered at food drives, volunteered for homecoming, mentored to players in the Field Hockey Club and helped at a blood drive. She worked with young children to help them complete science experiments and make crafts, planned events for F.A.S.T. students such as a holiday party and a kickball event and planned lessons, activities to teach a second grade class how a community works and how money flows within a community.

Annalea writes that the reason she joined the TOPSoccer Program is because she realized that no matter how difficult a task is, you can do it with enough strength, determination and support. Seeing the smiles on the athletes’ faces as they learned new games, make friends and are able to do new skills makes her heart glow with pure happiness. In volunteering, she saw the joy of friendship, laughter, and fun that emanated from the special need’s athletes. She is grateful to be part of it. Thanks to TOPSoccer, she has discovered the true strength of her passion for helping special children and has gained a new insight and inspiration that has allowed her to help others do the same.

Annalea is a recipient of the **George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship** and expects to attend **Binghamton University’s** Harpur College of Arts and Sciences in the Fall.

Thank You

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

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

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

To all our league volunteers for your dedication.

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

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

Go Ahead ...

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

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





LONG ISLAND JUNIOR
SOCCER LEAGUE

“Building Character Through Soccer”

Since 1966