
Awards Program



August 1st, 2021

About the Scholarship Program

We are privileged to present these 32 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.

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, especially after powering through a global pandemic. 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
Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship	Isabel Rodriguez
Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship	Brooke Esposito
Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship	Amanda Kolberg
Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship	Nigel Williams
Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship	Hailey Vitale
Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship	Antonino Ruopoli
Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship	Brianna Torres
Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship-Female Student Athlete	Jessica Lee
Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship	Miranda Saenz de Viteri
Jerry & Sally Marinan Memorial Scholarship	Sierra Crowley
John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship	Matthew Vlacich
Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship	Isabella Annunziata
LIJSL Merit Scholarship	Emma Rochetta
LIJSL Merit Scholarship	Joseph Pitta
Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship	Matthew Meagher
Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship	Caroline Brucato
Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship	Paul Keraga
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	Jordan Cohen
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	Jamie Eck
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	John Tiberia
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship	Hailey Hearney
Pat Grecco Scholarship	Faythe Fifield
Peter C. Collins Memorial Presidential Scholarship	Colin Richards
Rocco Amoroso Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship	Nicholas Solar
Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship	Reza Aziz
Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship	Matthew Wright
Tania Bonilla Memorial Scholarship	Madison Nocerino
The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship	Emily Finck
The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship	Emily Neri
LIJSL TOPSoccer Scholarship	Caroline Kehoe
George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship	Sheyla Lopez
George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship	Megan Burke



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
Isabel Rodriguez

Isabel Rodriguez is a 2021 graduate of Newfield High School as a Valedictorian, playing JV Soccer for two years and then advancing as a starting member of the Varsity Soccer Team. Isabel has been a member of MCCS Sting for years. She was a member of the National Honor Society, serving as Vice-President, Spanish Language Honor Society, serving as Treasurer, a member of Leadership Club, Pit Orchestra, first chair flute, Environmental Club, serving as Secretary and a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society. She has served as a soccer coach for kindergarteners at MCCSC.

Coach Jim Magorrian shared, “ ...I watched Isabel transform into an amazing young woman both on and off the soccer field. As a soccer player she became one of the best goalkeepers and field players within her age group, Isabel was also a coach’s dream as she would always pay attention and listen to suggestions as she worked super hard to become such a good player. As proud as I am of Isabel as a soccer player, I am even more proud of the person she has become. Academically she worked harder than she did on the soccer field....she also excelled as a flautist never one to shy away from a challenge.”

In her essay, Isabel wrote, “One of my greatest challenges in life has been to allow myself to be vulnerable around others and to be able to work with others. I used to be a huge introvert, and in my early years of school I began to feel isolated as I preferred to be independent. Being independent worked well in school where I could easily achieve good grades while working alone, but in soccer my coaches and teammates taught me that it is impossible to succeed without working with others, especially since communication is necessary to work as a team....I was definitely inspired to learn how to work with others and to accept help from others, which I was able to implement from the soccer field and into my daily life. Once I made this change, I gained a lot of new friends and I felt less stressed out because I had a good support system behind me....The extra effort I put in behind the scenes taught me how hard work is what allows fun times to occur, and that giving back to your community should always be a priority. ”

Isabel is the recipient of **Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship** and will continue her academic career at **Vassar College** with a planned major in biology.

In Isabel’s words:

“In my free time I love playing the flute and spending time with my friends and family, and I also love dogs (I actually have a dog that weighs about 100 lbs). I was also the valedictorian of my class, and I’m a huge horror movie fan.”



Bobbie & 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 & David Marks
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Brooke Esposito*

Brooke Esposito is a 2021 graduate of Pierson High School, playing Varsity soccer and was named All-County. A committed Southampton Town United soccer player for the past 5 years, Brooke was also selected for ODP NY South in 2020, which unfortunately was halted due to Covid-19. She was a member of the National Honor Society.

Kevin Roode, Mathematics Teacher, shared, "Brooke offers a multitude of help for her peers, as I have consistently seen her tutor other students who have struggled in the math courses that she has taken. She was also a role model for many of her teammates on the soccer team. Three adjectives that describe her the best would be athletic, helpful and caring. Brooke is an organized, intelligent, and capable girl who can do anything she sets her mind to."

Gary Easlick, Director of Coaching, wrote, "This student-athlete's work ethic is second to none, regularly outthrusting opponents and putting in extra practice to develop any areas of weakness. She competes with integrity, wins with humility and loses with grace...Strong, motivated, calm and composed, she is a role model within the soccer club and in her community."

In Brooke's essay, "This past spring, for community service, I helped coach an LIJ 2010/2009 girls' team. It was such a rewarding experience. I wanted to help make the season fun for the girls but also help them develop a love for soccer. Sports can empower girls to be strong individuals and to believe in themselves. I know this to be true because of my experience with soccer. I wanted to be a good role model knowing that my involvement in their soccer team can help build the character of the younger players."

Brooke is a recipient of a **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her athletic and academic career at **Manhattanville College**.

In Brooke's words:

"I'm Brooke Esposito from Sag Harbor NY. I played for Southampton Town United. I plan to study Math Education at Manhattanville College and will continue to play soccer with the Manhattanville Women's Soccer Team."



*Bobbie & David Marks
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Amanda Kolberg*

Amanda is a 2021 graduate of Syosset High School, playing and captaining JV Soccer for two years and Varsity Soccer for two years. She has been a member of Syosset Braves for the past two years. Amanda was a member of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Honors Society and an AP Scholar with Honors. Amanda is the President of the Spanish Club and a Student Advisor/Certified Peer Mediator in the Peer Leadership Program. She also volunteers with the Syosset HS Varsity Gymnastics Team. Amanda is a Grade 9 referee.

Amanda believes in giving back through her volunteer work at The Center for Developmental Disabilities, Syosset Public Library and Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education to name a few.

Janice Dohrman, Syosset High School, wrote, "The funniest thing I have heard a colleague say to me was, 'Do you know Amanda Kolberg? She is crazy smart, sweet, respectful and so quiet'. When my friend a fellow Spanish teacher, said this to me, I almost fell off my chair. I told her that Amanda is many things, but quiet is not one of them! She takes rigorous classes, works hard, and gets straight A's. Teachers adore her. She is the kid whose hand is always in the air, who always comes to class smiling, and who always will shout your name in the hallway just to say hi."

In her essay Amanda wrote, "After two years playing on the same travel team, I was cut the next year at tryouts. I remember feeling a mix of different emotions, but mostly I was devastated and confused....I spent that year training with different teams and coaches, greatly improving my game and earned my spot back on the team the following year. This early experience provided me with a valuable life lesson that if you really want something, you must work for it. Just when I thought the hard part was over, the next year my dedication to the sport was questioned again. My team fell apart and close to no one was playing soccer anymore... Fast forward six years and I am still playing (and loving) travel soccer...At any given game, I most certainly was not the best, the most athletic on the field, or even the tallest. Nicknamed "**Bulldog**", I was not intimidated by bigger and more athletic players, and I was certainly not going to lose a 50/50 ball if I had my way! This inner strength, along with learning the qualities of sportsmanship and teamwork will serve me well as I embark on my next chapter in life. The journey has not always been smooth sailing, but I would not change a thing."

Amanda is the recipient of a **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education at the **University of Georgia**.

In Amanda's words:

"I'm a very outgoing and determined person who plans to study psychology. A fun fact about me is that I am the shortest on my soccer team at the height of 4' 9 3/4"! I am attending the University of Georgia and my intended major is Psychology. I hope to play soccer in college at the intramural level. I normally play midfield. I am honored to have been selected."



*Bobbie & David Marks
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Nigel Williams*

Nigel is a 2021 graduate of Elmont Memorial High School. Nigel played JV and Varsity Soccer for four years and has played for Valley Stream, Franklin Square and Garden City Park Soccer Clubs over the past several years. Nigel was recognized for soccer as All-County, an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, Key Club. He was elected as one of the leaders of a male mentoring group called **Men of Elmont**.

Kevin Dougherty, Principal of Elmont High School, wrote, "Nigel acts as a leader and mentor to our younger male scholars and scholars who are struggling with reaching their fullest potential. Whether it is organizing fundraisers, tutoring, or helping at a soup kitchen, Nigel is always willing to lend a hand."

Coach Louis Correa shared, "At the time we met Nigel was looking for a team and we had 18 players on the team already. When he came down for a tryout, he was a good player yet shy. The trainer and I made a decision to add him to the team with conditions. He would come off the bench and earn his minutes. Since that day Nigel has not looked back, worked hard and became a starter on the team playing any position needed to help the team succeed. He has developed into a force on the back defensive line with strength, speed and great decision making."

Nigel has been a Queens Zoo Discovery Guide Volunteer and a North Shore Animal League Volunteer. He was also a Science Technology and Research Scholar in the DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor.

Nigel added a twist on his essay, using songs to illustrate what he experienced in soccer, including a torn ACL occurring in a HS Soccer game, ACL reconstruction, physical therapy and getting back to soccer after almost a year. "Physical therapy was *no bed of roses, no pleasure cruise*. However, I consider it a challenge before the whole human race and I ain't gonna lose."

Nigel is a recipient of a **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will pursue his academic goals at **Cornell University**. You will rock them!

In Nigel's words:

"I would like to thank you for the opportunity to receive the LIJSL Scholarship! The funds will greatly support my Cornell University education, which is only the start to my pathway of becoming a zoologist. I am enrolled in the Biological Sciences major. Although I am not planning to play soccer as an NCAA soccer player, I did bring my soccer ball and cleats, and plan on playing club and/or intramural. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the event on August 1st because I am already at Cornell University for a summer program.

Overexploitation of wildlife is a global issue that needs solutions if we want to allow future generations to experience wildlife diversity. Particularly now during the Covid-19 pandemic, many rural communities have been impacted and thus depending more so on natural resources to make ends meet. This increased dependence on natural resources creates problems for wildlife. Therefore, I would like to join wildlife conservationists in finding proactive ways for people and wildlife to survive through this crisis together."



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
Hailey Vitale

Hailey is a 2021 graduate of Longwood High School, playing on the Varsity Soccer Team since her Freshman year, Longwood's all-time leading scorer, making a big commitment to the LYSA Hurricanes, where she was also the leading scorer for the last 5 seasons. Hailey was a member of Long Island Best Buddies, the National Junior Honor Society and LYSA Soccer Buddies.

Coach Michael Percotino, wrote, "Hailey has played different positions on the team from defense to forward. Not once did Hailey ever question the position she played in. Hailey is a coachable player, which is the dream if every coach and an asset to a team... She has volunteered with Longwood's Booster Club along with Longwood's Safe Halloween during the offseason. Her talent of building interpersonal connections through her personality of communication is outstanding...Hailey is a genuine person who is motivated to help others through her knowledge of the game."

Coach Steve Garlin shared, "As her assistant coach, while Coach and myself would discuss the game plans after practice...Hailey was never one to go and wait it out in the car. She would spend that time continuing to practice, taking shots, dribbling and juggling while the sun would set. As a daughter of a coach, we always held her to a higher level, and she understood the expectations that were put on her and was never one to shy away from a challenge."

In her essay, Hailey wrote, "... Along with teamwork, I was also given the responsibility of being a coach's daughter. For as long as I can remember, every gameday I would wake up extra early to help him prepare the fields, and every late night at practice I would sit in the backseat of my father's truck and finish all of my schoolwork, while the other coaches helped coordinate schedules. Juggling schoolwork along with soccer training taught me how important it was to plan ahead and be responsible when it came to my work...From a young age I was constantly pushed and encouraged by coaches who wanted nothing but the best for me...Each season my teammates and I would push ourselves to get to the next level and move up a division and we did not stop until we made it to the top. Aside from league play, we played in countless tournaments and the memories I will take from them will last with me much longer than the results."

Hailey is the recipient of a **Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship** and will continue her academic and athletic career at **Pace University**.

In Hailey's words:

"I will be continuing to play women's soccer at Pace University where I will be studying special education . I have played all positions on the field but my main position has been a striker . My fun fact would be that my dad has been my coach since age 4 and I have only played on one travel team which is my hometown team in Longwood."



Brittney Walsh
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Antonino Ruopoli

Antonino Ruopoli is a 2021 graduate of West Islip High School, where he played two years on JV Soccer and two years on Varsity Soccer. Antonino played for West Islip and was a member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered for multiple community projects through the West Islip Public Library. Antonino has Played for West Islip Revolution, Blizzard and Warriors.

Coach John Scheid wrote, "As Antonino's soccer coach, I have been lucky to witness his growth not only on the field but as a young adult as well. He has always been a coachable kid who listened and took instruction seriously...He serves as a role model to other student athletes with his excellent work ethic and volunteerism."

John Koroneos, School Counselor, stated, " Antonino is a mosaic of talent. His pursuit and achievement of a sound mind and a sound body have been remarkable. A gifted athlete, his philosophy of life percolates throughout all his activities and interactions. His coaches comment on his leadership qualities and sportsmanship."

Antonino wrote, " Soccer has shown and taught me to never give up no matter how hard the situation in life is. No matter how hard something is, you keep on pushing and giving it your all because practice makes perfect. What you do on the practice field, you will do at the game, so strive for success and power."

Antonino is the recipient of a **Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship** and will continue his athletic and academic career at **St. Joseph's College**.

In Antonino's words:

"Take advantage of every opportunity life gives you". I speak Sicilian at home, and I play the alto sax!

TOPSoccer Program

The Outreach Program for Soccer (TOPSoccer) is a community-based program to give children and young adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities the chance to step on the field. The program has been running through LIJSL for over 40 years.

Much like the mainstream LIJSL season, players participate in the spring and fall. There are several tournaments hosted by LIJSL member clubs and the year culminates with the TOPSoccer BBQ at the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park in Plainview, where every player receives an award for their participation in the program.

The start of the TOPSoccer program dates back to 1979 when Mike Ludin's son, Craig, ran out on the field during one of his brother's game. After that moment, Ludin wanted to find a regular place for Craig, who has Downs Syndrome, as well as other kids with disabilities to play. The TOPSoccer program has grown since, evolving into a program with tremendous support from member clubs.





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
Brianna Torres*

Brianna is a 2021 graduate of Baldwin High School. Brianna played JV Soccer for two years and Varsity for one year. She has played for the Oceanside Inferno for the past 8 years. She has received a best Defender Award and a Team Sportsmanship Award. Brianna was a member of the National Honor Society, tutoring elementary/middle school students and was recognized in NYSSMA Majors silver and gold with Chamber Orchestra. Committed to her school and community, she has participated in Key Club, Yearbook Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Baldwin Civics Association. She attended the LIU Post Veterinary Summer Program and volunteered with North Shore Animal League. Brianna also delivered boxes of food to families in need during the pandemic through her church and volunteered at summer camp and as an assistant trainer.

Mathematics Teacher, Sandra Pionegro, wrote, “Brianna is a wonderful young lady who I was honored to have in class. At first, Brianna appears to be shy but, she is reserved, once she is comfortable in her environment, she is very funny and social. She is truly a pleasure to have in class. Brianna is an ambitious and diligent student. She does not let any setbacks deter her from attaining what she wants. Brianna grew as a student and a mathematician.”

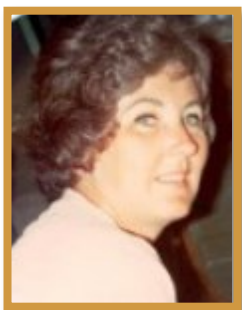
Victor Colasacco, OUSC Trainer, wrote, “What impresses me most about Brianna is her consistent work effort. She brings her best effort always, even on those very cold nights at Oceanside Park. She is very determined and aims to improve every day, whether she is participating at practice or in a game. When a difficult situation arises, she steps up as a leader. She communicated with her teammates to help fight through it.”

In Brianna’s essay, she shared, “I suffer from anxiety attacks and experience beyond scary episodes. I never wanted to be labeled as that kid, so naturally I stayed quiet. But as typical as it might sound, I had one escape: soccer. Some people say that soccer is their passion or medicine. To me, it’s my home. Everyone is messed up in their own way and just as messed up as I could be, I learned to grow and playing soccer only made me grow more. I was never one to wake up at 5 AM and go for a run like a bunch of other kids do. Some would say that I was just never dedicated. Maybe they were right. But in my heart, soccer was never just a sport. It was something that I wanted to be perfect. It’s my way out of this mad world that we live in. Soccer allows me to be me.”

Brianna is the recipient of the **Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education at the **University of Massachusetts**, majoring in Animal Sciences.

In Brianna’s words:

“I hope that my years at UMass Amherst will allow me to achieve my goals of one day becoming a veterinarian and helping all kinds of animals all over the world. I know that with the determination and all the loving support I receive from my family, that these dreams will come true.”



Eileen Frazita

Memorial Scholarship

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
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Jessica Lee

Jessica is a 2021 graduate of Kellenberg High School, playing JV Soccer for two years and playing and captaining the Varsity Soccer team for two years. Jessica played for West Hempstead Lady United and Garden City Park Shooting Stars. Jessica was a member of the National Honor Society, Varsity Lacrosse and Sodality at Kellenberg. She is keenly aware of needs of others and has volunteered with TOPSoccer, recognized as ENYSA TOPSoccer Buddy and US Youth Soccer National TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year, LIJSL Marg McGory Award, organized a 10K fundraiser for Sunrise Day Camp, a free camp for children with cancer and their siblings, organized a bake sale to support Breast Cancer Awareness and excited to plan an Autism Awareness event.

Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Suzanne Sluka, wrote, "Jessica is committed to excellence in her play, routinely demonstrating the effort and energy needed to excel at her role. She has excellent leadership skills, setting the standards in practice to which her teammates aspired. Finally, Jessica is a creative player; she consistently generated in-game opportunities that surprised players and coaches alike."

In Jessica's essay, she wrote, "I am not a naturally talented soccer player. I had to earn my time on the field. At age thirteen, I was able to join my Rough Riders team for a tour of Germany, Austria and Italy to play soccer. After our games we spent time together...Soccer opened my eyes to the world and to people that I never would have met.... Flash forward to my senior year season as the varsity soccer team captain. I had been playing as a field player and had not played goalie since freshman year...we were scheduled to play our toughest opponent. My coach reached out to me that morning and said that I would be playing goalie. In disbelief, I ran to the sporting goods store to pick up goalie gloves and a jersey...Now you were probably expecting that story to have a happy ending...The truth is I willingly ran 30 yards out of my net just to get shot point blank in the face by a future division one athlete and got up to finish the play. I do not think anything shows more character than that. Soccer gave me the ability to get up after being shot down..."

Jessica is the recipient of the **Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship Female Student Athlete** and will be continuing her education at **Catholic University**.

In Jessica's words,

"I plan to study secondary math education at Catholic University of America in Washington DC where I will be playing lacrosse. I grew up playing sports my whole life and basically did it all. I was kept busy doing competitive surfing, horseback riding, hockey, soccer, and lacrosse."



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
Miranda Saenz de Viteri*

Miranda Saenz de Viteri is a 2021 graduate of St. Anthony's High School. has played for her East Islip Club team as well as her St. Anthony's High school team throughout her 4-year high school career.

She was a 4-year member of the National Honor Society as well as completing several Advanced Placement classes earning her several college credits. Not only did she balance this rigorous academic schedule with her soccer schedule, but she also participated in lacrosse and track and field at St. Anthony's too.

Miranda gave many hours of her time in several different venues. She volunteered at the American Legion, fed the homeless at the Knights of Columbus, was an active member in the Students Against Drunk Driving club and led various events in the Friars club at her high school. She also volunteered in the Just for Kicks soccer program, which is designed specifically for children on the autistic spectrum.

Ron Novotny of East Islip Soccer Club says Miranda "is kind, courteous and hard working. She is goal orientated, dedicated and self-motivated. Her work ethic is outstanding. She rises to the occasion and is at her best when her best is needed. Her competitive nature makes her an outstanding performer under pressure. She always displays sportsmanship and is an excellent role model."

In Miranda's scholarship essay, Miranda explains how a missed opportunity in a game left her wanting to work harder and to succeed not only for herself but her teammates as well. When that opportunity arose, she took what she had learned previously and all of the hard work she had put in since that previous game to succeed. Not only was she proud of herself, but she had taught herself a valuable lesson. Miranda says that "no matter what aspect of life, in the end, hard work will always pay off."

Miranda, with those words you are sure to be a success at **Fordham University**. Miranda is the recipient of the **Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship**.

In Miranda's words:

"I thoroughly enjoy traveling and trying new foods and things. I like reading, writing, cooking, exercising, and spending quality time with friends and family. A fun fact about me is that I have been to 3 out of the 7 continents. I will be attending Fordham University at Lincoln Center as a Political Science major."



Jerry & Sally Marinan Memorial Scholarship

Jerry and Sally Marinan were members of the Levittown Soccer Club for over 35 years. After a short but hard battle with cancer, Jerry passed away in July 2016. Sally continued to volunteer for the club at various events including Opening Day and fundraisers and sadly passed away in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his years, Jerry held many positions including Coach, Travel Director, Social Activities Director, and President. He was also very involved with LIJSL throughout the years serving as a Supervisor, Coordinator for the league and the LI Cup, Registration Committee, Games Committee, and was heavily involved in both the Waldbaums and Liberty Cups. In 2004, Jerry was inducted into the LIJSL Hall of Fame, an honor he was extremely proud and humbled by.

Sally was also very involved in the LSC. She was an intramural and travel coach and was always volunteering at the annual picnic, helping with registration, and checking players in at our holiday parties. She too served as a Supervisor and Coordinator for the LIJSL league and LI Cup.

Both Sally and Jerry continued to stay very involved in the LSC even after both of their daughters moved on to other clubs. They always maintained true fairness and caring for all players, coaches, and volunteers till the end. It is with great pleasure that we honor them with this scholarship in their name. We know they are always watching over all of our players including his grandchildren who play up in Westchester. We want to wish everyone the best of luck as they enter a new phase of their lives.

May you continue to always reach your "GOALS!"

-The Marinan Family



*Jerry & Sally Marinan
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Sierra Crowley*

Sierra is a 2021 graduate of Wantagh High School. Sierra has been an active member of the Levittown Revolution for the past 5 years, being recognized in 2020 with a LIJSL Sportsmanship Award. Sierra was a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, National English Society and has received the Best Speaker Award 5 times.

Sierra has given back to the community through Girl Scouts, Peanut Butter Jelly Gang and has participated in a number of Key Club events.

Courtney Prestianni, School Counselor, wrote, "Since 2018, the goal setting, the ambition, the drive, the savvy, the know-how- Sierra is truly the special kind of individual. As a scholar athlete, Sierra has brought intellect, character and leadership to each of her impressive commitments. Faculty and peers respect Sierra for her hands-on approach to leading classroom discussions, leading soccer practices and showcasing political awareness to peers while mentoring the members of Model Congress."

In Sierra's essay, she wrote, "Soccer has taught me three major things: leadership, teamwork and diligence....I am currently the two-year President of Model Congress, a debate club. I work alongside my board, consisting of four other students. Without a doubt, the characteristics I have developed from soccer over the past eight years have shaped my job as President."

Sierra is the recipient of the **Jerry and Sally Marinan Memorial Scholarship** and continue her education at **Northeastern University**.

In Sierra's words:

"I will be attending Northeastern University in Boston, MA in the fall. My intended major is Criminal Justice and Psychology. I will continue playing soccer on a club team."



John 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 PennState 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 led 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 Pinezich
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Matthew Vlacich

Matthew Vlacich began his soccer career in Sound Beach and continued it while playing at William Floyd High School. He was a Junior Varsity and Varsity player in both Soccer and Lacrosse.

He not only played at a very competitive level during his four years in high school, but he also participated in his school's Youth and Government Club, both National Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society. Matthew is ranked in the top 10 of his class of 662.

His Social Studies teacher, Patricia Costell describes him as both a leader and a mentor. She explains that throughout his involvement in student government, he was chosen to leadership positions and guided several students academically and as a role model. She goes on to say that Matthew "pushes himself to achieve high goals." She believes "there was not anything that would keep him from accomplishing any task he set for himself.

Paul Paniccia, his high school soccer coach says it "is an honor to coach him" and was not surprised when he was awarded the All – American Academic Honor with a 101.5 GPA.

Matthew spent a lot of time giving back to his community, youth and his soccer club. He enjoyed training, refereeing and even got the chance to coach some of the youth in the club who he feels gave him so much over the years.

In Matthew's essay he says, "I understand that the road won't always be paved, but I am confident my never quit attitude will steer me on the right path."

Matthew hopes to pursue a teaching degree and has set his sights not only on teaching but being a principal or superintendent at some point during his career. He is "forever thankful for the impact soccer has had on my life".

Matthew is the recipient of the **John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Clemson University**.

In Matthew's words:

"I graduated from William Floyd High School ranked 9th out of a class of 662 students. I am a two time all county all academic winner for Suffolk County Soccer. I will be attending the Honors College of Clemson University where I plan on majoring in Mathematics Teaching, with a future goal of becoming a school administrator. I plan on continuing my athletic passion by playing soccer at either the intramural or club level at Clemson University. I have spent the majority of my soccer career playing outside midfielder and outside back."



Joseph Lombardo

Memorial Scholarship

Joseph 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
Isabella Annunziata

Isabella Annunziata is a 2021 graduate of West Babylon Senior High School and has played JV and Varsity Soccer. Isabella has played for Massapequa Rush, Lindenhurst United and HBC Legacy. She has been recognized for her academic and athletic efforts as a member of the National Honor Society, Math and Science Honor Society, Foreign Language Society, Captain of Blue and Gold Dance Competition. Isabella is a 1st degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and is CPR and First Aid certified.

Her coach, Taylor Elliott, "Isabella constantly keeps the team motivated with positive feedback no matter what obstacles the team faces. She keeps the team inspired when players start to doubt each other. She is the spark the team needs when they lack the motivation to work harder. As the captain, she always made it her role to make all new players feel welcome and included. For example, when a new player came to try out for the team, she was the first one to introduce herself and invite that player to warm up with her. Her ability to make others around her feel confident is something that makes her stand out among the rest." Her manager at Bunker Surf Camp, Ashley Russell, stated, "Isabella has been an exceptional surf instructor for us. Isabella displayed great character is when a camper was afraid of the surf. Isabella sat in the sand encouraging that camper to conquer his fears and told him she would work with him until he did it. She took the camper by the hand and led him out into the water and worked with him until he stood up on his first wave. The joy on not only the boy's face, but the look on her face as well speaks to her character. She will bring you up when you are down."

Isabella states. "No matter how hopeless the situation may seem, success is just around the corner. No match is won till the last ball is played. Play to your strength give it your best, enjoy the game, you have nothing to lose. Loss is not the end, there is no shame, disrespect, humiliation, provided you have given your best." She also developed sportsmanship (winning the LIJSL Sportsmanship Award 5X) as well which allowed her to be a better and fairer player on and off the field. All that know her describe her as a hard worker.

Isabella is the recipient of **Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education at **URI**.

In Isabella's words:

I have been playing soccer since the age of 5. I started my soccer career playing in West Babylon for South Shore Soccer Club for 10 years and then went to play for Massapequa Soccer Club. In addition to my LIJSL travel teams, I also played for my high school team, West Babylon Senior High School Varsity Soccer. Throughout my playing I have been so lucky to have my Father be my coach. Sharing his love of the game has been so special to me. Both my father and grandpa are USSF Regional Referees and they have been my biggest influence in the game of soccer. When I am not on the pitch you will find me surfing. That is my second passion. I have been surfing since I was 10 years old. I am now a surf instructor and lifeguard for Bunker Surf Camp in Babylon. If I am not playing soccer, I am at the beach surfing.

*I will be attending the **University of Rhode Island** in September of 2021. I will be in their PharmD program studying to become a pharmacist. Although I will not be playing on their Varsity team due to my rigorous major I will be playing on their intramural team. My position is a defender or midfielder. Once again thank you very much for this amazing scholarship.*



*LIJSL Merit
Scholarship
Recipient
Emma Rocchetta*

Emma is a 2021 graduate of Eastport South Manor High School, where she played on Varsity Soccer for three years. She played for Manorville Rockets for last five seasons, a member of National and Spanish Honor Societies, Art Club, and Varsity Leader's Club. She had a weighted GPA of 100.

Her art teacher is proud of Emma and feels she is an outstanding student. She has exhibited art at various museums multiple times, including The Parrish in Watermill, The Long Island Museum in Stony Brook, and The Congressional Art Competition in Patchogue. Her teacher said, "I have no doubt that the persistence, responsibility and commitment she has shown will make her successful throughout all her future endeavors."

Emma in her essay said "I've experienced some of the greatest successes and saddest losses with a group of girls I called family. I have learned to push through the pain, exhaustion and mental fatigue. Soccer has raised the bar for quitting difficult tasks. The dedication I put forth on the field extended into other aspects of my life. Being part of a team has taught me to lead and to follow to be assertive and to be humble. Soccer has shown me I can be successful as an individual and working with others is a necessary life skill. I am not afraid of the ball or what others might say about me in the halls. The shy girl has been replaced by a defender of the underdog."

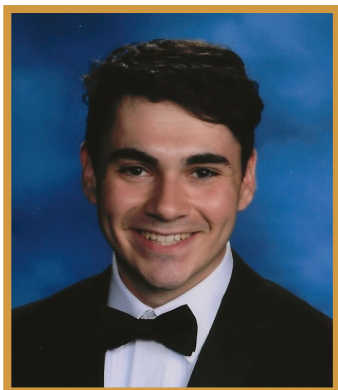
Emma stated that the following philosophy, once told to her by her coach, pushes her every day to be the best she can be. "Bring 100% of what you have. If you've only got 50% in you today, bring 100% of that 50." She said "playing soccer has been one of the most rewarding experiences."

Coach Courtney Pitt wrote, "Our team will continue playing next year, but there will be a big hole where Emma once fit."

Emma is a recipient of a **LIJSL Merit Scholarship**, and she will continue her education at **Clemson University**.

In Emma's words:

"Thank you so much for the award! I will be attending Clemson University this fall as an undecided major. I plan to play soccer on the intramural team there. My positions are center midfielder and outside midfielder. Some other information about me is that I have an artistic talent and intend to pursue it in some way in the future. I also have a love for the outdoors, especially the beach where I work as a lifeguard. "



*LIJSL Merit
Scholarship
Recipient
Joseph Pitta*

Joseph Pitta is a 2021 graduate of Kings Park High School. Joe played JV and Varsity Soccer at Kings Park High School and has been a valued member and Captain of Kings Park Heat. Joe was a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, an Eagle Scout and President of Peer Support, involved with Student Environmental Action Society, Nissequogue River State Park Student Foundation and a member of Kaleidoscope Art and Literature Magazine.

Kings Park Heat Coach, Jason Ettinger, wrote, "Joe has been a core member of the team since it was formed as a U10 entry in LIJSL. Joe is a team leader and has been Captain for 7 years. He always embraced every new teammate that has joined the Heat and goes out of his way to make them feel like a welcome and valued member of the team. He is a great role model for the handful of younger players that have joined the team in recent years... Joe's love of the game is evident having played for Kings Park since he was three and still playing today."

Joe wrote that achieving the rank of Eagle Scout has been the most "significant achievement while attending KPHS". He volunteered 238 hours and helped some of his friends in scouts as well. Joe's family has been involved in Boy Scouts since before Joe was born. His project entailed refurbishing an interior staircase for his local food pantry and constructing new shelving and storage for the donated food products. As the leader of the project, he created proposals, outlines, plans and reports for the fundraising and construction of the project. Joe and his fellow scouts held a bake sale at local parish where he and his fellow scouts sold baked goods to raise the necessary funds for the cost of his project. In all they raised nearly \$2,000 which more than covered the costs of the supplies and tools that was needed to purchase the construction and installation of shelving and staircase. Joe held a food drive for donations that would go directly to the food pantry that was the beneficiary of the project. After the project was finished, all leftover funds he raised he donated to the food pantry on behalf of his scouting troop. "This project was one of the requirements needed for the rank, which also included acts of leadership and sufficient amount of merit badges in skills such as Camping, Personal Management and First Aid. Becoming an Eagle Scout has prepared me for becoming a future leader and community member."

In his essay Joe shared, "For our first few seasons as a team, getting the ball on the other side of mid field was an accomplishment in itself, let alone scoring, let alone winning a game. The constant loss every game, every weekend was something that resonated with me as a young player. But as almost all things are, it began to get better...My team started getting the ball and possessing it, getting into the opponent's 18 yard box, putting the ball at the back of the net and desperately getting a win. This sport has taught me harshly that dedication and faith in yourself and your peers is something that can only help."

Joe is the recipient of the **LIJSL Merit Scholarship** and will be attending **Northeastern University**. Joe plans to major in Nursing in the College of Health Sciences. This degree will help him reach his goal in helping others in his community.

In Joe's words:

"I will be studying Health Sciences in college hoping to pursue a career in the medical field. I will be attending Northeastern University, planning to play club soccer and I am a mid-fielder."



Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship

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.

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
Matthew Meagher

Matthew is a 2021 graduate of Oceanside High School. Matt was a four year member of Oceanside Varsity Soccer and Senior Captain. He received an MVP Award in Soccer his Freshman and Junior years. Matt has played for Oceanside Strikers. Matt has volunteered with the Best Buddies Club and Oceanside's Special Needs Soccer and has worked as an intramural referee for Oceanside United Soccer Club.

Julia Nappi, Social Studies, shared, "Matthew is very passionate about what he is involved in, is naturally funny, and has an enormous, kind and generous heart. He walks into the classroom every single day with a bright smile and a cheerful hello, regardless of any emotion or stress he is handling. He has done this for four years now, long before he was a student in my class, simply because his brother Chris had been my student and he 'wanted to meet me'. People love to be around Matthew. His personality alone is a magnet; there is nothing pretentious about him. He is Matt Meagher. Simple, loveable and genuine."

Coach Paul Roderick wrote, "Matt's athletic ability makes him comfortable playing in multiple positions. Because of his size and skill, I have used him as a center back where he is tenacious, deceptively quick and competent in the air. He has a great range of skill and accurate passing, which along with his composure on the ball makes him an ideal center back for a team that plays a pure passing game and likes to play out of the back... Matt has a great attitude. He has a solid work ethic in both games and practices and gets along quite well with his teammates. He is always willing to listen to advice on how he can improve his game. He has a strong desire to win and will do everything in his power to help the team be successful."

Matt wrote in his essay, "Soccer has always been a huge part of my life and I have always dreamed of playing at the college level. While I started my recruiting efforts early, the pandemic stopped all recruitment in March. I am so lucky that I was offered a roster spot from 6 colleges, and I am thrilled to say I will continue my soccer career at Wilkes University! I am so excited and I'm so thankful to my club and HS team coaches and trainers! Everything I learned from all my years of soccer have led me here..."

Matt is the recipient of the **Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his athletic and academic career at **Wilkes University**.

In Matt's words:

"I love to travel. This is why I will be studying Hospitality Management at Wilkes University. I am so excited that I will be playing soccer there as well. I play central defense. "



Michael Scarpati
Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship

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 Scarpati
Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship
Recipient
Caroline Brucato

Caroline is a 2021 graduate of Massapequa High School, playing two years on JV Soccer team and two years on Varsity Soccer team. Caroline participated in Massapequa's 2020 undefeated season, Division Win and Team Sportsmanship award. Caroline was a member of Massapequa Soccer Club since the age of 4, most recently as a member of Massapequa Rush. Caroline has volunteered to help coach the U10 goalkeeper group, Massapequa Showcases and Tournaments and Grace Church.

Goalkeeper Coach, Joshua Weiss, shared, "Over the past couple of years Caroline had a few unfortunate health scenarios in which she decided at the time it was best to stop playing soccer. After a few months, she called telling me how much she missed being a part of the club and how much she missed being on the field playing the sport she had played her whole life. Although her team already had a replacement goalkeeper, we were able to get her on another team that was not at the same competitive level but was still able to fill that void she felt when not playing soccer. On her new team Caroline stepped up and became the leader of this group; pushing this team to a division championship with 10+ saves a game, as well as watching her communicate and run team warmups and team discussions."

Coach Taylor Elliot, wrote, "Caroline is a very verbal player who constantly directs her team throughout games. As the team's starting goalkeeper, she keeps the backline organized...Caroline makes the team better and challenges her teammates to be better through her leadership...Caroline's positive attitude is infectious. She always keeps an optimistic mindset no matter the situation. She inspires her teammates to stay positive and to keep working hard. Her teammates look to her for encouragement, and she is always there to support them. ...Caroline is a calming force in goal that keeps the team positive."

Caroline wrote of being inspired herself by USA National team goalkeeper Ashlyn Harris' statement, "There's no better feeling than stepping on that field and stunning them all by doing what none of them thought you could." Hearing this, Caroline was reminded of "the grit and determination playing in the LIJSL has taught me."

Caroline is the recipient of the **Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship** and will continue her athletic and academic career at **Mount Saint Mary College**. You will need some new gloves!

In Caroline's words:

"I'd like to describe myself as a hardworking dedicated girl. I plan to fulfill my dream to become a Physical Therapist and use my caring personality to help other people. A fun fact about me is that I've taken 4 years of American Sign Language at my school and love to be involved with the Deaf. I will be attending Mount Saint Mary College to continue my soccer career as a Goalkeeper."



Michael Secko

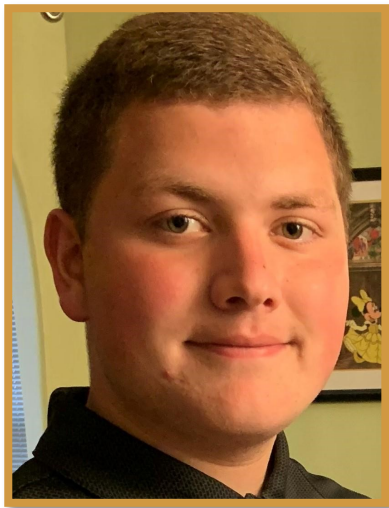
Memorial Scholarship

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
Paul Keraga

Paul is a 2021 graduate of Newfield High School and was ranked in the top 30 students in his class. Paul has been a member of the Mount Sinai Bandits for 5 years. Paul has a 1340 SAT score and was a member of TRI-M Music Honor Society. Paul has attended Stony Brook University Science and Research Awareness Series during the summer, utilizing laboratories and attending biomedical research lectures.

Nick Gordon, Mount Sinai Soccer, wrote, "As a competitor, without fail, he consistently and unselfishly puts the best interest of his team 1st. Further, he gives his all to win every game but never fails to show respect to his teammates, his opponent, coaches and the officials...Paul is also a standout soccer player and a pivotal part of our team and success."

Daniel Martinez, Director of Orchestras, wrote, "He has impressed me with his strong leadership, responsible and reliable attitude, well-rounded nature and passion for learning...he regularly earns leadership positions in the cello section and has always been a source of inspiration for his peers...Paul's musical career has inspired many, but his accomplishments do not end there. He is a very well-rounded student, playing soccer competitively and volunteering at the Middle Country Public Library as a homework helper for elementary students."

In Paul's essay, he wrote, "Soccer forges the personality of one through the interactions of many. My character was forged not only from my team, but through our interactions with other teams...Soccer has not only allowed me to grow as a member of a team, but also to grow as an individual with ideals about how to work with and treat others."

Paul is the recipient of the **Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Stony Brook University**, with a goal of working in the field of Quantum Computing.

Paul shared:

"I have played soccer for more than a decade and no matter what team I play on I am always nicknamed "Paul The Wall."

Position: Center Defense **University:** Stony Brook University **Major:** Electrical Engineering. I will play in LIJSL U-19 for one more year while I am a college freshman."

Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship



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

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

The Journey continues...



*Miles for Matt Foundation
Scholarship
Recipient
Jordan Cohen*

Jordan is a 2021 graduate of Centereach High School, playing JV for two years then moving to Varsity for two years. Playing for the Middle Country FC Sharks, Jordan served as captain of his teams at different times throughout his soccer career and is a role model and leader for his teammates.

He was an active member of two Honor Societies and completed several Advanced Placement classes and college classes as well. He is a frequent volunteer at his local Food Pantry and helped train younger goal keepers for his club.

Jordan has experienced setbacks and has grown not only as a player but as an individual. He has expressed how his soccer career has helped him to understand not only the importance of being a good leader, but how those skills he has acquired through soccer have and will continue to serve him well in his future.

Jordan says he “doesn’t want to be known for my greatest achievements, but rather for how I respond to my greatest setbacks.” That seems evident by the people around him.

James Malone, his Middle Country soccer coach says that “his dedication to being one of the top players at his position is limitless” and that he continues to “pay it forward” with his leadership skills and positivity. His Dean of Students and Mathematics teacher, Christina Vath, says Jordan “possesses such characteristics as hard work, discipline, responsibility, and teamwork.”

All of this and more is what makes Jordan Cohen a success. Jordan is the recipient of one of the **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarships** and he will attend **Salve Regina University**.

In Jordan’s words:

I will be attending Salve Regina University in Newport, RI. I will be an accounting major with plans to become a CPA. I intend on playing soccer at Salve. Soccer to me wound up being more than just a game. It was the lessons learned on the field that were preparing me for true challenges in the future.



*Miles for Matt Foundation
Scholarship
Recipient
Jamie Eck*

Jamie is a 2021 graduate of Centereach High School, playing and captaining the Varsity Soccer team. Jamie was named All Division. Jamie has played for the Middle Country Sting and the Wildcats. Jamie has been inducted onto the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and is a Girls Scouts Ambassador. Jamie is also the recipient of The President's Volunteer Service Award for over 100 hours of community service.

Ivan Rodriguez, Coach of the Sting, wrote, "Jamie has been a standout player from the very first day I met her. She has all the mechanics of a great player – strong ball control, technical ability, and has a very sharp mind for the game. She is one of the best defenders on the team and is often involved in key plays that result in exciting scoring opportunities. Where Jamie shines the most is in her commitment to improvement. Jamie has been the hardest working player on our team who never turns down the opportunity to train or play. She often helps other teams in the club when extra players are needed and is always a participant in any camps or clinics that are provided. She works hard and has earned her place in the starting lineup...Jamie is a well-rounded individual who will no doubt be a valuable member of the student body at Utica College where she has committed to play soccer."

In her essay, Jamie wrote, "I am always there when someone needs me because I know how it feels when you believe that you're all alone and have no one who is there for you when in reality you have everyone you need beside you. When my father was diagnosed with cancer, I felt so alone but now as I look back at those times, I realize that I am very lucky to have such a good family and group of friends that are always there for me. I remember how soccer felt like such an escape from the horrors of what my father was going through and having teammates that always made me laugh and even were able to take me to games and practices when I didn't have a ride. I counted on my teammates so much and they never disappointed me so I feel that I am obligated to do that for others...To me, all of my teammates are like family, and I wouldn't change the memories I have with them for the world."

Jamie is the recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will continue her education and athletic career at **Utica College**.

Jamie's words:

"My plans for the future are to play four years of college soccer, without injury, and with the hope of winning at least one conference championship. I hope to find a career that I both enjoy and don't get bored in. My fun fact is that I've seen every Marvel and Harry Potter movie more than once.

I will be attending Utica College in the fall and will be playing on the Women's Soccer Team. While I don't have a major selected right now, I am leaning towards something in the math and/or science field. My normal position is outside left defender."



*Miles for Matt Foundation
Scholarship
Recipient
John Tiberia*

John Tiberia is a 2021 graduate of Oyster Bay High School. John was a 3-year member and captain of OBHS Varsity Soccer and was named All-Conference. He has played on Oyster Bay East Norwich Soccer Club Fire and Spartans, as well as HBC Hornets. John was a member of the Section VII Student Athlete Advisory Committee. In addition, John was Vice-President of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society and the Student Council, among other leadership roles. John has provided many volunteer hours to his community, receiving a Nassau County Legislature Citation of Service.

Richard Regino, Director of Coaching OBENSC, wrote, "He has brought a clear understanding of sportsmanship and its importance to our team. John shows a great ability of knowing when to raise our intensity or boost team moral while also showing compassion during competition. On the field he leads by example by competing fairly while bringing the best out of his teammates around him... As a role model off the field, he always makes himself available with a listening ear to his younger peers. He works very hard to always deliver the right answer to any of their questions."

In his essay John wrote, "Over time, I have learned that perseverance is a very versatile word that is thrown around in different contexts. However, the perseverance I learned and grew to embody was to work tirelessly every game and treat every game like it is his last. The game itself is designed for its players to persevere...For 45 minutes players are moving and adapting. The clock is continuously running without regard to the events transpiring on the field. One way I have compared this component to my personal life is that the clock is always running in my world, it is up to me to make the most of my time, whether it be spent practicing or studying. If I waste it, the time is gone forever. Through soccer I have realized that my time is best spent in pursuit of a goal, both on and off the field... It's not what we do on our own, but what we can do together."

Social Studies Teacher, David Pontillo, wrote, "John has a superior work ethic, is very intelligent, studious and very good at class discussion."

John is the recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will continue his education at **SUNY Maritime College**, majoring in Marine Operations.

In John's words:

"I am excited to be attending SUNY Maritime in the fall, where I hope to continue my soccer career."



*Miles for Matt Foundation
Scholarship
Recipient
Hailey Hearney*

Hailey is a 2021 graduate of Earl L. Vandermeulen High School, where she played Varsity Soccer for 5 years, serving as a 4-year captain. Hailey has played soccer for Smithtown Flames, Smithtown Cobras and Terryville Red Devils. Hailey served as Co-President for the Port Jefferson High School Club and was an active member of the National Honor Society. She has volunteered with Give Kids Hope and served as an assistant coach for Unified Basketball.

Coach Taylor Forstell wrote, "Hailey's exceptional play and high academic achievements drew the attention of many college coaches...Personal accolades aside, of which she has many (multi time All-State player, All-County selection, Top 100 Newsday), it is what Hailey does on the field to strengthen and build a stronger community, that separates her from so many great players that have come through the program. Hailey epitomizes what it means to be a leader. She is the student representative to the board of education in Port Jefferson, serving this role with great enthusiasm to ensure that the student body has a voice in a room full of adult decision making."

Hailey wrote in her essay, "Soccer has also allowed me to grow collectively, as part of a team. This is one of the best perks of soccer and I have met some of my closest friends through my teams. I have improved my communication skills, developed a high level of accountability, and focused on how to be a team player. I have realized how important it is to be not only a good teammate, but also a good competitor...soccer has fostered my love of helping people."

Hailey is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will continue her academic and athletic career at **Drew University**.

In Hailey's words:

"I am a hardworking and motivated student athlete. In my spare time, I like to read, workout, go to the beach, and spend time with my friends/family. I plan to major in Education so I can become a high school English teacher and hope to stay involved in soccer as a coach. This fall, I will be attending Drew University and majoring in Secondary Education/English. I will be playing college soccer there. I normally play forward. "

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.



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
Faythe Fifield*

Faythe is a 2021 graduate of St. Anthony's High School. Faythe has played soccer for St. Anthony's HS, Stony Brook Crew, West Babylon Courage, Oceanside Blaze and LIJSL PDP. Faythe has volunteered at West Babylon Soccer club as a trainer, preparing fields for tournaments and games and as an Assistant Coach. Faythe was a member of the National Honors Society as well as the Math, Science and History Honor Societies. She volunteers her time with CARE and the Special Needs Ministry.

Joseph Van Roten, Guidance Counselor writes, "Growing up Faythe's parents instilled two very important values in her. The first was she was taught that through hard work and dedication she has all the tools within her to achieve her wildest dreams. Second was the golden rule of treating others with compassion and respect, as you would want to be treated."

Coach Adrian Parral wrote, "Faythe is one of the hardest working footballers that I have worked with over the last couple of years, she never takes a day off, she leads by example. Faythe is relentless as a player, naturally strong and powerful yet always working hard to improve and is a pleasure to coach."

Faythe shared in her essay, "After years of playing, I decided to help my dad coach a 2009 boys' team. As a coach, I always wanted to create a positive environment and influence for the players. I hope that this environment could impact even one child's life and teach them lessons that go beyond just soccer. My dad and I strive to encourage competitiveness, while still having compassion. Youth sports are often seen as ruthless and ultra-competitive, and although this competitive drive to better oneself through and overcome is encouraged, we also try to teach teamwork and compassion for others through sportsmanship. My goal is to influence the lives of the next generation, because even a small change can create a major impact on the world around us."

Faythe is the recipient of the **Pat Grecco Scholarship** and will be attending **Springfield College**.

In Faythe's words:

"My name is Faythe Fifield and in college I plan to major in Applied Exercise Science following Springfield College's Clinical track, after completing this program I plan to get my master's in physical therapy. This year I had the pleasure of working with the intramural group at South Shore Soccer Club West Babylon which cemented my decision to work with and train young athletes as a career."



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
Memorial Presidential Scholarship
Recipient
Colin Richards

Colin Richards graduated Kellenberg Memorial High School, where he was a multi-sport athlete and in the top 4% of his class. He played soccer, lacrosse and football as the starting kicker. He was a multi-sport captain, a member of the National Honor Society and had perfect attendance his first 3 years. Colin has played for Massapequa Soccer Club Hawks for the past 5 years.

He is active in-service clubs during his high school career that emulate the characteristics of service, allegiance, leadership and teamwork. He volunteered in the TOP Soccer program as well.

The Assistant Principal for Guidance at Kellenberg, Ruth Marconi, said that Colin is an “outstanding, charismatic, & thoughtful young man. One that emulates good behavior and acts as a role model for younger students.”

William Masiulis, Colin’s Varsity Soccer Coach wrote that Colin is “an influential role model in his society and uses his opportunities to inspire and lead by example.” He exemplified this in his involvement in the TOP soccer program where he was a constant volunteer.

Soccer is a big part of Colin’s life, and he says that when he was given the opportunity to fill a spot of someone he admired on the soccer field, at first, he fell short. He did not let this deter him, he trained, studied film and worked hard to fill those shoes. When the opportunity was given to him again, he not only wanted to prove his ability, but he did not want to let himself or his teammates down. As Colin puts it, he “emerged self-confident and can rise to any occasion.”

Colin explains in his essay that he sets goals for himself not just academically but also in sport. He will use that goal to train, study and improve his skills to attain that goal. Those skills will bode well for Colin in his venture to college and his future will be bright.

Colin is the recipient of the **Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Fairfield University**.

In Colin’s words:

“I have lived my life, on and off the field, by the motto of “Service Over Self.” Through volunteer work, being a Captain, and tutoring, I have always strived to put others’ needs above my own.”



Rocco Amoroso
Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship

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
Nicholas Solar

Nicholas Solar is a 2021 graduate of West Hempstead High School and the Salutatorian. Nicholas has played 17 seasons for the West Hempstead Seminoles and has volunteered as an assistant coach for GU10 and a trainer for the intramural program. A member of the National Honor and Spanish Honor Societies, and a finalist and first place winner in multiple Science Fairs, his academic achievements are outstanding. He has also volunteered for the West Hempstead Public Library and The INN. He is proficient in Spanish, was a member of Athletes Helping Athletes and is proficient in a variety of software programs, including updating the WHCSC website.

His coach, James Burgess, stated, "His versatile way of playing and understanding of the game allowed him to fill in every position whenever I needed him. Even early on during their U9 & U10 days. Nicholas was his part time goalie always looking to help the team in every way possible. As the team got older and stronger their success grew winning multiple competitions, and championships. Nicholas now found himself competing for playing time on a roster of incredibly talented players. Again, never discouraged he took on the challenge and worked even harder to hold onto his position. His vision for the field of play, his smart playing tactics and leadership skills have contributed to our success as a team from the beginning." This team won the LIJSL Sportsmanship Award 4 times.

Nicholas wrote in his essay, "Playing soccer has had an invaluable impact on my character. I am grateful for the opportunity that I have had to play soccer throughout my life, and I am thankful that I get the opportunity to give back. Every week, I spend a couple of hours helping out the West Hempstead TOPS program. This is a program where volunteers teach children with special needs how to play soccer. As a lifelong soccer player, I have seen the value that sports can bring to one's life... I have built strong friendships through soccer that have lasted since kindergarten. I have become close friends with many children in the TOPS program and enjoy every minute I spend playing with them. These friendships have taught me to never judge a book by its cover. I never expected to be close friends with many of the kids I work with, but their kind heart and passion for soccer shine through everything else. In addition to helping these kids learn new skills, I have learned many new skills myself. During my time volunteering, I have improved as a leader, a co-worker, and a friend. Soccer helps break barriers and build bonds between all people. Playing soccer has taught me many skills, but it was volunteering which really taught me the true value of the sport. Being able to help a young player pass a ball for the first time or score their first goal reminds me of how special soccer truly is and how much of an impact it can have on everyone who plays it."

Nicholas is the recipient of the **Rocco Amoroso Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Binghamton University**.

In Nicholas' words:

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed" is important to me. It inspires me to take risks so that I can achieve my goals and dreams. I am attending Binghamton University and will be majoring in Computer Science. I will not be playing soccer for the school."

Sandra Atlas Bass

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.





Sandra Atlas Bass
Scholarship
Recipient
Reza Aziz

Reza is a 2021 graduate of Calhoun High School, playing JV for two years then moving to Varsity for two years. He was a member of Hicksville Barca and Merrick Gunners. Irene Ritaccio, English Teacher, shared that Reza's "dedication to academics and soccer is impressive considering he is a member of the On Tour Drama Company, Class Secretary and all honor societies." He volunteers at North Shore University Hospital and is a member of the Junior Advisory Committee.

Coach George Shaw wrote, "...Reza was a very important part of our successes...His smarts consistently put him in the right place-very rarely out of position. He was very calm in working the ball out of the back and displayed great communication skills with his fellow backs and his keeper."

Reza shared in his essay, "Our weekends are filled with soccer, from watching the Premier League and cheering for Manchester United to playing and coaching the youth of our mosque community...I learned and met some of my best friends for life. We all play for our separate soccer teams in Valley Stream, Hicksville and Merrick, but it is beautiful to see how we have all grown as players, starting from the age of three, and how our team becomes better and better every time we come together for a practice... From my experiences playing with Merrick Gunners, I understood the value of teamwork and collaboration at a very young age... whether you are playing at striker scoring goals or at right back giving attacking support on the flank, we all perform a separate job on the field in order to achieve a common goal: victory. Collaborative skills can be applied in any career path..."

Reza is the recipient of the **Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship** and will attend the **Sophie Davis/CUNY School of Medicine**.

In Reza's words:

"When I am not on the soccer field playing as a center midfielder or fullback, I love to be in the kitchen or, more recently, grilling in the backyard. In fact, I used the pandemic to my advantage by persuading my father to buy an outdoor grill so I can develop new dishes outside the kitchen during quarantine. But my parents noticed that the new dishes and foods were for my own benefit and enjoyment. Although I will not be playing college soccer, I plan to continue playing with my mosque community soccer team on the weekends and in the yearly regional tournaments where different mosque communities across the east coast are invited to compete. I will be attending the Sophie Davis/CUNY School of Medicine this fall as I intend to pursue a career in medicine. I am honored to be receiving the LIJSL Scholarship Award, and I congratulate all other recipients receiving one as well today."



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
Matthew Wright

Matthew Wright a 2021 graduate of Cold Spring Harbor High School. Matthew played JV Soccer for the first two years, earning a spot on the Varsity Soccer team in 11th and 12th grade Matthew played for Syosset Soccer Club Bayern under Declan McSheffrey for his LIJSL youth career, first as a goalkeeper and then as an outside midfielder. In addition, Matthew was a varsity member of Baseball and Track & Field.

In the classroom, Matthew was a stellar student, being awarded with The Congressional Award-Silver Medal, recognizing initiative, service and achievement in young adults through goal setting. Also, Matthew was a member of the National Honor Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (Spanish Honor Society), Tri-M Music Honor Society and High Honor Roll at Cold Spring Harbor High School.

A three sport athlete at Cold Spring Harbor High School, Matthew was an important member of the high school team. The ultimate award was being recognized as a team captain this past spring season and being awarded with the Sportsmanship Award by the coaching staff. With the Syosset Soccer Club, Matthew was an important member of the squad and it showed because Matthew was one of the original players to play there since U-10. While playing for the Bayern, he was a player that could be counted on throughout the season as he led by example on the field with his hard play and his respect for the game.

Matthew credits soccer for being an important part of his life and the opportunities it has open up to him. One highlight was that Matthew was invited to attend a sports leadership seminar at Hofstra University that brought together student athletes from all over Long Island that were considered leaders by their coaches.

Matthew is the recipient of the **Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Boston College**.

In Matthew's words:

"I have played soccer throughout my entire life and while I have loved every moment of being on the soccer field, I tend to cherish the memories and bonds created between myself, teammates and coaches along the way even more! I will be attending Boston College, majoring in Economics and I will not be playing college soccer."



Tania Bonilla

Memorial Scholarship

Tania used to call the soccer fields her second home. Win or lose, she always had a smile on her face because she knew she had given her all and she was doing what she loved most. Some days, she would go from varsity soccer to club soccer to pick-up soccer and then coach youth soccer. There was no denying how much she loved soccer.

It wasn't always like that. When she was five years old, she wasn't thrilled about playing. Her dad had to bribe her; a dollar per goal which she would later use for ice cream. Kids are so literal at that age. Tania held him to it --- there were times when she would even score own goals because "a goal was a goal" and after the games, her dad had to pay up. She made sure she got a dollar for each one.

As she grew older, it was no longer about ice cream or money. Tania had developed a passion for the sport like no other. She started playing at the Brentwood Youth Soccer Club and was the only girl on an all-boys team. Her talent and skills with the ball spoke for itself and led the team to be called "Tania's Team." From that point forward, everyone knew she was going to dominate the field.

Tania showcased her talent while playing for the Brentwood Firecats. She made lifelong friends and they were inseparable. Her family often supported her at games and her mom's cheering could be heard from fields away. Tania did what she could to score and to stop the opposing team from shooting the ball. When the team graduated, she continued to join teams and did what she could to keep playing.

When Tania played Varsity for Brentwood High School, the momentum continued, and she became captain of the team. Even with a few injuries, she did not give up. She worked hard and showed how dedicated she was to the sport. She was a leader --- she wouldn't tear anyone down and did what she could to motivate her team to work hard and most of all, have fun.

As a college student, Tania's season at SUNY Old Westbury was also unforgettable. Tania and her teammates developed a close relationship and spent anytime they could together. They'd often grab lunch and play ball on campus. Their bond easily translated onto the field and ultimately led the team to the first round of playoffs; something that hadn't been done in years.

When she wasn't on the field, she'd still find a way to kick a soccer ball around wherever she could. She and her family would play well after the sun had already set or until someone ended up hurt or crying. Tania also wasn't afraid of competition - there were times where she'd play pick-up coed soccer with men twice her age, height, and weight. She was resilient, a team player and a hard worker.

Tania left her mark on the field and in our hearts. She will always be remembered by her contagious giggle, how talented she was on the field, and how loving and caring she was towards everyone.



Tania Bonilla
Memorial Scholarship
Recipient
Madison Nocerino

Madison is a 2021 graduate of Division Avenue High School. Madison played one year of JV and three years of Varsity Soccer, and most recently for Brentwood Express. She has volunteered for families and individuals in need through Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive, Adopt-a-Family, Thanksgiving Food Drive and Levittown Soccer Club.

Lynn Castellano, School Counselor writes, "Holding various leadership positions in Student Council, Madi takes pride in ensuring the organization continues to grow and improve. She can be seen organizing a school-wide event through Student Council, taking photographs to display at our annual art show, helping freshmen transition to high school as a Peer Leader...Madi passes on her love of soccer when she teaches young children basic skills and rules of the game. Academically, Madi has challenged herself year after year by taking the most challenging courses we offer. To further her knowledge, Madi also chose to take summer programs at Adelphi University and Long Island University."

Coach Michael Caputo stated, "Madison never lets her team or coaching staff down. She shows up every session on time, which for staff is 15 minutes before, ready to go and she leads by example. The most important thing that separates Madison from the rest of the other ladies in our program is she is selfless...Along with her undeniable talent, Madison has always been an absolute joy to work with. She is a true team player and always manages to foster positive discussions that bring the best out of our players."

Madison wrote, "My coach likes to say that mistakes are fine as long as the effort and right intentions are there. Foundationally, soccer has taught me to put my best effort into everything, even if it does not turn out in your favor. This mindset has helped me through major times in my life. Thanks to soccer, I will always have this mindset of hard work and effort through everything. This is a life lesson not many learn, so I am grateful to have amazing coaches and mentors to instill me with this knowledge."

Madison is the recipient of the **Tania Bonilla Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Delaware**.

In Madison's words:

"I received the NSDC Award for Academic Growth and Leadership this past school year. I also received the Nassau County Scholar Athlete award this past soccer season. I will be attending The University of Delaware in the fall to study biomedical engineering. I will be trying to play soccer at the collegiate or club level. I play outside midfield."



Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship

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

- 1) Personally supported or currently participate in a program(s) that help enrich the lives of people living with special needs or
- 2) Personally have mentored a person living with special needs to help them overcome their challenges and achieve personal successes.

It is our honor to help make your dreams come true



*Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation
Scholarship
Recipient
Emily Finck*

Emily is a 2021 graduate of Plainedge High School, playing JV Soccer for two years and Varsity Soccer for two years. She has played on Plainedge Extreme for the last 5 Long Island Junior Soccer League seasons. She has been a trainer for Plainedge Soccer Club Little Feet during grades 7 to 12. Academically, she had an SAT of 1170 and a weighted GPA of 96.494. She was a member of Student Council as well as multiple Societies, including National Honor, Science Honor, English Honor and Math Honor. Emily has been a Special Needs Aid for the Town of Oyster Bay GAP.

Emily said in her essay "I know I will be drawing from the skills I have gained through soccer to guide me through my schooling and career for years to come. Confidence, perseverance, communication, leadership and teamwork are vital from the emergency room to taking care of a small injury. I cannot thank this sport, my amazing coaches, especially my dad, and the entire Long Island Junior Program enough for creating a league I can thrive in and allowing me to wear the number 10 proudly on my back for over a decade."

Her girl scout troop leader for past 12 years wrote, "Whatever we are doing Emily brings her full effort and enthusiasm to the task. She is self-motivated, has a great work ethic and is someone I can always count on to help out."

Emily is the recipient of **The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship** and will continue her education at the **University of Scranton**. We wish you luck and please call your dad from time to time!

In Emily's words:

"I will be attending The University of Scranton in the Fall majoring in Nursing. I am so grateful for the years I spent on the soccer field with my dad coaching me every year since I was 6 years old. The lessons he taught me and the values I have learned will serve me well on my journey studying nursing and positively affecting the well-being of people I serve."



*Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation
Scholarship
Recipient
Emily Neri*

Emily Neri is a 2021 graduate of East Islip High School and has been playing soccer since the age of 5 for East Islip, continuing to play for the soccer club for the next 13 years, finishing up with the spring 2021 season for the East Islip Surge.

Emily just did not play soccer for the East Islip Soccer Club and the Surge, she has helped out with the Just For Kicks Soccer Program since 2015 and from 2017 to 2021 and has been a Senior Instructor. She stated that she looked forward to Friday nights at the Westbrook Soccer Facility where she would be able to share her soccer skills with others. The key was the smiles and the fun that the players would have in the session.

For her club team the Surge, she was a key player for their team success in LIJSL. Her club coach Dominic Furci stated that Emily was willing to do what was best for the team and that she was one of the most coachable and respectful player that he had the honor of coaching. Her joy of the game rubbed off on the other players on the Surge.

In the classroom, took a variety of challenging classes and she going to focus on psychology as she takes the next step in her journey at SUNY Geneseo. Knowing how hard she worked in the classroom and her focus on her educational studies, **SUNY Geneseo** should be lucky to have a young lady like Emily attending their university.

Emily is the recipient of **The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship**.

In Emily's words:

"Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I plan to attend SUNY Geneseo in the fall and will be studying Psychology in my pursuit of becoming a Child Life Specialist. I look to join the club team or international team at my college. When I played for East Islip Soccer Club I normally played midfield and forward. I will not be able to attend the award ceremony because I will be away on vacation. I am sorry I will be missing it."



*LIJSL TOPSoccer
Scholarship
Recipient
Caroline Kehoe*

Caroline Kehoe has been a “buddy” for the past six years at Smithtown Topsoccer. According to her coach she has had far and away the most community service hours of any volunteer in the program. He said she is thoughtful, diligent, consistently reliable and committed. Caroline was one of the only 10 volunteers selected to work with players during the Covid pandemic and has also volunteered to help during the summer camp. One of the parents commented that her son’s face would light up when Caroline was patiently waiting for him to walk on the field, and that made her heart melt. Caroline has been the kindest most patient teenager she ever had the pleasure to get to know.

Besides Topsoccer, Caroline has volunteered as a Tour Guide for the Friar Faithful and organized and ran orientation for incoming classes as “Treasure of St. Anthony’s Leadership Team (SALT). She is a member of the Caring Adolescents Reaching the Elderly (CARE), who host parties for nursing home members, play Bingo with them and take them to and from their rooms. During Covid, she wrote letters to the members and sent them care packages. Caroline is a Peer Tutor for the Math Honor Society and volunteered at “Challenger Camps for special needs children in the summer.

Caroline is a member of the National Honor Society, English, Foreign Language and History Honor Societies. She also is an AP Scholar with Distinction and received the Saint Bonaventure Award.

Caroline says that the Topsoccer children have taught her what it is like to be challenged, how to overcome obstacles and how to be truly resilient. Being a buddy changed her perspective on life. She formed a special relationship with one player and the joy and excitement he would show kicking the soccer ball while running down the field made her volunteer experience that much more worthwhile. She says Special Soccer has not only opened her eyes to these children’s abilities and differences, but also has opened her heart. It has taught her to be a more patient, kind and empathetic person and for that she will be forever grateful.

Caroline has been admitted to the class of 2025 at the **University of Virginia**. She plans to seek out a volunteer opportunity in her college community with special needs children in a sport or team activity.

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.



*George Hoffman Memorial
TOPSoccer Scholarship
Recipient
Sheyla Lopez*

Sheyla Lopez has been volunteering with East Islip Special Soccer for four years. She took the course to become a Senior instructor. She shows great understanding of what the children need and how to attain player development while still keeping them happy and involved. She is very confident and can handle many situations without the need for redirection or guidance from an adult. Sheyla is very reassuring to the children and she has a very caring way about her that makes them feel very at ease.

Sheyla helps patients and asked Doctors questions at Northwell Southside Hospital, belongs to the Yes Program at Islip Middle School that helps kids with homework and plays educational games with them until the 5:00 bus. She worked local blood drives at school, is involved with several activities at the Islip Public Library, volunteered at Special Olympics and as Buccaneer University Mentor at high school she participated in Freshman orientation and other events. Sheyla Shadowed at Twins Veterinary Hospital by going to the X-ray room and accompanied appointments. She collaborated with other high school students at the Youth Bureau of Islip Town Hall in making community a better place and as Secretary for the Class of 2021 Student Government, she planned events such as Junior and Senior Proms.

Sheyla refereed and worked at the concession stand for East Islip S.C., took several AP courses, played travel soccer, played Pit Violin in the school play-Joseph, played in Guitar Club at high school and worked on the NYS Democratic Primary supporting Governor Cuomo in his state race. She worked with mentors and did symposiums at Stony Brook for Women in Science Engineering and took classes to get certified as an EMT. Sheyla helped build a robot in VEX Competition.

Sheyla was on the Principal's Honor Roll Top 10 percent. She was a member of the English, National, World Language and Tri-M Honor Societies and Seal of Biliteracy. She is able to read and compose music and started a small baking business called, "Sheyla's Delights".

Sheyla says she had the chance to learn further values in participating in TOPSoccer. Little did she know she would be the one doing the most learning. Nothing prohibits the players from enjoying themselves as they play soccer with their friends. This experience helped her grow into a better, compassionate and altruistic person. She realized that she wanted to help people in her future career.

Sheyla will attend **Barnard College of Columbia University** in September. She will participate in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program. She hopes to continue being involved with TOPSoccer after high school.

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.



*George Hoffman Memorial
TOPSoccer Scholarship
Recipient
Megan Burke*

Megan Burke has spent Friday nights with East Islip TOPSoccer for the past six years. The coach states that sometimes you get a helper who stands out not for what they do but for their leadership qualities and that is Megan. She is patient and understanding beyond the most compassionate adults. Her work ethic and dedication to the program and more importantly to the players is not something you see in young adults of her age. You can count on her to lead by example. She is one of the sweetest, most caring and hardworking helpers.

Besides her time spent with TOPSoccer Megan has volunteered with the Babylon Lacrosse, Babylon Village Pool and Babylon Soccer Club. She is a Good Samaritan Candy Striper, worked events for the Babylon Juliettes, and volunteered at various events as Babylon Buddies for special needs students. She did a breast cancer walk, safe Halloween, and Camp Counselor at St. Joseph's Vacation Bible Camp. Performed at Old Fashion Night of Shopping, helped PTA run K-2 basketball clinic, linesman for CYO volleyball games and Babylon Public Library Book reviews. As a Girl Scout, she sewed and donated 200 masks to various organizations and members of the community during the rise of COVID-19.

Megan is a member of the National, Junior National, Science, English, Business, Tri M and Spanish Honor Societies. She belongs to Student Council, Babylon Buddies, Juliettes, DECA and Girl Scouts. She received Teacher's Association Award for Math, Girl Scout's Silver Award and DECA Award.

Megan writes that working with kids with special needs has taught her how to adapt and help these players overcome their adversity, to be able to have fun and play soccer. When they score or use a new skill, they get so excited and happy and in turn makes her happy and proud to be part of the program. Also, it makes her happy to help players achieve the same pride during soccer that she has while playing with her team. Megan says that volunteering a few hours of her time has had a larger impact than she ever thought. It has allowed her to create amazing relationships.

Megan has been accepted at **Northeastern University** and is majoring in Bio-medical Engineering for a pre-med future. She will be missed.

Congratulations Recipients

		Club	High School	College Attending
Isabella	Annunziata	Massapequa	West Babylon HS	University of Rhode Island
Reza	Aziz	Hicksville	Calhoun HS	Sophie Davis/CUNY School of Medicine
Caroline	Brucato	Massapequa	Massapequa HS	Mount Saint Mary College
Megan	Burke	East Islip	Babylon HS	Northeastern University
Jordan	Cohen	Middle Country	Centereach HS	Salve Regina University
Sierra	Crowley	Levittown	Wantagh HS	Northeastern University
Jamie	Eck	Middle Country	Centereach HS	Utica College
Brooke	Esposito	Southampton	Pierson HS	Manhattanville College
Faythe	Fifield	Stony Brook	St. Anthony's HS	Springfield College
Emily	Finck	Plainedge	Plainedge HS	University of Scranton
Hailey	Hearney	Smithtown	Earl Vandermeulen HS	Drew University
Caroline	Kehoe	Smithtown	St. Anthony's HS	University of Virginia
Paul	Keraga	Mount Sinai	Newfield HS	Stony Brook University
Amanda	Kolberg	Syosset	Syosset HS	University of Georgia
Jessica	Lee	Garden City Park	Kellenberg HS	Catholic University
Sheyla	Lopez	East Islip	Islip HS	Bernard College of Columbia University

		Club	High School	College Attending
Matthew	Meagher	Oceanside	Oceanside HS	Wilkes University
Emily	Neri	East Islip	East Islip HS	SUNY Geneseo
Madison	Nocerino	Brentwood	Division Avenue HS	University of Delaware
Joseph	Pitta	Kings Park	Kings Park HS	Northeastern University
Colin	Richards	Massapequa	Kellenberg HS	Fairfield University
Emma	Rochetta	Manorville	Eastport South Manor HS	Clemson University
Isabel	Rodriguez	Middle Country	Newfield HS	Vassar College
Antonino	Ruopoli	West Islip	West Islip HS	St. Joseph's College
Miranda	Saenz de Viteri	East Islip	St. Anthony's HS	Fordham University
Nicholas	Solar	West Hempstead	West Hempstead HS	Binghamton University
John	Tiberia	Oyster Bay East Norwich	Oyster Bay HS	SUNY Maritime
Brianna	Torres	Oceanside	Baldwin HS	University of Massachusetts
Hailey	Vitale	Longwood	Longwood HS	Pace University
Matthew	Vlacich	Sound Beach	William Floyd HS	Clemson University
Nigel	Williams	Valley Stream	Elmont HS	Cornell University
Matthew	Wright	Syosset	Cold Spring Harbor HS	Boston College



LONG ISLAND JUNIOR
SOCCER LEAGUE

“Building Character Through Soccer”

Since 1966