**December 2017** 



## Coming Soon

1/26-28 USTA
Eastern Annual
Conference
@Rennaisance
Westchester Hotel
in White Plains

2/10 NY Tennis Expo @Nassau Coliseum

2/11-18 New York Open @Nassau Coliseum

5/2 USTA LI Region Annual Awards Dinner @Chateau Briand Caterers



visit us at

<u>www.</u>

<u>longisland.</u>

<u>usta.com</u>

for details on all

events

## On The Ball: News From LI

# 2 18

## LI Team Is National Champ!

#### **Local Teams Compete in USTA League Nationals**

Long Island has a National Champion USTA League team!

Huntington Indoor's 55+7.0 women's team, captained by Andrea Woods and representing Long Island and the USTA Eastern Section, won the national title in November in Orlando.

Woods says: "Our flight included teams from the Florida, Southwest and Missouri Valley Sections. It didn't look good when Florida took 2 of the 3 courts in our second match of the day. Going into the last matchup, we needed to not only win our

match, but we needed the team in last place, Southwest, to beat the first-place team, Florida, which seemed unlikely.

"But that was exactly what happened! The last place team didn't just throw in the towel, they vowed to be the spoilers and win their last match. This left Florida tied with our team with two wins and one loss each, but the tiebreaker was ... individual matches won, and we had six, while Florida only had four," Woods said.

"The tension was incredible

in the finals ... (and) we eventually won," defeating a very strong Northern California team by winning two matches in supertiebreakers."

Team members (below, from left) are: Stacey Margey, Nancy Ambrosio, Betsy Radecki, Kathy Nicolette,



-the **55+ 8.0 women from Christopher Morle**y, captained by Sharon Melville

## -Sportime Lynbrook's 7.0 65+ Women's team,

captained by Leslie Wecksler and Pat Molloy, which played at Nationals for the second year in a row.

-Sportime Syosset's 18+7.0 Mixed team captained by Dawn Schosberg

-Carefree's 18+ 8.0 Mixed team captained by Dan Burgess, Jr.



-Carefree's 18+ 3.5 Women's Team, captained by Caryn Gallitto and Annemarie Conniff

-Sportime Syosset's 40+ 4.5 Men's team, captained by Andy Ross

-Bethpage Park's 55+ 7.0 Men's team, captained by Jim Lowell

-the **Carefree 40+ 4.0 Men's team**, captain Alex Havriliak



Jackie Iversen, Andrea Woods, Linda Moskowitz, Anne Johnston, Jackie Heise, Coleen Gussaroff and Cathleen Callahan. Also on the team, but not able to make the trip, were Deborah Dreher and Cora Brettler.

**Sportime Syosset's 55+ 8.0 Men's team,** captained by Raj Nagdev, won 2nd place in its flight at Nationals in Orlando, losing to Mid Atlantic, which went on to win.

Several other LI teams also made great showings at their National Championships:

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#### COLLEGE **UPDATE**

#### **Adelphi Wins** 3rd Straight NE<sub>10</sub>

Adelphi's women Panthers clinched their third straight Northeast-10 conference title behind a strong performance by Rebecca Fakas in the finals. The Adelphi senior was named the most Outstanding Player of the NE10 Championship for the second straight year.



#### NYIT Win 6th **Straight ECC**

The women Bears of NYIT won their sixth straight East Coast Conference championship, and Lena Dimmer was voted ECC Player of the Year for the second straight season. Dimmer and Alessia Rossetti both were named All-ECC First Team. Their teammate, Ivana Andric, was named the conference's Rookie of the Year.

## Nominations Now Open for 2018 LI Awards

Each year, the LI Region recognizes the achievements of individuals, facilities and organizations that have gone court and off. Some are honored for their tennis play and/

or rankings, while Prestigious and Excellence awardees are nominated by their peers, the LI tennis community. Nomina-

tions are now open for the 2018 Awards Dinner, which

has been scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Chateaubriand Caterers in Carle Place. Please visit our web site for a complete list of above and beyond, both on the award categories, instructions for making nominations and to see a list of past winners.

son yourself," said Jonathan Klee, USTA LI Region

president. "Don't assume someone else will do it. Our goal is to honor the

best Long Island has to offer and we need your help to do it."

Make your nominations now at www.longisland.usta.com

> "If you know of a worthy nom- Nominations will close on inee please nominate that per- January 31, 2018.

#### **CLUB NEWS**

#### Carefree Fights Diabetes

At Carefree Racquet Club in Merrick, members participated in the "Fight Against Diabetes," raising money for the <u>Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation</u> in support of one of the club's junior tennis players. Carefree donated five courts for two hours, and seven of the club's pros







donated their time to run a junior clinic. This event raised \$537, according to club pro Ben Marks.

#### **Bethpage Park Expands**

Bethpage Park Tennis Center has announced its new and ultramodern Performance and Education Center, where "Better Students Make Better Athletes." The new facility features a sports and fitness performance & education and learning center, new clubhouse with sports and fitness training area, LED court lights, state-of-the-art court climate controls, new pro shop and more.

#### LBTC Helps Save Lives

Long Beach Tennis Center held a free-of-charge, hands-on CPR and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training session for its pros,



members and the community. All participants received a two-year CPR certification upon completion of the course. The event was made possible by Forever 9-The Robbie Levine Foundation, which works to raise awareness of the need for and importance of AEDs in saving lives, particularly in youth athletics.





## LI Votes for Net Generation



The votes are in and the winners are local kids, thanks to the USTA's new Net Generation pro-

gram, which held several events on Election Day across Long Island. Net Generation Day featured five separate events throughout the day, all supported by Neil Thakur, USTA Eastern Section Tennis Service Representative for Long Island.



New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance – Suffolk Zone Conference More than 200 phys ed teachers attended this conference, which included an on-court workshop for elementary educators, at Sachem North HS in Lake Ronkonkoma.

Glen Cove School District Teacher Training Workshop PE teachers and the district's Athletic Director received on-court training with the goal of launching Net Generation programming in all four of the district's elementary schools in the next few months. Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center will be the district's community partner.

Baldwin School District Teacher Training Workshop Five elementary school PE teachers and the district's Athletic Director enjoyed a hands-on Net Generation training workshop. Sportime Lynbrook will help the district introduce tennis to the



children over the next few months.

Hauppauge School District Teacher Training Workshop PE teachers from each of the district's three elementary schools enjoyed a Net Generation training workshop and will introducing the program over the next few months, with the



help of Sportime Kings Park.

Suffolk County Girls Varsity Awards Dinner More than 550 high school tennis players, their parents and their coaches attended this awards program. Organized by the Suffolk County Junior Tennis League, the event promoted Net Generation heavily.

"Net Generation is our new youth program which offers free curriculum, free equip-



plementing the program in their elementary schools and we look forward to adding more as the school year progresses.

"As a game for life, studies show that kids who are exposed to tennis early are better students and learn wonderful life skills. Our elementary school program also

helps feed the JV and Varsity teams by getting new players in the game," Thakur said.

For more information on Net Generation including questions about launching tennis programming in your school, please contact

thakur@eastern.usta.com .

Suffolk Awards Dinner photo credit: Sallie Jay Photography

#### Little Mo Champs

Several Long Island juniors were among the winners in the **2017 "Little Mo" Internationals** in Forest Hills recently. More than 180 players from 23 different countries and 16 U.S. states participated in the event at the West Side Tennis Club.

Local singles champions were: **Boys 11: Jordan Reznik** (Great Neck)

**Boys 9: Sebastian Bielen** (Glen Cove)

Boys 8 (green dot): Drew Hassenbein (Roslyn)

Girls 11: Christasha McNeil (Massapequa).



Ellie Ross of Port Washington received a "Little Mo" Sportsmanship Award.

Drew Hassenbein (above), who trains at Sportime Roslyn, went on to win the Little Mo International title in Florida as well.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

#### Local Girls Win On and Off the Court

#### **State Tourney**

The 2017 Girls' High School season saw several important achievements, with Port Washington defeating Ward Melville to win the Long Island Championship, a new focus on No Cut Tennis Programs Island-wide, fundraising and awareness efforts on behalf of breast cancer during October, and several girls achieving success at States.

Once again, the USTA Long Island Regional Board was pleased to present all of the Nassau and Suffolk girls competing at the New York State Tournament in Latham, N.Y. with sweatshirts.

#### County **Play**

-Nassau County

Half Hollow Hills West.

Singles at States, while Great Neck North's Amy Delman won 4th place. In doubles play, Thea Rabman & Martine McGowan of Port Washington won 4th place.

-North Shore's Olivia Scordo won the Nassau Sportsmanship Award and South Side Coach Chris Colesanti was named Long Island Tennis Magazine's Nassau County Coach of the Year.

-Rachel Arbitman won the Nassau singles crown at the

and Olivia Scordo & Ava Scordo of North Shore won 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



-Jackie Bukzin of Eastport-South Manor won her second straight Suffolk County Individuals Championship at the tournament held at Shoreham -Wading River. Also repeating as champions were **Ariana** Malik & Lauren Cherkin of Half Hollow Hills East, who won the doubles crown. Singles runner up was Rose Hayes of Mercy, while Denise Lai of Ward Melville won 3rd place. Emma Matz & Julia Kinalis of Commack



were doubles runners up and **Brooke Fernandez & Hailey Loughlin** of Floyd won 3rd place. For a complete look at the 2017 season, please visit www.longisland.usta.com.



County High School Tennis Individuals Tournament at Eisenhower Park. Steffi

> **Antao** of New Hyde Park won 2nd place and Great Neck North's Amy Delman won third. In doubles action, Thea Rabman & Martine McGowan won the championship, Kaya Amin & Kavina Amin of Wheatley were run-



#### Newsday All LI Team 2018

Congratulations to the players who earned first-team honors for Newsday's All-Long Island girls tennis team in 2017.

Long Island Player of the Year: **Rachel Arbitman**, Hewlett, Freshman

Jackie Bukzin, Eastport-South Manor, Senior

**Amy Delman**, Great Neck North, Sophomore

Thea Rabman, Port Washington, 7th grade

Martine McGowan, Port Washington, 8th grade

Ariana Malik, Half Hollow Hills East. Senior

Lauren Cherkin. Half Hollow Hills East. Junior

Coach of the Year: Shane Helfner, Port Washington

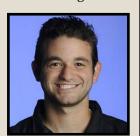


Photo courtesy of Newsday

**Champion Port** Washington won the 2017 Long Island Championship, defeating Suffolk Champ Ward Melville 5-2 in the match played at

-Hewlett freshman **Rachel** Arbitman won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in

## **HIGH SCHOOLS**

#### Local Girls Win On and Off the Court

#### Play With the **Teachers**

Port Washington's varsity team held its "Play with the Teachers" event, in which every girl asked a teacher to form a doubles



team. Says Coach Shane Helfner, "We raised \$566 (for) the Breast Cancer Research Foundation! There is no better way to bring

the tennis program, school and community together for a great cause while having fun!"

#### **Kids' Clinic**

Port Washington team also held a clinic for its neighbors, with 25 children coming out to learn. Helfner said.

> "Everyone left with a trophy and a huge smile on their face. Whenever we have an opportunity to give back to the community...we always try to make a difference."



#### Tennis for a Cure

Commack Coach Jackie Clark and her team held their annual "Varsity Tennis With The Teachers Find a

Cure Tournament," raising money for breast cancer research. "Thanks to all of our incredible educators for playing and to all who contributed." Clark said.

#### **Breast Cancer Awareness**

As in years past, many LI teams wore pink to an October match in recognition of **Breast Cancer Awareness** Month.

To see photos from the Fall high school season, please click here.



#### Fun at the **Lido Family Festival By** the Sea





Photos courtesy of Long Beach Tennis Center

#### **For More** Info





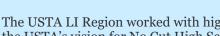
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www.longisland. usta.com

Email: ustaonlongisland @gmail.com

#### **No Cut Tennis**



The USTA LI Region worked with high school coaches to expand the USTA's vision for No Cut High School tennis this season; coaches were enthusiastic in their support for the program.

In reaching out to coaches across the Island to introduce the program, Mike Pavlides, USTA Long Island Regional Board High Schools Representative, said "The USTA recognizes the

critical role you play in growing tennis by allowing students of all abilities to join a team and represent their school. Your contribution creates well-rounded student-athletes, develops leadership and teaches responsibility."

According to Pavlides, "the LI Region is proud to recognize and support the high school tennis teams on Long Island that have No Cut teams. We are taking this opportunity to give the players on these teams pink wristbands to wear during their October matches (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) and, in the process, support two important causes." All No Cut team members received pink "No Cut Tennis" wristbands.



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## **USTA Eastern Honors**



Nancy McShea



**Daniel Burgess** 



Keith Kambourian



**Heather Corriel** 



Five stalwarts of the Long Island tennis community will be honored for their greatness — both on and off the court - on Saturday, January 27th at the USTA Eastern Annual Awards Dinner.

Honorees were selected based on their having made a significant tennis impact in the Long Island Region and the Eastern Section.

place at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel in White NJTLs). Plains. For information on attending, please visit: eastern.usta.com.

#### Nancy McShea **Lifetime Achievement** Award.

Given to a volunteer in

icated service, while promoting and developing tennis in the community. This individual has made a great green tennis during Play impact on spreading their passion of tennis, while touching the lives of many.

#### **Daniel Burgess** Fran Osei Community **Service Award**

Awarded for long time, hands-on contributions to the development and growth of tennis in the The awards dinner will take community (schools, parks and recreation, CTAs and

#### **Heather Corriel** 10 and Under Tennis **Award**

Recognizing a person or organization who has done an outstanding job promoting 10 and Under Tennis in recognition of years of ded- the section. This includes

consistently offering 10 and Under Tennis programming using red, orange and Days, Play Events, 10 and Under tournaments and/or 10 and Under Junior Team Tennis.

#### **Keith Kambourian** George Seewagen Award

Given to a USTA Eastern teaching professional who exemplifies excellence in competition, sportsmanship and love of the game.

#### Herb Harris, Long Island Volunteer of the Year

Given for outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the Long Island Region.

#### USTA Eastern's Annual Conference, Awards

The USTA Eastern Annual Conference is scheduled for January 26-28 at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel in White Plains. An awards dinner on Saturday evening will recognize hardworking and influential people involved with tennis across the Eastern Section, including Long Islanders.

#### The conference $-\mathbf{O}\mathbf{n}$ the Fast Track of Tennis Innovation

— will feature customized workshops with best practice-sharing, oncourt training using the latest teaching techniques, networking with industry-leading tennis professionals and a new and more user-friendly track format. Session tracks will focus on Business Development, Player Development and Community Development.

Please <u>click here</u> for the complete conference schedule.

For more information and to register, please click here: Register Now.

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#### **NY Tennis Expo To Take Over Nassau** Coliseum



Kicking off the new NY Open will be the NY Tennis Expo, to be held on Saturday, 2/10, at the Nassau Coliseum and hosted by Long Island Tennis Magazine. This free event will include fun and educational programs and activities for kids and adults including:

-watch pro player practice sessions -hit with college players -learn about the "Road to College Scholarships" -play on 10U courts -enjoy a Kids Zone and Activity Zone -check out dozens of tennis exhibits

The NY Tennis Expo is free to attend. Parking is also free for those who preregister. To sign up, please visit www.newyorktennisex po.eventbrite.com.

"The NY Tennis Expo is the largest event of its kind in the Northeast and will serve as a great way to get kids excited about tennis," says David Sickmen, publisher of LI Tennis Magazine.

## **NY OPEN**



## **Professional Tennis Comes to LI**

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Professional tennis returns to Long Island in Open's Opening Night Premiere on 2/11 will February when the New York Open ATP Tournament (formerly Memphis Open) makes its debut at the NYCB Live Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The weeklong event (2/11-18) is presented by GF Sports LLC and Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment, with sponsorship support from USTA Eastern and USTA Long Island.

The NY Open will bring top US and international tennis stars to Nassau County, including Kei Nishikori, John Isner, Mike and Bob Bryan, Sam Querrey, Ryan Harrison, Hyeon Chung and LI's own Noah Rubin. The NY

feature exhibition matches between John McEnroe and James Blake and Sloane Stephens against Eugenie Bouchard. For updated news and information about the NY Open, please visit nyopen.com.

USTA Eastern and USTA Long Island need volunteers to help at the NY Open! Want to participate in this great event? invited to sign up to help. Please click here to sign up.



#### Play Where the Pros Play

The New York Open is inviting local tennis players to compete for the opportunity to play on the same courts that will be used by Nishikori, Isner, the Bryan Brothers and many more. "Play Where the Pros Play" is a women's doubles and a men's doubles tournament at the combined level of 8.0 (two 4.0 players or a 3.5 & a 4.5).

Preliminary rounds will be played at four Suffolk and four Nassau county clubs. If you play in one and do not win, you can sign up for another. Each of the eight club winners will enter a main draw; the quarterfinals will play at Carefree Racquet Club in Merrick in February on the same surface as the New York Open courts. The semifinals and finals will be played at the Coliseum on Saturday, 2/17, the same day as the Pros play their semis. Each semifinals participant will receive two tickets to that afternoon's pro match. Spectators coming to cheer on the semifinalists and staying to watch the pro match will be offered tickets at a 20% discount. The cost to participate is \$50 per team, paid to the club holding the tournament.



Participating clubs are: Carefree Racquet, Christopher Morley, Sportime Syosset, Huntington Indoor, Sportime Kings Park, Blue Point, World Gym Setauket, Long Beach (men only) and Point Set (women only).

For information on signing up to play, please contact each individual club.





#### **Around the Region...**



The Town of Oyster Bay will construct new pickleball courts behind the Bethpage Public Library on Powell Avenue in Beth-

page. Construction was expected to begin by the end of October. The new courts will be the Town's second set of pickleball courts, joining those at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa...



The USTA is launching a **new national adult tournament** in 2018 that leverages the

NTRP rating system as a way to create level-based competition at the 18 & over and 50 & over age groups. NTRP national

champions will be crowned in men's and women's singles and doubles at the 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 levels in both 18 & over and 50 & over age groups. The NTRP National Championships will be held in the spring of 2018. For more information please visit: www.usta.com/en/home/play/play-as-a-member/national/NTRP...

USTA Eastern hosted its 31st Annual College Showcase Day, drawing more than 70 of the top high school tennis players in the Northeast to come to connect with 50 college tennis coaches from Division I, II and III collegiate programs. The annual Show-



case provides high school players with an opportunity to show off their competitive skills by playing abbreviated matches against their peers while college coaches observe play. The day is also a venue for high school players to connect with college tennis coaches, collect information on schools and take seminars and clinics from tennis experts who have navigated the college recruiting process and carved out a career in tennis...

Have you heard? **There is grant money available** for your tennis programs! More than \$12,000 is budgeted to fund your programs under the guidelines of the USTA Eastern Section, which gives pref-

erence to non-profits or 501(c) 3 organizations. These are Regional Grants and the application link and details can be found on the Long Island Region's website at <a href="www.longisland.usta.com">www.longisland.usta.com</a>. Questions? Email ustaonlong-island@gmail.com.

#### **USTA Eastern Long Island**

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#### USTA Long Island Region Executive Board

Jonathan Klee, President Sunny Fishkind, Vice President Mike Pavlides, Past President Craig Fligstein, Treasurer Terri Arnold-McKenzie, Secretary

We are committed to the promotion and growth of tennis, the "lifetime sport," for people of all ages and abilities to play and enjoy the game. Through the efforts of volunteers, USTA staff and strategic partners, we are dedicated to the highest standards of integrity, honesty and ethics in developing tennis programs in local communities throughout Long Island. Our mission will be served by having our youth, our adults and corporate partners enjoy the "sport for a lifetime."

**On The Ball: News From LI** is published quarterly by the USTA Eastern Long Island Region. Written and produced by Jacki Binder. Edited by Michael Pavlides. Founded by Daniel Burgess.