

SCHOLARSHIP
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JULY 17, 2022

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We are privileged to present these 33 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

Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship
Bill Peet Memorial Scholarship
Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship
Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship
Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship
Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship-Female Student Athlete
Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship
Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship
Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship
Jerry & Sally Marinan Memorial Scholarship
John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship
Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship
LIJSL Merit Scholarship
LIJSL Merit Scholarship
Marc Stein Memorial Scholarship
Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship
Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Pat Grecco Scholarship
Peter C. Collins Memorial Presidential Scholarship
Rocco Amoroso Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship
Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship
Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship
Tania Bonilla Memorial Scholarship
LIJSL TOPSoccer Scholarship
George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship
George Hoffman Memorial TOPSoccer Scholarship

RECIPIENT

Madison Apicella
Andre Insalaco
Ashley Argento
Katelyn Herbert
Bridget Murphy
Bridget Zahradnik
Jordan Abramowitz
James Morrissey
Ariana Taveras
Samir Gupte
Vail Muller
Willem Friedrichs
Madison Gulinello
Madison Kenning
Ashley Banta
Matthew Jerchower
Mia McElwee
Angelina Lent
Alexandra Leggio
Conor McGuigan
Nicole Nagengast
Alyssa Schimmenti
Marcus Stamps
Ava Zingone
Colin Mushorn
Jack O'Boyle
Skyla Marchesi
Kayleigh McGetrick
Yianni Leandrou
Charlotte Faulkner
Catherine Andree
Halle Brigandi
Maeve Laurie

ADDEI MATTAI-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.

ADDEI MATTAI-IAIA

PRESIDENTIAL

SCHOLARSHIP



Madison Apicella is a graduate of Sachem East High School, where she played Varsity Soccer for four years and Captain in her Senior year. She has a weighted GPA of 100.54. She played for the Long Island Slammers and the Smithtown Slammers soccer club. Madison was a TOP Newsday 100 player in 2021 and was also named All County 3 years in a row, First Team All New York State, First Team All-Region and Pre-Season All American Candidate.

In her essay, Maddy wrote, " I started playing soccer when I was 9 years old. I was a very shy and timid kid when I was younger. I didn't want to do anything new with anyone new either. Eventually I was able to overcome all the anxiety and I ended up sticking with it. I also became decent at it. Starting the game so late I was afraid I wasn't going to be able to catch up to the other kids, who had been playing since the age of 5. I came to realize that if you're athletic and determined, there is nothing you can't do. Today I look at life like a game of soccer. Soccer made me the humble, hard working, determined person I am today. It has boosted my confidence, helping me believe that I can do whatever I set my mind to."

Her coach, Mark Dawson, wrote, "Madison is a talented soccer player who possesses characteristics desirable to any coach. She knows how to push herself and also motivate said she has exceptional dedication and she knows how to push herself and motivate those around her."

Her varsity soccer coach, Thomas Anson, said, "Madison Apicella is one of the top student athletes I have ever had. The respect she shows to and for others, together with her wonderful personality and tremendous work ethic will make her an excellent addition to any school, team or employer. As a Captain for the girls soccer team, she was one of the best Captains I have ever coached and as a contact between coaches and players or organizing team events and preparing for games or practice, Maddy was always responsible, organized and professional."

Madison is the recipient of the Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship and will continue her education and athletic career at Adelphi University.

In Madison's words:

"I will be attending Adelphi in August and playing soccer. My major will be physical therapy. Soccer has been my center point for as long as I can remember. It has helped me persevere through school and find a way to work towards my goals on and off the field. I am proud that I have been able to work and achieve my end goal of attending college and pursuing my passion for sports medicine. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends."

RECIPIENT

MADISON APICELLA

BILL PEET

MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP



William S. Peet III known as Bill began his volunteer work in youth soccer with the Brentwood Soccer Club in the early 1960's coaching his twin sons. He later served in many different capacities with the club from coach to treasurer to president.

Bill was elected to the Long Island Junior Soccer League in the early 70's and served as the league treasurer for decades. Under Bill's financial guidance LIJSL became financially secure and was able to purchase the building where the offices area now. Bill also served as the Chairman of the LIJSL Appeals Committee and was an advisor to ENY Soccer. In 1999 he was inducted into the LIJSL Hall of Fame.

He would always enter the office and announce closing early 6:00 and no lunch.... He loved the girls in the office and looked after them.

Bill is survived by his wife Maryanne, twin sons Bill and Michael and his daughter Karen.

BILL PEET

MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP



Andre Insalaco is a 2022 graduate of Westhampton Beach High School, playing soccer four years on the Varsity Soccer Team. Andre has been a member of the Smithtown Slammers and Southampton Blue, playing from the age of six. He has participated in US Soccer ODP-East Region and was a National Training Camp invitee. In addition to being a strong athlete, which included 5 years of Varsity Tennis and 2 years of Varsity Winter Track, Andre is an accomplished student. He has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction and with an AP Capstone Diploma. With an SAT score of 1510 and membership in the National Honor Society, he has volunteered as a peer Math tutor. He has also volunteered as a junior coach for Southampton Town United since the 7th grade.

Coach Cody Hoyt shared, "I am not sure that I will ever have the opportunity to coach a player of his talent and character again. This two-year varsity captain has become the most decorated player in our program's history. Andre completed his senior year as an All-State player, League MVP, two-time All-County, three-time All-Conference, two-time Newsday All Long Island Team and two-time Newsday Top 100 Long Island Soccer Player. His skills and knowledge of the game were unquestionable; however, it was his leadership and role model attitude that made Andre develop into the ultimate athlete."

Marisa Nelson, Assistant Director of the Quogue Wildlife Refuge, stated, "Andre has been a volunteer at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge for many years, starting when he was in the 6th grade. Andre has contributed over 80 plus hours over the years as a volunteer and has helped us raise thousands of dollars to support the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. The entire staff enjoys working with Andre, as he is always professional, friendly, competent and joins us with a huge smile on his face."

Andre wrote in his essay, "My dad was a volunteer coach for almost my whole career, so I learned about volunteerism and sacrifice. I learned that about 40% of students at local elementary schools are on free lunch and that many kids in my area are unable to play sports and do other after school activities, due to their family's financial situations. After talking to my parents and coaches, I came up with a plan to help other kids receive the same experience I did. I joined the Club's fundraising committee and helped with fundraising events. I also started a program called "Pay it Forward Southampton," which is now an option at the Club's registration website. Now they can "pay it forward" by paying an extra registration fee for a child in need..."

Andre is the recipient of the Bill Peet Memorial Scholarship and will continue his soccer career at Fordham University, pursuing academic excellence at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business.

In Andre's words:

"I plan on going into the business of sports either as an agent or as a member of a team's front office. I will be attending Fordham University and I am going to playing Division 1 soccer in the A10 conference for the men's team, and I play striker/forward."

RECIPIENT

ANDRE INSALACO

BRITTNEY WALSH

MEMORIAL FUND

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 selfish 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 FUND

SCHOLARSHIP



Ashley Argento is a 2022 graduate of Wantagh High School, where she was an important member of the Wantagh High School varsity program, anchoring the defense for the past 4 years. In addition, she competed in LIJSL for her local club team the Wantagh Seaford Hurricanes coached by John Beirne. While at Wantagh High School, Ashley was awarded the Wantagh Sports Booster Club Scholarship, in recognition of dedication to athletics and education due to her success in both areas. Ashley also joined the Bellmore Blue Angels (USSF National League) for the 2021-2022 year to get the exposure needed at the college showcases for an opportunity to play at the college level.

Ashley when she played for the Wantagh Seaford Hurricanes was an important component to the team. Her love for the game shows the minute she gets to the field. This young lady just wants to compete at the highest level. As the anchor in the back 4, Ashley club team was always in the top of the standings in LIJSL and she was awarded by being one of the team captains. As her club coach Michael J Frazer stated, "Much of the team success can be attributed to one of the captains of the squad, Ashley Argento. Ashley plays center back for the Hurricanes and leads the defense both by words and actions. A vocal player, she reads the game very well and organizes her teammates to play defensively sound. It was not uncommon for the Hurricanes to concede the least goals each season and Ashley plays a big role in that feat."

When Ashley moved on to the Bellmore Blue Angels in the fall of 2021, she was the final piece to the puzzle to anchoring the defense. Once Ashley joined the Blue Angels, they were able to take 1st place in the Massapequa College Showcase in November 2021. Her coach commented on Ashley's performance. "In that tournament, if we did not have Ashley there, there was no chance that we would have won that tournament. She was a monster in the back, controlling the defense like she had been there for many years." Moving onto the spring season, Ashley upped her game to another level. Two defenders quit the day before Bellmore was to start in March, so Ashley stepped up and became a leader of the team. If I did not have Ashley, our defense would have been a mess. She has been a shining star that any coach would be proud of.

In her essay, Ashley shared, "At Cedar Creek Park we bring our soccer balls we have collected over the years that are half eaten by our dog. Swing and miss when my sister tries to kick the ball. My love for the game started at a very young age, four years old. My goal was to pass this sport on to my sister so she can get these amazing memories, friendships and skills I acquired throughout my life. I've definitely learned muscle memory and repetition build a strong platform. From juggling, playing 1v1 games to penalty kick contests, we enjoy the time we share together with the sport bringing us together."

Ashley is the recipient of a Brittney Walsh Fund Memorial Scholarship. Ashley goes off to St. Thomas Aquinas College this fall, where she will continue her education and soccer journey. Go Spartans!

In Ashley's words:

"I will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas College in August and will be playing soccer there. I am so lucky and excited to get the chance to continue doing what I love. I will never forget all the people I've met and places I've been from this amazing program, while also playing competitive soccer. In college I will major in occupational therapy to hopefully help other athletes."

RECIPIENT

ASHLEY ARGENTO

BRITTNEY WALSH

MEMORIAL FUND

SCHOLARSHIP



Katelyn Herbert is a 2022 graduate of Bethpage High School, where she played Varsity Soccer for four years, Captain in her Senior year. She was recognized with All County and All Classification Awards. She achieved a weighted GPA average of 99 and as a Freshman, received the Rookie of the Year Award (a 3 sport varsity athlete freshman year with high honors). She played on the Hicksville American Soccer Club Wildcats. In addition Katelyn was a four year Varsity Softball player and ran Varsity Winter Track for four years. She has been inducted into the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, National Foreign Language Society and the National Science Honor Society. Katelyn received a Certificate of Merit for an Irish Cultural Society Writing Contest. She has been involved in Athletes Helping Athletes and SADD and served as Vice-President for two years.

In Katelyn's essay she said, "Playing for the Wildcats team has taught me so much, on and off the field. The leadership I learned from the coaches and players around me helped me with the importance of always playing and acting the right way. Being a leader is not just being the loudest and telling people what to do, it's about listening to others, being there for them when they need you and leading by example."

Katelyn's coach, Trish Fasce, wrote, "Katelyn is the type of player that every coach dreams of having, she is committed, works extremely hard, listens, understands what her responsibilities are on the team and gives way more than any coach could ask. Katelyn has amazing speed on the field rising to every opportunity given to her, displaying leadership and good sportsmanship on and off the field. Katelyn exemplifies the character that LIJSL was founded upon; strong, kind hearted, positive, hardworking, responsible and thankful."

Katelyn has shared her love of soccer by volunteering to play once a week with children with disabilities for the Levittown Soccer Stars.

Katelyn is the recipient of one of the Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship and will attend Eastern Connecticut State University, where she will pursue a degree in Elementary Education and continue to play soccer for the Warriors.

In Kate's words:

"I have always cared for others as I have grown up the oldest of three. I take great pride in my kindness, dedication, and loyalty in all that I do."

RECIPIENT

KATELYN HERBERT



Building Character Through Soccer
Since 1966

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



Bridget Murphy is a 2022 graduate of Massapequa High School, where she played JV Soccer for two years and Varsity Soccer for two years. Bridget has played for Massapequa SC, playing most recently for Massapequa United. Bridget has been very active at Massapequa High School in Best Buddies, Student Council, SADD (Vice-President), Key Club and American Sign Language Club. She is a member of the National Honor Society, American Sign Language Society and Spanish Society. Bridget has been involved in Community Service through numerous organizations.

In her essay, Bridget states, "My family is rooted in the fire department. After the passing of her grandfather, who was an FDNY first responder, she learned the importance of pride and bravery in leadership. Watching her Dad, Uncle, and now my brother rush to every call and hear their stories, my heart is filled with nothing but pride and has ignited me to be more than average. Recently, I was on the Massapequa girls' varsity soccer team and our comradery, dedication, and true friendships led to winning a New York State Championship. From growing up in the Massapequa Soccer Club, I will forever remember the family-like environment and comradery which was very welcoming and made my last year bittersweet."

Ronald Forman, Varsity Soccer Coach, shared, "Bridget Murphy is a role model for any student-athlete that strives for excellence."

Angela Gallucci, MHS, wrote, "Bridget will have a lasting impression on my teaching career not only for her academic perseverance but also for genuine kindness and compassion for others. Academically, Bridget is not afraid to take risks. Her genuine curiosity and love for learning distinguish her from other students. She has an array of skills, such as writing, analyzing texts, communication/presentation, and self-reflection. All of these qualities and skills not only make her an excellent student academically but also an asset to other students who work with her. One of her greatest strengths is her ability to reflect, accept constructive criticism, and make impactful changes, whether it is in her schoolwork, on the soccer field, with a school club, or in her personal life. Observing this skill in a young adult is rare and her level of maturity proves that this skill propels her forward in life and allows her to stand out. Along with being an academic success, Bridget dedicates her time to playing soccer, running track, and participating in extracurricular clubs at Massapequa High School. Her collaboration, communication, and teamwork are qualities to highlight that continue to contribute to the astounding the young individual she is."

Bridget is the recipient of the Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship and will attend Iona College.

In Bridget's words:

"I am honored to be chosen as a recipient of the LIJSL scholarship this year. Something that my application did not reveal about me is during the winter off-season and in the spring, I run the 100 hurdles on the Massapequa High School track team and over the last four years, I have earned All-Conference, All-Division, and All-County honors. As I continue my education at Iona College, I aspire to become a Speech Pathologist and live a life doing what I love most which is helping others."

RECIPIENT

BRIDGET MURPHY

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.

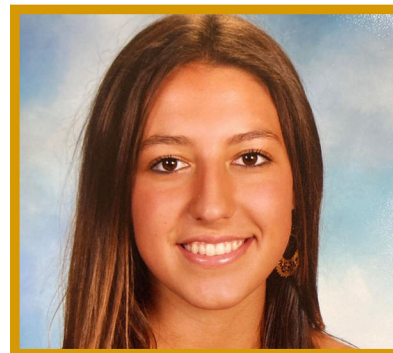
Eileen was elected to the LIJSL board of directors in 1978. With help of steady volunteers, she successfully managed the summer tournaments at CW Post for years. Peter Collins then asked Eileen to manage the Boys Select Team Program. This became her signature achievement for the league. She applied her 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



Bridget Zahradnik is a 2022 graduate of Oyster Bay High School and the Salutatorian. Bridget is a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Bridget has played for the Oyster Bay Explosion since 2013. Bridget has been a member of numerous Academic and Honor Societies: Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society and Tri-M Honor Society. Bridget has played flute weekly at Sunday Mass at St. Dominic's Church, volunteered for Vacation Bible School and Oyster Fest, and was a volunteer Cardiac Research Assistant at St. Francis Hospital, among many other services to her community. In addition to soccer, Bridget played Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Lacrosse.

Oyster Bay Councilwoman, Vickie Walsh, wrote, "Bridget has blown me away with both her academic and athletic achievement, as well as her dedication to leadership opportunities and involvement in community service initiatives. At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Bridget used her newly acquired free time to brainstorm ways she could be of service to her community, which led to the development of her fundraising project called "Benefitting Bracelets" ...which directly benefitted her local food pantry. Bridget has taken on multiple leadership roles including National Honor Society President, Mathletes President, First Chair in flute, Class Correspondent for the Student Council Executive Board, and involvement with the Student-Athlete Leadership Program and the Rotary Youth Leadership."

As President of NHS, Bridget has continued organizing a food drive to address food insecurity in her community. WHO KNEW A BRACELET COULD DO SO MUCH?

Director of Coaching, Richard Regino, shared, "She has played an integral role not only in running our team but mentoring all other peers. She has brought a clear understanding of sportsmanship, and its importance to our team. Bridget shows a great ability to know when to raise our intensity or boost team morale while also showing compassion during competitions."

In her essay, Bridget wrote, "Being athletic is necessary to play at a competitive level, but success would be elusive without hard work, dedication, and mental fortitude. I have always pushed myself to do the best on the soccer field and in life. I am always willing to try different techniques and positions and act with respect toward my coaches, teammates, and competitors. Ultimately, the hard work paid off, with the bruises to prove it, with many hard-fought victories and well-played games, always shaking hands with the other team despite who won. When I was younger, I was often called on to play on the boys' team to play goalie when they were short. Last spring, I tore my ACL and had to sit out my entire senior soccer season in the fall. Despite the disappointment, I chose to stay on my soccer team. I attended practice and games, helped the coaches' run drills, kept statistics... After my injury, I had to put the same qualities that led to her success on the field, hard work, mental fortitude, and discipline into her recovery. As a result, in the spring of my senior year, I am proud to be playing soccer again with my lifelong friends and the same coaches, gifts that I will never forget."

Bridget is the recipient of the Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship for a Female Student Athlete and will attend Vanderbilt University.

In Bridget's words:

"I am a midfielder on the Oyster Bay East Norwich Soccer Club's senior girls' team. I have been playing soccer since I was 5 years old and has not stopped since. My father was also the coach for all of those years. I am the salutatorian at Oyster Bay High School and will be attending Vanderbilt University as a Biomedical Engineering Major. Though I will not be committing to college for soccer, I will continue to play on some kind of club or intramural team in the upcoming years."

RECIPIENT

BRIDGET ZAHRADNIK

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



Jordan Abramowitz is a graduate of Newfield High School and has played on the Middle Country Children's Soccer Club United team. Jordan played JV Soccer for two years and Varsity Soccer for two years. Jordan has been In the Marching Band, playing baritone. Jordan's weighted GPA is 99.1.

In Jordan's essay, he shared, "I'll admit that I didn't love soccer at first. I was too nervous to play with the rest of the kids. My coach would gently try to encourage me to participate. It took that whole first season until I started feeling comfortable. My parents tell me that they believe soccer was a turning point for me (age 5). Soccer helped me become more social and outgoing. I will always fondly remember my first coach who slowly brought me out of my shell. My participation in soccer helped me realize that I want to coach and teach. I want to be a positive role model for young kids. "

Jordan plans to become a physical education teach and hopes to coach soccer teams in the future Jordan recently started coaching a 6 and 7 year old intramural team in his local soccer club. Jordan added, " To think, I may now be that coach that has a positive impact on a child's life like my first coach did for me."

His soccer coach, Danielle Ferreira, wrote, " Jordan is the type of person that everyone should strive to be life. He is smart, respectful, kind and a role model to others. He is passionate about soccer. " Off the field, Jordan and Danielle have had various conversations about team strategies – he said Jordan's insight "is something I haven't seen from any other young adult. He has a positive outlook, especially leadership qualities and is always trying to help others improve their game."

Mr. Giordano wrote, "Jordan Abramowitz has been the type of student that reminds a teacher of why they entered this profession. Jordan's attitude toward learning and his ability to persevere when faced with obstacles and challenges throughout the years has not only inspired me professionally, but personally as well."

Jordan is the recipient of The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship and will continue his education at Suffolk Community College.

Good luck, Jordan, with all your studies and your positive outlook. We look forward to hearing about you when you become a soccer coach.

In Jordan's words:

"I would first like to thank you for choosing me for the LIJSL Scholarship. I am an outgoing worker and will do anything to finish a task in front of me with no excuses. I am attending Suffolk Community College and not playing college soccer. I played center midfield when I played. I plan on majoring in Physical Education"

RECIPIENT

JORDAN ABRAMOWITZ

FRANK & MICHAEL VERTULLO

FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP



James Morrissey is a 2022 graduate of Longwood High School, playing JV and Varsity Soccer. James was a member of Longwood Firestorm. In addition, James has participated in Spring Pack. He is an assistant soccer coach for the 7 year old division. James has achieved recognition on the Academic Honor Roll and has given back to his community through Blessings in a Backpack.

In his essay, James wrote, "The summer after 10th grade, I was excited for the upcoming varsity season I waited two years for this but I was having so much anxiety from being quarantined. We were finally going back to school two days a week and home three days. I was falling behind and I couldn't focus. My anxiety became so debilitating and hindered me from pre-season training. I began to feel physically sick and mentally exhausted. When the tryouts began, I started to doubt myself. As the week progressed the anxiety got worse thinking I couldn't do simple drills or even run sprints faster than everyone else. I starting to think I would be cut from the team. At the end of the week, the coach thought the best the thing would be to play JV. That conversation will forever be etched in my memory. I didn't want to play JV, thought I would be made fun of. But I didn't give up despite this setback. I was made Captain, my grades went up, and my attitude changed. I felt like a different person. I overcame the anxiety both physically and mentally by working extra hours on the field. The lesson that this has taught me is that everything you want to accomplish in life isn't given to you. It has to be earned through dedication and commitment. Although my team didn't do as well as I hoped, I needed that opportunity to bring myself to get over my personal fears and learn to love the sport as I did when I was three years old."

Coach Kristi Morrissey wrote, " It's not easy being the coaches' son. After a tough loss or long practice, he had to hear me share my frustrations and criticism. I felt I was always a bit harder on him because I didn't want anyone to think he was getting special treatment. He worked harder than many of his teammates because he knew he would be judged harder. He was dependable. I could put him in any position and he could fill the gap. As he got older, I knew it was time to hand over the reins, not because I wanted to, but as travel soccer became more important to him, I knew he needed more support than I could give. I will forever cherish my time coaching my son, and the memories we made. As the cliché goes, "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

Rev. Patrick Riegger, Pastor of Infant Jesus R. R. Church, shared, "One quality about James that inspires me the most is his compassion towards his younger brother. James helps his younger brother weekly with his religious education assignments, as well as helps assist in coaching his brother's soccer team. He has expressed that he would like to obtain a coaching certificate to further his coaching opportunities. His goodness and kindness are so evident in the way in which he expresses his love and concern not only to his younger brother Andrew but towards those in greatest need. I was inspired by the way in which he helped organize a big food drive for our parish pantry during the Covid pandemic."

James is the recipient of The Frank & Michael Vertullo Foundation Scholarship and will attend the University at Buffalo.

In James' words:

"I will be attending University at Buffalo majoring in Exercise Science and minoring in Coaching. I will be playing on the school's club team. I usually play CDM but I go where I'm needed. I would like to one day coach my high school's Varsity Soccer Team. If I'm not playing you will still find me on the soccer field helping coach my little brother's team. Thank you so much for this scholarship and for this opportunity. I really appreciate it."

RECIPIENT

JAMES MORRISSEY



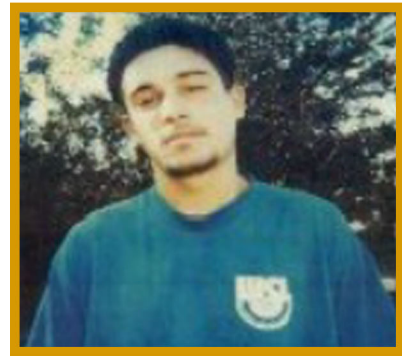
**“When we strive to become better than we are,
everything around us becomes better too.” - Paulo Coelho**



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



Ariana Taveras is a 2022 graduate of Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville. She played varsity soccer for the Lady Titans for the past 4 years. She graduated in May 2022 with a New York State Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. In LIJSL, Ariana played for the Oceanside United Soccer Club and then moved on to the Bellmore Blue Angels (USSF National League) for the past 3 years. With the Blue Angels, Ariana played any position needed on a given match, but she was most effective playing the center midfield role.

In the classroom, Ariana has been an excellent student as she always challenged herself to take a rigorous program of classes. While at Holy Trinity High School, Ariana was in the National Honor Society, and a member of the Black History Club, the Cooking Club and was a member of LIGHTS (group of students who serve as mentors to underclassmen). On the soccer field for Holy Trinity, she received the coaches award and was named best midfielder in the league. On top of that, she excelled on the track, was selected to the All-League team and won the coaches award for track.

At Holy Trinity, her guidance counselor, Regina H. Kikenny, puts it best. She states, "I have never heard an unkind word uttered by Ariana or about Ariana. I find Ariana to be exceptionally kind and thoughtful. She seems to rise above 'teen drama' which plagues so many women." While at Holy Trinity, Ariana always would be there to help out those who needed assistance, who used her gift in a positive and wholesome manner.

For the Bellmore Blue Angels, Ariana would do anything for anyone. That is the type of young lady that Ariana is. She is a player willing to step up to any challenge, as evident from what her coach wrote about Ariana. "One of our center midfielders was leaving our team, so I felt Ari would be the best candidate for the spot, she was our striker. but I felt by moving Ari in the midfield would make her a better player. When I asked her what she felt about the switch in position, her exact words were, 'I am ready for the challenge, I was always waiting for you to ask me.' " This is Ari, always looking to get better, always looking for a new challenge; this is why Ariana is an exceptional person as well as an excellent soccer player."

In her essay, Ariana speaks about her experiences on the soccer field at Holy Trinity and how she wanted to make a difference the moment she stepped on the turf there as a 9th grader. "There were not enough girls to make cuts from the Varsity team, but I still tried my hardest during tryouts my freshman year, so I could prove to the coach that I deserved to have starting position and I did just that." In her essay she also gives credit to her mom for being the rock in all the tough times she had faced, stating that she pushed her to never give up and to always work hard.

Ariana will be heading off to Sacred Heart University in Connecticut and will try to make the women's soccer program as a walk-on. If anyone can, it is Ariana. She is the recipient of the Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship.

In Ariana's words:

"I will be attending Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut in the fall of 2022. I am quite the versatile player but my favorite position is midfield. I will be continuing my soccer career at Sacred Heart on their club team, as well as majoring in the nursing program. I plan to become a successful nurse practitioner after I graduate in 2026. Although soccer is my life, I did develop a love for track as well. A fun fact about myself is that I won an award for being a part of 10 varsity seasons in my high school career between soccer and track."

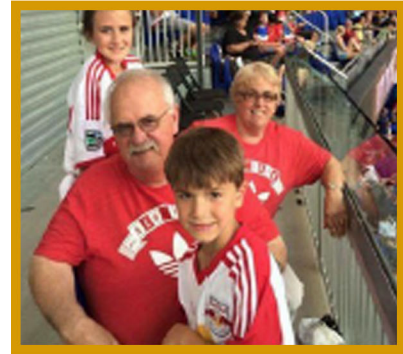
RECIPIENT

ARIANA TAVERAS

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



Samir Gupte is a 2022 graduate of Bethpage High School, playing soccer for two years on JV and two years on the Varsity Soccer Team and was named Nassau County All-Conference player twice. Samir has been a member of the Bethpage Force for the past 10 years. In addition to being a strong athlete, which included 4 years of Varsity Tennis, Samir is an accomplished student. He has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction, is a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society and National Language Honor Society and has achieved an SAT score of 1360. Samir was first chair viola until 2019 and first chair trumpet through 2022, as a member of Chamber Orchestra at Bethpage HS.

Coach Michael Mikulski shared, "I have had the privilege of coaching Samir since he was a player for the U5 intramural program. Samir's tenacity and fervor for soccer continues today as the captain of our BU19 Bethpage Force LIJSL travel soccer team. His leadership shows at every practice, he often seeks advice for the trainers and constantly strives to improve. These convictions and pure love for the game are infectious and the impact is proven in the teams' success. Our last season alone he led the team to a 10-0 victory streak, where he scored the majority of the goals."

Jeff Cook, Interleague Commissioner for Bethpage PAL Soccer, wrote, "We have turned into a society of consumers who take and take but so infrequently give back. It seems that many think that simply clicking a "Like" button is how they can give or participate. It was so refreshing and encouraging to see Samir rise to the challenge of coaching a group of 8 and 9 year old boys."

In his essay Samir wrote, "I have played with my father as my coach in LIJSL since 2012 and having him as a coach made me a better player and coach. When I first accepted the opportunity to become a coach of a supposedly innocent group of 2nd and 3rd graders, I didn't expect them to change me as much as they did. I quickly learned however, being likable is great for your self-image, but is not sufficient for leading a team. Midway through the season, issues surrounding language, attentiveness and bullying were beginning to tear the team apart. Here I made a stricter means of control. Now, misbehaving resulted in running laps, but attentiveness was rewarded with fun activities and more playing time. An entire summer later, it was time for my Senior Night soccer game as Captain of the Varsity Soccer Team. During half-time, I hear a few voices behind me shout out, 'Coach! Coach!'. To my surprise and satisfaction stood Anthony, Kevin, Liam, Armaan, Max, Sebastian and Antonino wearing their new team's travel jerseys. That moment meant the world to me."

Samir is the recipient of the Jerry and Sally Marinan Memorial Scholarship and will continue pursuing academic excellence at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In Samir's words:

"I am attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) majoring in Business Analytics with plans to go into Data Science. Although I am not playing college soccer I will continue to play club soccer in college as I love the game. I mainly play striker/forward but am also strong as an attacking midfielder and winger. I'd describe myself as a hardworking, and versatile athlete and scholar. Along with being Captain of the Varsity Soccer Team, I take pride in my other athletic interests which are Varsity Track, and Varsity Tennis, where I was a four-year athlete and also captain. Not only have I excelled in athletics but also in music. I've made All-County five times for the viola, and I played First Trumpet for Bethpage High School's band and jazz band."

RECIPIENT

SAMIR GUPTE

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 Penn State Soccer team. They played a series of goodwill games with Iranian teams throughout the country. In 1954, he captained the NCAA championship team for Penn State and received First Team All-American honors. He was a member of the U.S. National Team in 1955, and had one cap in a game against Iceland. He also traveled the world as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces soccer team.

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

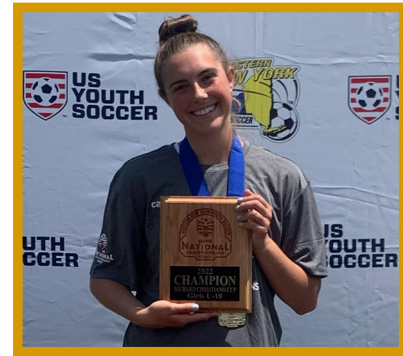
In 1958, he met the love of his life, Evelyn Reis, and they were married for almost fifty years. They moved to Northport, Long Island in 1962, and raised three children, John, Lyn and Karin, all of whom played soccer. His love for the game led him, in 1971, to help found the Northport Soccer Club. He 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



Vail Muller is a 2022 graduate of Smithtown High School East, where she played Varsity Soccer for four years. She has been a member of the Smithtown Kickers for 12 years and most recently the Long Island Slammers. Vail has been inducted into the Business, Math and National Honor Society. She is a member of DECA, SADD, and Business Olympics. She has challenged herself with many AP classes and was in the Smithtown East Band, playing Bass Clarinet (first chair) for 2 years. Vail has been a student tutor in Math and Science for four years. She has been engaged in many community service projects, such as Adopt a Family and the Silent Night Foundation.

Coach Mark Dawson wrote, "Whether on the soccer or in the classroom, Vail's dedication is exceptional. She has a genuine desire to succeed, which helped her achieve continuous success throughout her club career. Vail is a talented soccer player who possesses characteristics desirable to any coach. She knows how to push herself and also motivate those around her. Over the course of her time with the Smithtown Kickers, Vail led her team to several successful seasons, which included championship titles, and earned herself several individual awards. Vail's hard work, maturity, and determination on the soccer field made her a perfect candidate for captain of the team. Vail is one of the best leaders I have been around in my career. Vail has the unique ability to be a friend and a leader all at once."

Vail wrote in her essay, "Go Vail Go! I can hear my parents shouting and screaming from the sidelines. Sometimes too loud!...My coaches and trainers have been instrumental in teaching me the skills that have helped me succeed. Today, my parents continue to be on the sidelines still cheering and shouting just as loud as when I was younger. I will always appreciate the love and support they provided."

Vail is the recipient of the John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship and will continue her academic and athletic journey at Cleveland State University.

In Vail's words:

"I will be attending Cleveland State University this coming fall. I will also be studying at the Washkewicz College of Engineering while participating in the Honors College. In addition, I will be playing Division 1 soccer as a Cleveland State Viking. My primary position is Defensive Center Midfield. I am named after Vail, Colorado. My family and I are avid skiers who are passionate about the mountains. Most importantly, my 83 year-old grandfather, who was an engineer is the catalyst that inspired me to pursue Civil Engineering."

RECIPIENT

VAIL MULLER

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



Willem Friedrichs is a 2022 graduate of Centereach High School. He had a SAT score of 1240 and has a GPA weighted average of 97. He played for the Smithtown Kickers and is on Slammers team. He has played two years on the JV Soccer Team and two years on the Varsity Soccer Team. Will plays Deck hockey. He is a member of the National Tech Honors Society, Spanish Honor Society and the National Honor Society. He started a fundraiser for a friend's dad called "Do More for Les", among other volunteer activities.

Will has been the Assistant field Coordinator for tournaments held on Smithtown Kickers fields – he set up fields, sold uniforms to new players and helped with registration.

In his essay Will wrote, "From a young age, I learned that there is more to a great player than just talent, you have to have leadership skills too. While other kids' Saturday mornings included cartoons and playing with toys, mine were spent at the field with my Dad, helping out with the Smithtown Kickers junior soccer program. Seeing leaders help people gave me the blueprints to become someone who wants to help and lead the community too. Playing center midfield allow simple communication between me and my teammates which occurs frequently and has made a massive difference in a play before. The leadership skills learned in soccer have led me to be a better leader in school too."

A Smithtown Kickers Board member, Ryan Cavanagh, wrote about Willem being an intramural referee and said "Often times a younger ref becomes window dressing as they are afraid to speak up, not Willem. I have never been more impressed with his attention to detail, and the professionalism he went about his job. He was often requested by coaches because everyone knew he would control the game."

His coach, Nicholas DeZenzo, says, "At every practice and game he shows the greatest sportsmanship between both teams and is the first player to offer a handshake or help a player from the other team after a tough play. Will's actions are contagious and he has continued to show great leadership with his actions."

Will has done an excellent job communicating and helping his soccer club be successful, as well as honoring the examples set by his family.

Willem is the recipient of Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship and will attend Binghamton University for Mechanical Engineering and plans to play club soccer.

In Will's words:

"I obviously love to play soccer, but I also play hockey and I'm a big fan of the New York Rangers. I liked to go out with friends and play video games and I do most of my school assignments last minute.

Fun Fact: My whole life I have played in the midfield yet I won an award for best goalie at an indoor tournament when I was 12 years old"

RECIPIENT

WILLEM FRIEDRICHS

LIJSL

MERIT

SCHOLARSHIP



Madison Gulinello is a 2022 graduate of Deer Park High School. This young lady has played soccer for the Deer Park Soccer Club since the age of 5 years old. She has been a member of the Deer Park Turbulence coached by Joe McGarty since their inception into LIJSL at U-10 and most recently with the Bellmore Blue Angels (USSF National League) since January 2021. While at Deer Park High School, she has been a member of the varsity program for the past 3 years and was a member of the Deer Park Varsity Track and Field Team, who won the 2019 League Championships.

While at Deer Park High School, Madison has been a very involved. She has been involved in the Varsity Leaders Club, the Red Cross Club, National Honor Society, Math and Science Honor Society, and the Spanish Honor Society. Also, she has found time to be a Girl Scout since Kindergarten.

What makes Madison so special as a person is what Carole Oswald, her Girls Scout Leader wrote about Madison in her recommendation letter. She stated, " Madison is a great friend. She has been friends with the same group of girls for their whole school career. It has been an honor to watch her grow up." To add on the importance of Madison comes from what her club coach Joe McGarty wrote to the LIJSL Scholarship committee. He said, "I have been Madison's coach since she has been 5 years old and it has been an absolute pleasure to watch her grow up over the past 13 years. One quality admire in Madison is her genuinely sweet personality, that to me is the same today as it was the first year I coached her."

Madison's coach sums up the type of young lady she is. He stated, " As the spring of 2022 comes to a close, it has been an honor and privilege to have Madison be a member of the Bellmore Blue Angels. Even though Madison has only played with the Blue Angels for a short period of time, I feel blessed to have Madison on the team, because she has made the players on the team better on the field and off the field as well."

In her essay Madison wrote to the committee, she stressed the importance of being a leader on and off the field, plus the valuable lessons that she learned throughout the years that she will use in the future to make her a better person. In the essay, she also stressed the importance of team and how soccer has had a tremendous impact on her life.

For those who have had an opportunity to have associated with Madison, realize how lucky they have been to have been part of her life. She will be heading off the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) in the fall. They will be lucky to have her on their campus for the next four year in her journey. Madison is the recipient of a LIJSL Merit Scholarship

In Madison's words:

"In the future I hope to travel the world and see new places. I will be attending The University of Tennessee Knoxville with an intended major of Architecture."

RECIPIENT

MADISON GULINELLO

LIJSL

MERIT

SCHOLARSHIP



Madison Kenning is a 2022 graduate of Deer Park High School. While at Deer Park High School she was an important piece to the varsity soccer program as well as an anchor to the defense of the Deer Park Turbulence (LIJSL) throughout her youth career in soccer. Madison was member of the Bellmore Blue Angels (USSF National League) since the fall of 2020, where she has been a starter at outside back since she joined the team.

While at Deer Park High School, Madison was a busy young lady. She was a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and was on the Academic Honor Roll each quarter during her four years at Deer Park High School. Plus, Madison was a member of the Girl Scouts and won the Girls Scout Silver Award. Finally, she took part of the Varsity Leader Club and the Red Cross Club.

While on the soccer field, one the qualities that made Madison so unique and so special was that she is hardest working player on the field that wants to be best. To back this statement up, Joe McGarty, her club coach for the Deer Park

Turbulence wrote, " The girl just can't be kept down. She is an endless supply of effort while still maintaining the ability to laugh if something goes wrong. Just an awesome awesome human being."

To add to the type of player Maddie is, her coach summed up how important Maddie was to their team. "What a gift Maddie has been the past year and a half. Every practice and game she is in, I do not have to worry about Maddie. She controls her position with pride and she always looking for feedback on how to get better. She is one of my favorite players on the team because no matter how bad a situation might be, she always has a smile on her face. Nothing seems to bother her That is what I love about her."

In her essay, she focused on two things: teamwork and friendships, which are both very important to Madison. She stated that soccer had built her character in many ways that she is proud of, and that it has made her a better person. Also, she goes on to say, " Through soccer I have built many relationships, I met my friends in 4th grade because they were on my soccer team and I have stuck with the same team and we have been friends ever since."

Madison will be attending Adelphi University Class of 2026. Maddie is the recipient of a LIJSL Merit Scholarship. Adelphi is lucky to have a person like Maddie on their campus.

RECIPIENT

MADISON KENNING

MARC STEIN

MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP



Marc Stein's sudden, unexpected passing in October, left the LIJSL soccer community with a huge hole. For over 25 years, he was a "Larger than life" persona both within our league and game. He left his mark wherever he went, with his passion and enthusiasm to serve for all to see.

"We have lost a valued friend and colleague, who's decades long contribution to his local community, to Bellmore (JFK HS) Varsity soccer and LIJSL were immeasurable," LIJSL President Andrew Seabury said following Marc's passing.

Marc has been a vibrant and active member of the LIJSL family:

- Member of Board of Directors 2012-2021
 - Secretary 2016 -2021
 - Trustee 2012-2016
- Waldbaum's/LI Cup 2000- 2020
- Other Committees
 - Registration
 - Rules
 - Games

His presence was always visible and well-spirited. Whether it was at the LIJSL Convention conducting coaches' meetings, handling club and player registration at the League office, or directing and emceeing the trophy ceremony at the Long Island Cup Finals.

He also served at the member club side, coaching numerous teams, first in the Bellmore, and then the Merrick/South Merrick PAL soccer club programs.

"Marc was a well-respected man who enjoyed life. The volunteer work he performed for the LIJSL was greatly appreciated and he will never be forgotten. He was a role model for many people and his contagious smile and laughter will be sorely missed," said Anthony Maresco, former LIJSL President, who worked together with Marc on the Cup for nearly two decades.

Marc's dedication to LIJSL was one of a kind, serving not only as a volunteer, but as a mentor, teacher, and friend to so many. His contribution to the Long Island Junior Soccer League both on the field and off the field has left an everlasting impact.

MARC STEIN

MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP



Ashley Banta is a 2022 graduate of Oceanside High School played varsity soccer for Oceanside Sailors and was a member of the Bellmore PAL Soccer Club, playing for the Bellmore Blue Angels. Ashley also played for the West Hempstead and Oceanside United Soccer Club during her LIJSL experience. She also was part of the Long Island Junior Player Developmental Program,

What makes Ashley so special is that she is a leader and that she is always looking out for others. Ashley has been instrumental in helping future students learn about what Oceanside High School will be like. She spoke to them about the ins and outs about high school. She also was there for the current 9th graders this past school year by helping them transition to the new school when they entered this past September. This is even more special because when Ashley first started at Oceanside High School 4 years ago, she was one of the most shy people that you were meet. As Ina M Leventhal stated about Ashley, " As she matured and grew and her confidence improved, she literally became one of my shining stars."

On the soccer field, Ashley was one of the key members of the Bellmore Blue Angels. Even though she might have not been the best player on the team, she was a coach's dream, she was the type of player that would be there no matter what and never complain one bit. Her coach said this about Ashley, " For the past 4 years, words can not express how appreciative I have been that Ashley said yes. She has accepted every challenge I have put in front of her and she has done an exceptional job." Ashley's two biggest fans are her two little sisters, who she has already been working with their soccer skills to make them both the best players they can be.

In her essay, Ashley speaks about what soccer has meant to her, especially all the friendships she has made throughout the years. She says, " meeting many different girls who I've built such strong relationships with really helps. It helps knowing I have friends from all different places that I can rely on and go to. That is such a good feeling because it gives me other sources of friendships that will help me in the future."

Ashley will continue her education at East Stroudsburg University and is the recipient of the Marc Stein Memorial Scholarship.

In Ashley's words:

"Thank you so much for this opportunity. I am someone who loves to help people as much as I can and always care for my friends and family. My plan for the future is to get my education degree so I can be an educator for the younger generations."

RECIPIENT

ASHLEY BANTA

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.

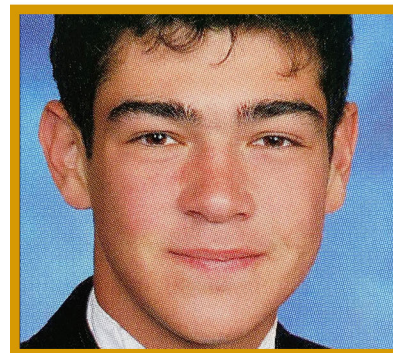
Matt started with Northport Soccer Club, since they had a program for four year-olds. He played travel for Northport, Brentwood United, Auburndale Supersonics and East Meadow Jets. Matt was selected as an alternate for the ENYSSA ODP team and played with LIJSL ODP team. He played varsity soccer for Half 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



Matthew Jerchower is a 2022 graduate of Oceanside High School, playing JV Soccer for two years and Varsity Soccer for two years. Matthew is a member of Oceanside United Soccer Club Wave most recently and played for the OUSC Bulls previously. Matthew is a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, Key Club, Athletic Pride Club and Battle of the Classes. Matthew acted as a Government/Economics Student Mentor. He has participated in many community service activities.

In Matthew's essay, he shared, "During my travel career, nothing has meant more to me than the strong relationship that I've developed with my father. He has coached my Intramural, Inter-Town and Travel teams. With little soccer playing experience himself, but a strong sports background and lots of motivational "movie quotes", he has guided our team to numerous successful seasons. We became extremely close during countless time together at games, practices, long car rides out East and endless dinner table conversations."

Patrick Turk, OHS Varsity Coach, wrote, "On the soccer team he is known as the ultimate utility man. Man will remain in his teammates' minds for as long as they live because he is the soft spoken worker/warrior you want on your team who inspires and leads through example. As an individual, Matt is regarded as one of the kindest students in the entire grade. The way his peers interact and talk with him is an outstanding show of respect and admiration. As a mentor, he blossomed into the group leader. He will inspire others to elevate their own standards."

Karen Meagher, OISC Special Needs Coordinator, wrote, "I truly got to know him during the last 5 years where he has volunteered with the OUSC Special Needs Program. He always arrives early to help set up, stays after to break down, and he is very engaging and helpful with our players, and they all love him! He is one of the few volunteers that take on a leadership role in our program rather than simply helping out and because of that, we assign him with our more challenging players. Many of them require one-to-one attention and Matthew is very attentive and caring with them."

Matt is the recipient of the Matthew Scarpatti Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Syracuse University.

In Matthew's words:

"I enjoy traveling around the world with my family and am a long suffering Mets, Knicks and Jets fan. I will be majoring in Business at Syracuse University in the fall. I played striker for my club and high school soccer teams. I plan on playing intramural soccer in college."

RECIPIENT

MATTHEW JERCHOWER

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



Mia McElwee is a 2022 graduate of Mepham High School, playing soccer two years on the JV team and two years on Varsity. In addition, Mia has played varsity lacrosse for three years. Mia has been a member of Bellmore Soccer, playing for the Icicles and then the Bellmore Blue Angels, becoming one of the team captains. Mia is not only a strong athlete, but a strong student. With an SAT score of 1510 and membership in multiple Honor Societies, she received the scholar athlete award for having the highest average on the Varsity Soccer team. She tutored her peers, participated in Clubs for Art, Math and Science, while excelling in many AP classes.

Coach Keri Wisey shared, " During our playoff run during Mia's junior year, Mia stepped into goal after our starting goalie was injured, having been our starting outside midfielder for weeks before that. She has been utilized in nearly every different field position. There is no measure for the good character and disposition Mia carries with her daily. She has a drive and maturity level that is unmatched at her age."

Coach Paul Schimmenti stated, "Mia has been a valuable member of the team all these years. She was always highly active in soccer. She also played on PDP and ODP teams through LIJSL and was always getting other goalie training on her own to get better. Mia was always looking for more of a challenge and she found it. There were some games that she played in that were lopsided. She would never change how she approached the game and always showed great sportsmanship on and off the field. Soccer is fun for Mia. She played against many players that she knew from PDP and ODP and her relationship with these players was so good that many of them joined our teams as their teams folded over the years. They all seem to like playing with Mia."

Mia wrote in her essay, "The last two years have been rough for everybody, with covid rearing its ugly head again and again. During these many months of lockdown, one of the things that stopped me from going stir-crazy in my house was playing soccer...soccer, in any form, kept me grounded and stopped me from getting lost in the nothingness that was lockdown. Later in the year, it became my escape when my brother was in the hospital. Soccer is not just a part of my life; it is a part of who I am. It has taught me valuable life lessons that I will use for the rest of my life: how to be a teammate, be a leader, stay calm in stressful situations, and make decisions ." Mia is the recipient of the Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship and will continue her athletic and academic career at McDaniel College.

In Mia's words:

"In the future I plan to find a path that leads me to helping people in whatever way I can. I am attending McDaniel College, studying engineering and playing lacrosse."

RECIPIENT

MIA McELWEE

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



Angelina Lent is a 2022 graduate of Smithtown High School East, playing JV Soccer for two years and Varsity Soccer for two years. She has been recognized as All Division and All County Academic Award. She is a member of on the Honor Roll. She has played for Smithtown Kickers/LI Slammers Soccer Club for the past four years, playing for Smithtown from the beginning. Angelina is a member of a number of Honor Societies-National Honor, Math Honor, Spanish Honor. Angelina was a member of SADD and Interact Club. She had an SAT score of 1460 and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She has been a Youth Referee for the Smithtown Kickers and a volunteer for their Special Soccer Program. Angelina's varsity soccer team went to the County Championship in 2021-Smithtown East vs West in the County Final.

Angelina's coach, Mark Dawson, Long Island Slammers Cosmos, wrote, "Over the course of her time with Long Island Slammers and Smithtown Kickers, Angelina led her team to several successful seasons, which included championship titles, and earned her several individual awards. Angelina went above and beyond to help each player on the field and in the classroom. As a leader she helped oversee our club food drive which was a great success. Angelina can always find a way to connect with anyone."

DebbieAnne Baione, English Teacher, wrote, "Angelina was my student last year in AP Capstone Seminar. As you already know, last year was filled with adversity, and education was no exception. The challenge of hybrid and remote learning brought new challenges to AP Capstone Seminar, a course built on extensive collaboration and critical thinking. Angelina not only persevered, she excelled. Angelina was able to develop her skills in the critical analysis of scholarly academic writing, composing persuasive arguments, delivering oral presentations and working both independently and cooperatively to achieve various goals in reading, research, argumentation, composition and presentation. Angelina has also earned the respect of her peers and her teachers through her dedication to her education and her desire to help others thrive."

Angelina shared in her essay, "When I was younger, I was more of a follower; I was a good listener, and only spoke up when absolutely necessary. As a center-back, I needed to do much more than this and over time I was able to find my voice and learn how to use it to lead. To be an effective leader, you need to consider and understand what those around you respond best to. In times when my team was down, some of my teammates responded best to an encouraging word, while others responded to constructive criticism to get them locked in. Soccer has also taught me what it takes to truly pursue a passion. Upon entering high school, competition increased and knowing that my goal was to play in college, it was my job to figure out what needed to be done to make sure my progress was consistent. Learning to work at a passion in this way is one of the most valuable skills I will take with me as I enter the world of college soccer at Stony Brook University."

Angelina is the recipient of the Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship and will continue her education and soccer journey at Stony Brook University. Angelina will be a member of the Seawolves.

Angelina's words:

"I will be attending Stony Brook University in the fall to continue both my academics and my soccer career. My intended major is Health Sciences, with the goal of continuing on to med-school. A fun fact about me is that I was born at the Stony Brook University Hospital, so going there is a very full-circle moment."

RECIPIENT

ANGELINA LENT

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



Alexandra Leggio is a 2022 graduate of Seaford High School and has been a member of the varsity soccer for four years. Alexandra has played the last 5 years for the Seaford/Wantagh SC Hurricanes under Coach John Bierne. She is a key figure on the Varsity Basketball and Lacrosse teams. She trains as a Junior Firefighter for the Wantagh Fire Department.

Varsity Soccer Coach, Ken Botti, wrote, "In her sophomore and junior years, she was awarded All-Conference and received All-County Honorable Mention in her senior year. She was known as a tenacious shutdown defender. She routinely marked the other team's best player and usually succeeded in limiting their contributions. Alexandra was also fiercely competitive in the air and was an excellent header of the ball. This trait was demonstrated wonderfully when Alexandra headed in the game-winner versus #1 seed Wantagh in double OT in the second round of the 2019 Nassau County Class A playoff."

Another one of her most notable accomplishments is her role as President of the Best Buddies program. She has organized for students with special needs in her community. According to Stephanie Barkus, Varsity Basketball Coach, she was blown away by her ability to facilitate those events. It was so impressive to see a young individual able to stay so organized, energetic, and positive when being involved in so much.

Alexandra states in her essay, "Soccer taught me to fight no matter what the score and leave my heart out on the court and the field, which helped me face other obstacles throughout my life, as well as being able to help others face theirs. It taught me the importance of being dedicated- showing up even when it was hard, even when she was tired, even after a tough loss. Teamwork is something that can be carried into every aspect of life, with friends, siblings, peers in schools, and the workplace. Without working as a team toward a common goal, things tend to fall apart. On the field and in life, we all make mistakes because we are human, but sometimes we need someone to pick up our slack or remind us to pick our head up and keep pushing. Soccer has taught me perseverance. Working hard even when I felt defeated, and better yet-working even harder. I learned that if I got knocked down (literally and figuratively), I would have to get up and come back ten times harder. If I let myself fall and stay down, nothing would get accomplished." This has helped her through some of the hardest times she's had to face, like the loss of loved ones.

Alexandra is the recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship and will be attending Adelphi University.

Alexandra is very active in the Best Buddies program, she graduated as President from Seaford High School and she recently passed her EMT exam and is working as an EMT at a children's camp. Alexandra will be pursuing her Nursing degree at Adelphi beginning September 2022.

RECIPIENT

ALEXANDRA LEGGIO

MILES FOR MATT

FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP



Conor McGuigan is a 2022 graduate of Chaminade High School, having an unweighted 3 year GPA of 96.28 and an SAT score of 1400. Conor is a member of the Social Studies Club, Culinary Club, Business Club and Golf Club. Conor is a member of the National Honor Society and holds a Bloomberg Certification. Conor has played on the JV Soccer Team for two years and the Varsity Soccer team for two years, winning a CHSAA New York State Championship. Conor has been a member of the West Hempstead Chiefs Titans since 2013.

Thomas Dillon, Chaminade Administration, shared, "His ability to recognize important concepts and themes set him apart from the rest of the class. Conor's academic motivation was not simply recognizing these aspects, but rather verbally communicating them. In fact, this is why students looked to him for leadership. He was never afraid of being wrong. He offered fresh insights and alternative views on literary topics with maturity and intelligence. Conor is a mature and intelligent young man capable of making a real difference."

Coach John DeCristoforo, West Hempstead Titans wrote, "I have had the pleasure of coaching Conor since 2013 when he joined the West Hempstead Titans travel team. Conor is a terrific soccer player and a very coachable player who has played goalie for our team since inception. During my interactions with Conor, I have experienced an individual who shows up early to all practices and games, works extremely hard at his craft of being our goalkeeper, and carries himself in a polite respectable manner. He is very well liked by his teammates and is exceptionally gifted at making others feel comfortable and always maintains a positive attitude."

Conor wrote in his essay, "I am the oldest of four brothers and we are a close knit pack. Being the oldest comes with a lot of responsibility. Just like in my band of brothers, I strive to be a leader on the pitch. It is vital that I give direction to both my teammates and my brothers in order to improve the output of the group. I have always believed that the team means more than an individual, and my coaches at the Titans have reinforced that idea. There were many hard fought and memorable games throughout our rise up the table. None of these successes would have been possible without the willingness to work hard and see our dreams become reality. The lessons I've learned will always have a special place in my heart."

Conor is the recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship and will continue his academic career at Fairfield University.

In Conor's words:

"I am looking forward to moving on and exploring my interest in the business field. Fun fact: I have played soccer with a few of the same kids since I was 4 years old."

RECIPIENT

CONOR MCGUIGAN

MILES FOR MATT

FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP



Nicole Nagengast is a 2022 graduate of Kellenberg Memorial High School, playing two years on JV Soccer team and two years on Varsity Soccer team. Nicole was a member of the Wantagh Seaford Hurricanes. Nicole also works with young athletes as a goalie trainer.

Jennifer Strauss, College Placement Counselor, shared, "Nicole has logged hundreds of hours of service working various school events and regularly visits elderly and sick residents of Bristol Assisted Living Center..has also been chosen to be a Junior Retreat Staff leader, a highly selective position...A dedicated teammate and a fierce competitor, Nicole serves as an irreplaceable piece of the Girls Lacrosse, Soccer and Track Programs."

Coach Mike Frazer wrote, " Much of the team's success can be attributed to one of the captains of the squad...Nicole is an excellent decision-maker. Nicole is a natural goalkeeper when it comes to her reflexes and hand-eye coordination...Nicole puts coaches' nerves at ease knowing she can handle a pass back... Nicole is an excellent teammate with a great attitude. She has a will to win with a work ethic that matches. She demonstrates sportsmanship and has a true love for the game."

Nicole wrote in her essay, "Through our wins I have learned to be humble and to not take things for granted. I have learned to be respectful to everyone because I know how it feels to be on the other side of a win."

Nicole is the recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship and will continue her athletic and academic career at United States Merchant Marine Academy, where she must report on July 8, 2022.

In Nicole's words:

"I attended Kellenberg Memorial High School as part of the class of 2022. I played soccer for all four years at Kellenberg. I have played travel soccer since the third grade. I have been the goalkeeper for this same team since it started. For the next years of my education, I will be attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy. I plan to study Marine Engineering. A fun fact about me is that I always love to go boating and watch professional soccer games on the television. "

RECIPIENT

NICOLE NAGENGAST

MILES FOR MATT

FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP



Alyssa Schimmenti is a 2022 graduate of W.C. Mepham High School and has been a member of the Bellmore PAL Soccer Club for her entire youth soccer experience. She has been a member of the W. C. Mepham High School women's soccer program since 9th grade and started playing for the Bellmore PAL Soccer Club at the age of 5 years old, then heading off to travel soccer with the Bellmore Blue Angels at U-9. She is longest tenured member of the Blue Angels and the main reason why the Bellmore Blue Angels have been able to compete throughout the years first in LIJSL then the USSF National League for the past 4 years.

While at W. C. Mepham High School, Alyssa was a busy person. The list of awards and achievements, with clubs she was involved in are quite impressive. She is in the National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, the Leo and AWAD club, Operation Smile, and the Mepham High School Chamber Orchestra. Also, Alyssa was honored with All-County Honorable Mention Varsity Soccer for the 2021 fall season.

The thing about Alyssa that makes her so special is her work ethic and always trying to get better as a player on the field and as a person off the field. Alyssa is a young lady that gotten better each day because she works hard at it, always trying to outwork those around her: in the classroom and on the soccer field. To back these facts up, her coach of the Bellmore Blue Angels states, "One reason I know how important Alyssa is to the Blue Angels, was during the spring of 2021, when high school soccer was being played, Alyssa took a hard hit on her shoulder during a varsity game which required surgery where she missed the rest of the varsity season, as well as the rest of our season with Bellmore. With the games she missed with Bellmore, it was evident how important she was on the outside midfield, because the players we tried in her position did not do the job that she did. I did not realize until after the injury, because Alyssa would play the entire game, and never asks to come out of a match."

Also, Alyssa found time in her busy schedule to help out the Bellmore Heat (LIJSL) the past few seasons when they were short on players. Their coach Stephanie Markwater realized the importance of Alyssa to their team as well. She stated, "I have never seen Alyssa back away from an opportunity to play. When many teenagers would rather sit home and relax on the weekend, Alyssa is traveling from field to field giving it her all. The Bellmore Heat will miss her, her journey from a tiny girl on grass fields to playing in college has been a blessing to be a part of."

In her essay to the committee, she stressed the importance of soccer and how it came first in her life. She says, "For me, soccer goes beyond the field. This sport has taught me dedication, discipline, and teamwork. I don't only use these qualities on the field; I use them all throughout my life. These traits have enabled me to become successful and make myself a better person."

In the Fall, Alyssa will be continuing her soccer journey at St. Joseph's University in Patchogue as a member of the Golden Eagles Women's Soccer Program and is a recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship.

In Alyssa's words:

"I am a hardworking and determined person. I always give 100% with everything I do. I am attending St. Joseph's University to study psychology and play soccer. I play outside mid and forward."

RECIPIENT

ALYSSA SCHIMMENTI

MILES FOR MATT

FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP



Marcus Stamps is a 2022 graduate of Chaminade High School, where he was extremely active in Science Olympiad, General Service Organization, and the following clubs: Social Studies, Culinary, Sodality, Business, Senior Leader and Spanish. In addition to his sense of community, Marcus is an outstanding student. With an SAT score of 1450 it is not surprising that he has been awarded the New York State Student Star, National Recognition Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor and is in the National Honor Society. Marcus played travel soccer most recently for the Floral Park ThunderHawks and the Lynbrook/East Rockaway Avengers.

Marcus shared in his essay, "Soccer has been a major part of my life since I was 11 years old. When I first started playing the sport, I was clueless...and hardly knew any rules apart from 'no hands allowed.' Yet, these players did not judge me based on my lack of skill or less athletic build. They instead guided me in the right direction through their sharing of soccer knowledge and advice. Had I not been blessed with such a supportive group of teammates, I may not have been able to reach where I am today."

Maria Agosti, Chaminade Language teacher, wrote, "Marcus is a brilliant, inquisitive student. As impressive as his intellectual attributes are, he also shows great compassion and kindness."

Coach Hector Nieves shared, " Marcus is above-average in his athletic ability, and he has strength and speed in short distances. He is also very physical both on and off the ball. Most notably, though, he has a high IQ for the game, and with this he is able to carefully dictate his field positioning and anticipation of the ball. All of this is what makes him excel on the field."

Matthew Kaplan, Office of College Placement, shared, " With his sights set on being a student-athlete for the remainder of his high school experience and hopefully college, he trained vigorously for soccer throughout the summer and fall of 2019. He was determined to be impactful on the field as he was in the classroom. Things were going well, and the world literally stopped in March 2020. Marcus was certain by the time school reopened, things would be close to normal, and he would be playing varsity soccer. Unfortunately, things did not happen that way, and he made a painful decision to remain fully remote. During the pandemic, he sacrificed his time every day to keep his nine-year-old sister's morale lifted and gave up his room to his older sister who could not return to campus. He was himself: a compassionate, reflective individual who wanted to heal the world around him. It is what we do when no one is watching that defines our character, and as I think about what we need to produce in our future leaders, I take comfort knowing that Marcus has the virtues that our world needs to heal."

Marcus is the recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship and will attend Cornell University.

In Marcus' words:

" I am beyond grateful and blessed to have been selected as a recipient for the scholarship. As a driven and determined individual, I like to think that setting goals and working to complete them is a rewarding experience—receiving this award proves it. I will be studying Human Biology, Health and Society at Cornell University this fall on the pathway towards becoming a sports medicine physician. For the past few seasons, I have played for Floral Park Soccer Club. I typically play center back and full back. I plan to continue playing soccer at Cornell on a club team. I'm looking forward to enjoying the natural beauty of Ithaca through hiking and kayaking and am ready for a challenging yet worthwhile four years at Cornell."

RECIPIENT

MARCUS STAMPS

MILES FOR MATT

FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP



Ava Zingone is a 2022 graduate of Bethpage High School. Ava played soccer for the Bellmore PAL Soccer Club with the Blue Angels that competed in the USSF National League. During her LIJSL playing experience, she also played travel soccer for the Bethpage PAL Soccer Club and the Hicksville Soccer Club. For the past 5 years, Ava has played with the Blue Angels in Bellmore.

While at Bethpage High School, Ava was an exceptional student, who achieved much success. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Language National Honor Society. Plus, she was the secretary for the Student Council, student coordinator for the Science Research Program and the fundraiser coordinator and organizer for Bethpage High School Research Symposium. Finally, she was the 2022 recipient for the Physical Education Student Award and recently was elected as a winner in the New York State Science Honor Society Scholarship Program.

Ava's school counselor Jennifer Payne stated in her recommendation, "Since our first meeting in 9th grade, Ava has impressed me with her hard work and dedication to academics, extracurricular activities and sports. She is a self-starting, motivated student who possesses an inquisitive curiosity." As she sums up Ava and everything she has accomplished in her four years at Bethpage, she simply put it, "Ava is someone you want to know!"

On the soccer field, Ava has been a huge reason why the Bellmore Blue Angels have been so successful. Her coach had a lot to say about Ava, "On the field, her play is exceptional, her hard work shows every time she steps on the field. Even though her primary position is outside back, she has played anywhere we need her, except for goal. Our success on the field has been mainly due to Ava, we had a number of players leave the team in the past 12 months, especially due to the stoppage of the spring season of 2020 because of Covid, however, Ava has been there through it all, never complaining about anything, always giving 110 percent."

In her essay, Ava wrote about the various teams she played for during her tenure with LIJSL, but what she wrote about the Bellmore Blue Angels coaching staff really meant the most to her. She writes, "I made the decision to join the Bellmore Blue Angels. Both the players and my coaches, Matt and Paul helped to shape our brilliant dynamic. This team represents everything I love about soccer, hard work, teamwork, sportsmanship and friendship. Throughout my soccer journey I've realized you need all these traits to have a successful soccer team. Soccer creates a community and culture; each player has a unique experience that build character."

Ava will continue her educational experience by attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a recipient of a Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship.

RECIPIENT

AVA ZINGONE



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 GRECO

SCHOLARSHIP



Pat Greco 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 Greco-Gilmore of Fairfield, CT, who played club and Varsity soccer and graduated from Fordham University, Beth Greco-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. Greco 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 GRECO

SCHOLARSHIP



Colin Mushorn is a 2022 graduate of Massapequa High School, playing one year on JV Soccer team and three years on the Varsity Soccer team. Colin has been a member of the Massapequa Warriors since the 8th grade. Colin participated in the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Chiefs Challenge Club, Student Government and has the Seal of Biliteracy.

Maria Bonavoglia, MHS teacher, shared, "Colin was a member of my Capstone AP Research class, which is the most challenging course offered at Massapequa High School...He received a perfect score on the presentation and oral defense...Colin was of course done with the final paper a week before the deadline and instead of taking a well-deserved break, he took that time to offer his assistance to other students... saw the comments he made on this student's paper and was amazed not only by the thoughtful nature but also the time and effort he put into guiding this student in the right direction."

Coach Jesse Meyer, Assistant Varsity Soccer, wrote, " I have had the pleasure of coaching Colin in soccer for the last three years...His contributions helped the team win the Nassau County Championship. He is reliable when no one is watching and has great attention to detail that leads to success."

Colin wrote in his essay, "Since the age of five I have called Massapequa Soccer Club my home. These experiences have taught me that you may not always win the game, but the result doesn't matter as long as you fight until the end. In training or in games, making mistakes is how we learn... Trying to fix these mistakes, by being resilient, has shown me that I am capable of anything."

Colin is the recipient of the Pat Grecco Scholarship and will continue his athletic and academic career at United States Merchant Marine Academy and had to report on July 8th.

In Colin's words:

"I have devoted my time to helping others and making our community a better place. I have played soccer my whole life and I am committed to continue both my academic and athletic careers at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point...majoring in Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management. I enjoy spending time on the water, whether it be boating or jet skiing. I am heavily involved in community service, my favorite being coordinating blood drives and helping out wherever I can. My goal is to continue gaining leadership skills and eventually be a commander in the armed forces. Soccer has been the main part of my life and has given me many lifelong friendships, endless opportunities, many memories, and most importantly my team. Without it, I would not be anywhere close to where I am today and I will forever be grateful."

RECIPIENT

COLIN MUSHORN

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



Jack O'Boyle is a 2022 graduate of Chaminade High School, playing on the Freshman, JV and Varsity Soccer team. Jack has been a member of the Massapequa Warriors and the Rangers. Jack is an outstanding student, on the honor roll every year and an SAT score of 1450. Jack took part in Emmaus Apostolic Program and was part of the Senior Leader Program, mentoring Freshmen and working with students in an After-School Program at St. Martin de Porres Elementary School.

Matthew Kaplan, Chaminade Director of College Placement, wrote, "If I had to choose one word to describe Jack, it would be Why? ...it seems the curiosity bug never left Jack.... He plays soccer for us here at Chaminade, and his club team has had great success, winning the New York State Cup and attending both Regional and National events. His greatest achievement, though, was his selection by Generation Adidas to travel to Amsterdam to train with the Ajax Academy....Jack is also musically inclined. He has been playing the traditional Irish fiddle from a very young age when his grandmother brought the instrument over from Ireland for him, but his real joy comes from producing his own electronic music."

Jack wrote in his essay, "I have always found it difficult to find service opportunities that were exciting, relatable and fulfilling. However, being part of Massapequa's Special Needs Soccer Program has allowed me to serve my community in a way that brings me as much fulfillment as does playing the sport itself... This program has provided me with opportunity to build strong relationships with the children that come each week, where we grow together not as just players and volunteers, but also as a family."

Jack is the recipient of the Peter C. Collins Memorial Presidential Scholarship and will continue his academic career at University of Miami's Herbert Business School. We wish him luck in the next chapter and ask Why?

In Jack's words:

"I will be attending the University of Miami's Herbert Business School in the fall. I plan on continuing playing soccer at either the club or intramural level for my four years there. Throughout my career, I've played the forward position. Being the son of an Irish immigrant, traveling and learning about different cultures has always been a great passion of mine. I look forward to studying abroad in college and maybe even living in another country one day."

RECIPIENT

JACK O'BOYLE

ROCCO AMOROSO

MEMORIAL SPORTSMANSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP



Rocco Amoroso was born in 1926 in Brooklyn, NY, but spent most of his childhood in his cherished hometown of Rapino, Italy. It was in that small rustic town that Rocco first developed his love for soccer. At the age of thirteen he returned to America, living in Richmond Hill, Queens. After serving in the US Army, he graduated from City College in 1950 where he was a member of their soccer team. He settled in Huntington in 1963 where he and his wife, Rosemarie, raised their four children.

Rocco was a member of the Hall of Fame for LIJSL and Eastern New York, as well as a US Soccer Life Member since 2014.

Rocco became involved in the LIJSL in the late 1970s, recognizing an opportunity to spread his passion for sportsmanship and fair play. He founded the LIJSL Sportsmanship Program "Building Character Through Soccer" in 1980, the first official sportsmanship program in youth sports. The concept of fair play continues to reach all corners of the state and around the world. Each season, a sportsmanship award is granted to teams in every division to recognize fair play among players, coaches, and spectators.

In addition, every June, the Eastern New York State Open Cup Championship is held in LaGrange, NY. The Rocco Amoroso Sportsmanship Award is presented to the most deserving teams. When reflecting on the program in 1987, Rocco said, "I began to think there's got to be something more valuable to gain from sports than just winning and losing. I wanted to bring about a change in people's attitudes through sports."

This award is presented to a soccer player who has demonstrated exemplary qualities of sportsmanship, teamwork and character, attributes that Rocco promoted throughout his life. As he once said, "In this beautiful game of soccer, let us all reinforce ethics into the game and make it even more beautiful."

Rocco was a man of admirable character and spirited personality. He was devoted to his family and his strong faith in God. Always looking to engage with others, he never missed an opportunity to spread his message and share a smile wherever he went. In his own words, Rocco reminded us that "Character building is a compass that guides us on our path. It is the strongest thread in the fabric of a good life." Rocco would truly be proud to see the ideals of sportsmanship and character continue in LIJSL today. He is not here today, but his spirit lives on. He was a blessing to all who knew him.

ROCCO AMOROSO

MEMORIAL SPORTSMANSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP



Skyla Marchesi is a 2022 graduate of Wantagh High School, playing two years on JV Soccer team and two years on Varsity. She has been a member of the Wantagh/Seaford PAL Hurricanes for about 10 years. Skyla is the Wantagh HS 2022 Class Salutatorian, has an SAT Score of 1510 and is an active member in National Honor Society as well as multiple Honor Societies for Language, Science and Tri-M Music Honors Society (Violin). In addition, Skyla is a LI Junior Soccer League Assistant Referee Grade 8. She is the captain of the Winter Track Team and she has been a Girl Scouts-Senior Ambassador for 12 years.

Coach Mike Frazer, shared, "Much of the team success can be attributed to one of the captains of the squad, Skyla Marchesi. Skyla is an outstanding man-to-man defensive marker. Quite often we would match her up against the opponent's top goalscorer. She is not afraid to play physically when necessary and has excellent speed to track down loose balls and opponents. Most impressively, Skyla is a disciplined defender, who does not lunge in on attacking players. She understands containment very well and strikes when the time is right."

Kathleen Flynn, Wantagh HS English Teacher, wrote, "Skyla excels in the classroom. At the beginning of the school year, she was named Class Salutatorian. She was awarded the AP Capstone diploma. More importantly, Skyla has demonstrated over the last year her leadership abilities and her commitment to serving her community. Despite an ongoing pandemic, she was able to work on a team and raise over \$110,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. As a Girl Scout, she helped deliver over 100 lunch bags to a homeless shelter in New York City." She has participated in community work to clean beaches, help with toy drives and food and clothing drives.

In her essay, Skyla wrote, "My third-grade self would be shocked to learn that making the Hurricanes, the Wantagh/Seaford PAL travel team, would transform my life and provide me with a built-in family that I would depend on for any hardship. I realized what it meant to be part of a team, how to communicate with others effectively, be patient, and help others when they need assistance. We learned to be selfless, one of the most significant changes I experienced as a team member."

Skyla is the recipient of the Rocco Amoroso Memorial Sportsmanship Scholarship and will continue her education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In Skyla's words:

"At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I intend to major in Neuroscience on a Pre-Med track. I additionally plan to minor in Spanish to better my communication skills for direct patient interactions as a Pre-Med student. I wish to continue my community service efforts in my new college community and participate in Club sports such as Soccer or Track. I additionally plan to participate in internships at local hospitals during the school year and over the summer, shadow professionals in a medical setting, and conduct research in the future."

RECIPIENT

SKYLA MARCHESI

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



Kayleigh McGetrick is a 2022 graduate of Babylon Junior-Senior High School. She was a member of the Varsity Girls Soccer team for her 4 years, as well as a member of the varsity basketball and varsity lacrosse programs. While in LIJSL, Kayleigh started her journey with the Babylon Heat and moved onto the Bellmore Blue Angels (USSF National League) in 2017. While with the Bellmore Blue Angels she has been an important piece to the success that the team has had.

While at Babylon Junior-Senior High School, she has kept up a busy schedule and has been recognized for her achievements. Kayleigh has made the Principal's List all four years in high school, was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society, National English Honor Society, was treasurer of the yearbook committee, President of the National Business Honor Society and was Vice-President of the National Honor Society.

On the soccer field, Kayleigh has been an important member of the Bellmore Blue Angels. Kayleigh suffered an ACL injury in March 2019 in an Eastern NY State Cup game which kept her off the field for 16 months, however, during that time, she never missed a step, always going to physical therapy and being on the sidelines cheering her teammates on. When she has been on the field, Kayleigh has always been a key member of the team. Her coach stated, "She plays the game with a no quit attitude, no matter the score or the situation, Kayleigh was in the game always hustling after the ball and makes those around her better." To sum up what she had meant throughout the years he added, " In the summer of 2017, I met a young girl named Kayleigh McGetrick, now in the spring of 2022 when we finish up the spring season, I have had the pleasure to see Kayleigh grow up into a wonderful young woman, that I am honored to know and be associated with."

In the classroom, Kayleigh's business teacher commented about her and what she has meant to her. Claire Reilly wrote, " Kayleigh is an enthusiastic student and strives for perfection. I have had the opportunity to witness her growth over the past 4 years into a self-assured, confident, and intelligent individual and I know she will be a success in college and in the future."

With her essay, Kayleigh spoke about her ACL surgery in 2019. She stressed about how difficult it was for her during the recovery period. " Rehabbing my knee was extremely difficult, but I made it back to soccer....just in time for my season to be canceled due to Covid. In hindsight, the season being canceled was very good for me. It gave me extra time to rehab my knee, soccer became a great outlet for me during the quarantine."

Kayleigh will be heading off to the University of Delaware to be a member of the Blue Hens family. Kayleigh is the recipient of the Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship. They are very lucky to be getting a young lady like Kayleigh McGetrick.

In Kayleigh's words:

" I will be attending University of Delaware in the fall and majoring in nursing. I hope to play club soccer at Delaware and my usual position is midfield. Being the youngest and only girl in the family created a competitive drive in me always striving to be as good as my brothers in all things from school to athletics. My oldest brother and dad are civil servants who led me to want to pursue a career in nursing and continue the tradition of helping others."

RECIPIENT

KAYLEIGH McGETRICK

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



Yianni Leandrou is a 2022 graduate of Oyster Bay High School, playing Varsity Soccer for four years, and captain for two years. He was a lifelong member of the OBEN Spartans. Yianni was captain of his wrestling team. He actively participated as a member of Model U.N. and was inducted into several honor societies – National Honor Society, Foreign Language Society, Rho Kappa Quill & Scroll Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. He has been an Altar Boy at the Church of the Holy Resurrection. He is the Health Club President.

According to Shannon Horan, President of OBEN SC, Yianni “ is a dedicated, hard-working, and a committed athlete and leader. He has been the glue for this community team. OB is a small town, keeping players and finding replacements is a challenge. He would take it upon himself to approach players that had no home team and invite them to register to the team/club. He has approached players from his school team and invited them to register who could not afford to pay the registration and helped them secure a scholarship. Although he had joined other more advanced and competitive teams, he continued to play with our club and stay true to all his team & commitments.”

His Coach, Rich Regino, states, that as coach to this team, he couldn't have done it without him.

Yianni wrote, “I am the third child of a family of soccer players. I was on the field before my birthdate would allow me to play. Soccer is the reason I am as competitive as I am. It has taught me the importance of doing more work than those around you so you are always a step ahead. Another way soccer helped build my character was with my ADHD. I always have had difficulty concentrating, in school this caused obstacles that affected my grades and self-esteem. Although I knew I should get support I was scared of the implication this would have on me socially. I was embarrassed, but the one place his ADHD did not affect me was on the soccer field. There I needed fast pace and quick thinking, no restrictions, judgment, and worry. Soccer gave me confidence and self-worth, and I am grateful to all those that gave me that opportunity to play.”

Yianni is the recipient of the Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship and will continue his education at Bentley University.

In Yianni's words:

“WOW! what an honor, I am so grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the LIJSL scholarship. It means a lot to me as I have been an LJSL player my entire soccer career. I have been playing in my soccer club, OBEN SC from the age of 3 when I began in intramural, my team, the Spartans is the second team in the last 15 years to age out in the history of our club, we are very proud and we completed our division as division champions this season! I wanted to share that what makes our team special is that we are a small town and have had the scare of not being able to field many times, many players do not attend the same school, but we get the opportunity to play together. For example, me and Sean Sweeney have played on the same team since intramural, we only get to see each other at soccer, but we will always be Spartans! I am attending Bentley University in Boston and will be studying business. I look forward to the academic possibilities and experience a business school like Bentley can provide me. I describe myself as someone who likes to explore and discover, I love to travel and look forward to traveling and studying abroad to help my experience in international business. I am actually still communicating with the Bentley soccer coach regarding securing a position on the team, I am not committed yet as a player. But I was invited to play on the Bentley Rugby team but have not committed. My positions are Striker and Attacking Mid. I am the recipient of the OBEN HS Scholastic All-Conference Boys' Soccer Scholar Award and I was nominated as the class clown by my graduating class.”

RECIPIENT

YIANNI LEANDROU

TANIA BONILLA

MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP



Tania Bonilla 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



Charlotte Faulkner is a graduate of Shoreham-Wading River High School and has been a member of the Varsity Soccer Team. She has been recognized on the Honor Roll. She has played for Brentwood Soccer Club Express for the past four years, playing for Terryville SC and Sound Beach SC.

Charley wrote, "I work at Saf-T-Swim as a lifeguard and swim instructor. I enjoy helping kids learn how to swim and love all of my coworkers. I have been a member of the Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang at my local church for 3 years. My responsibilities were to make sandwiches and other food related items to donate to the local soup kitchen. I've helped foster animals until they found a good home to live out their days in a loving and caring environment. During the summer months I helped supervise, coach, and train young children in a soccer camp."

Charley's coach, Michael Caputo, Brentwood Express, wrote, "She has been a dedicated member of LIJSL for the past 11 years and has been committed to the growth and development of not only herself but her teammates as well. Over the past 4 years of knowing Charlotte, she has dedicated herself to being a good teammate and team leader, leading by example in attendance, attitude, and leadership. Through good times and through bad times I never doubted that she wouldn't be at a training session or game no matter what else went on because of her love of the sport."

Samantha Shepard, Art Teacher and Yearbook Adviser, wrote, "Charlotte displays an advanced level of maturity, integrity and determination. With high expectations of herself, Charlotte strives for her personal best in everything she sets out to achieve. Charlotte is a well-rounded student athlete with an artistic and creative mind."

Charley shared in her essay, "Playing soccer showed me how to lead by example and what it means to be truly dedicated to something. I've constantly worked at my skill to get better at it. Soccer taught me effort and what it means to put work in and to try your hardest to be better. Soccer showed me how to have fun and how to believe in myself. I grew up playing soccer and no other sport has ever come close to the love I have for this sport. I think that if I had grown up not playing soccer I would be completely different, and I am extremely grateful for the lessons and values I have gained from it."

Charley is the recipient of the Tania Bonilla Memorial Scholarship and will continue her education at SUNY Oswego and is looking forward to playing there as a Laker. Go, Charley!

In Charley's words:

"I have always been crafty, and love to draw and create projects. I am looking forward to using that creative side of myself to explore courses that involve creative design and planning. I will attend SUNY Oswego this fall. I will definitely be playing soccer for Coach McGrane and I'm extremely excited to get started. I have been playing Defense for several years but will play wherever Coach McGrane believes it will help our team. I plan to study Design."

RECIPIENT

CHARLOTTE FAULKNER

LIJSL & GEORGE HOFFMAN

TOPSOCCER

SCHOLARSHIP



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.

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.

LIJSL

TOPSOCCER

SCHOLARSHIP



Catherine Andree has been a volunteer with West Hempstead TopSoccer for seven years. The director of the program writes that Kate is a dependable and dedicated volunteer. Never missed a session and would strive to provide a fun soccer experience for the players. She took the extra step to make sure that she formed a relationship with the players. Kate took on additional roles at the program including coach, cheerleader and role model. Since volunteers are so important, Kate would go to the high school clubs to speak about the program and encourage students to volunteer at TopSoccer. She has a unique ability to connect with the players and has a tremendous amount of patience. She has made a difference in the lives of the players.

Kate has been involved with the Key Club, SADD, Athletes Helping Athletes and intramural soccer coach. She is an Alter Server at St. Thomas the Apostle R.C. Church and prepared and delivered meals at Thanksgiving to those who were home bound. Kate assisted in raising funds and awareness, set up and clean up, as part of Relay for Life.

Besides her volunteer work Kate belongs to the National Honor Society, Stem Honor Society, National Foreign Language and Art Honor Societies. She is a member of the Drama Club, Student Council, and Leadership Club. Kate played varsity soccer and lacrosse and won many awards in both sports.

Kate writes she was ready to step away from soccer when she discovered TopSoccer. She was very young when she started. It was something fun to do on weekends and she got a kick out of feeling like a coach. It was not until middle school years that it became more serious. She realized that this was something that she was pretty good at. It brought her joy to see that she was making a difference in the athletes' lives. She loves getting to watch them smile as they play or how happy they are when they score. Kate says it is a pleasure to see these kids fall in love with the sport that has had her heart for as long as she can remember. Being a part of this program showed her not to give up soccer or herself and for that she will forever be grateful.

Kate will be missed by all West Hempstead TopSoccer as she leaves this fall to attend Binghamton University.

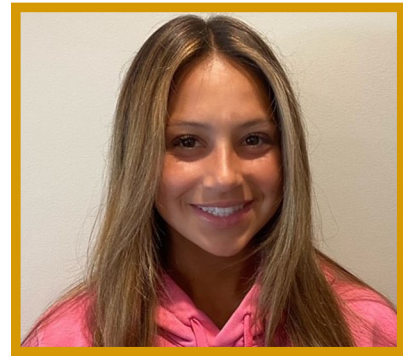
RECIPIENT

CATHERINE ANDREE

GEORGE HOFFMAN

MEMORIAL TOPSOCCER

SCHOLARSHIP



Halle Brigandi volunteered with Commack TopSoccer since the 8th grade. In that time her coach says she has shown compassion, maturity, patience and kindness along with a sense of responsibility and respect. The players look forward to playing soccer with Halle and she is a leader to the other volunteers. She has organized fundraisers for TopSoccer and recruited her soccer team to help. Their donation has allowed the program to purchase new uniforms, and give out balls, bags, and cones to practice during the pandemic. Her generosity with her time is another trait you do not often see at her age.

Halle was captain of her varsity soccer team, as well as a trainer. Also, she was a varsity bowler, LISRA referee, and a barista at Dunkin Donuts. Halle is a member of the National Honor Society, English Honor Society, and Italian Honor Society.

Her volunteer work besides TopSoccer includes fundraising for her soccer team, student leader of the Unified Basketball organization that ensures safety of players on the court and build social skills for those with special needs, and worked at the Food Pantry at Christ the King Church. As president of Best of Buddies, she ran meetings to discuss activities that partner members with peers who have special needs and provide a fun atmosphere for students. Halle fundraised for local charities and assisted in Future Business Leaders of America Spring Fun Day. She helped with the Battle of the Classes, Spirit Week, and Homecoming float at school.

Halle says that drive and willingness to succeed is all you need to advance yourself both professionally and socially. Working with the athletes she developed relationships with them. She continued the annual fundraiser in the Commack Community which her brother began and donated a portion of the money to TopSoccer. Her thought was to give back to the organization that changed her life. She never realized how much of an impact these young athletes had on her. They inspired her to understand the meaning of being the best version of oneself. The athletes were not just kids to her, they were her friends.

Halle will be attending the School of Education at Indiana University. She is a great loss to the Commack program.

RECIPIENT

HALLE BRIGANDI

GEORGE HOFFMAN

MEMORIAL TOPSOCCER

SCHOLARSHIP



Maeve Laurie has spent the last six years volunteering with Rockville Centre TopSoccer on Sunday mornings. Her coach comments that he can count on one hand the times Maeve has missed practice. However, it is not her dedication, which is exemplary, that stands out but her compassion and empathy. She always seeks out the most challenging athletes to support, whether it be a player who likes to run away, or even a player who doesn't really want to play. Maeve has a special talent to engage with these athletes one on one, get their attention, get them involved, ensure the athlete has a great time and leaves the field with a smile.

Maeve is a true volunteer spending many hours in the Bethany's Buddies Club, a homeless shelter for women and children, by gathering needed supplies and spending time with the children. She also ran a fundraiser and raised \$2,000 selling holiday Candles for the house. She was part of the Mayor's Youth Task Force, working on projects around the community; collected prom dresses and accessories for underprivileged girls with the Project Princess Club, and collected supplies to donate to projects for the American Red Cross Club. Also, raised \$1,000 to donate to the Ukraine Crisis. Maeve worked at the Sandal Senior Center serving food, cleaning up and entertaining seniors at seasonal dinners. She also ran a Red Watch Band workshop on alcohol poisoning training as a member of SADD Club. She was a member of Athletes Helping Athletes and Intergenerational Sharing Conference.

Maeve is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Math and Science Honor Societies. She was on the Junior Varsity and Varsity Lacrosse teams, Liberty Lacrosse Club, Junior Varsity Basketball and Varsity Tennis. Maeve Competed in the DECA Club and Mathletes.

Maeve writes that she looks forward to the chaos that surrounds scrimmaging, doing drills, and playing games with the kids. She believes that everybody should have the opportunity to have a competitive outlet and make memories with teammates. Maeve also has memories from watching athletes grow and become a strong player each season. She says, as she begins the next chapter in her life, she will not allow a singular aspect of who she is define her.

Moving on, Maeve will study Pre-Med at the University of Virginia. Her going off to college leaves a big gap in Rockville Centre's program.

RECIPIENT

MAEVE LAURIE



NAME	CLUB	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE ATTENDING
Jordan Abramowitz	Middle Country	Newfield HS	Suffolk Community College
Catherine Andree	West Hempstead	West Hempstead HS	Binghamton University
Madison Apicella	Smithtown	Sachem East HS	Adelphi University
Ashley Argento	Wantagh/Seaford	Wantagh HS	St. Thomas Aquinas
Ashley Banta	Bellmore	Oceanside HS	East Stroudsburg University
Halle Brigandi	Commack	Commack HS	Indiana University
Charlotte Faulkner	Brentwood	Shoreham-Wading River HS	SUNY Oswego
Willem Friedrichs	Smithtown	Centereach HS	Binghamton University
Madison Gulinello	Deer Park	Deer Park HS	University of Tenn (Knoxville)
Samir Gupte	Bethpage	Bethpage HS	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Katelyn Herbert	Hicksville	Bethpage HS	Eastern Connecticut State
Andre Insalaco	Smithtown	Westhampton Beach HS	Fordham University
Matthew Jerchower	Oceanside	Oceanside HS	Syracuse University
Madison Kenning	Deer Park	Deer Park HS	Adelphi University
Maeve Laurie	Rockville Centre	South Side HS	Univeristy of Virginia
Yianni Leandrou	Oyster Bay East Norwich	Oyster Bay HS	Bentley University
Alexandra Leggio	Wantagh/Seaford	Seaford HS	Adelphi University





NAME	CLUB	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE ATTENDING
Angelina Lent	Smithtown	Smithtown East HS	Stony Brook University
Skyla Marchesi	Wantagh/Seaford	Wantagh HS	University of NC at Chapel Hill
Mia McElwee	Bellmore	Wellington C. Mepham HS	McDaniel College
Kayleigh McGetrick	Deer Park	Babylon HS	University of Delaware
Conor McGuigan	West Hempstead	Chaminade HS	Fairfield University
James Morissey	Longwood	Longwood HS	University at Buffalo
Vail Muller	Smithtown	Smithtown East HS	Cleveland State University
Bridget Murphy	Massapequa	Massapequa HS	Iona College
Colin Mushorn	Massapequa	Massapequa HS	US Merchant Marine Academy
Nicole Nagengast	Wantagh/Seaford	Kellenberg HS	US Merchant Marine Academy
Jack O'Boyle	Massapequa	Chaminade HS	University of Miami
Alyssa Schimmenti	Bellmore	Wellington C. Mepham HS	St. Joseph's University, NY
Marcus Stamps	Floral Park	Chaminade HS	Cornell University
Ariana Taveras	Bellmore	Holy Trinity Diocesan HS	Sacred Heart University
Bridget Zahradnik	Oyster Bay East Norwich	Oyster Bay HS	Vanderbilt University
Ava Zingone	Hicksville	Bethpage HS	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute





LONG ISLAND JUNIOR
SOCCER LEAGUE

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