



EASTERN



SECTION NEWS



Five Teams Win Jr. Team Tennis Championships

IT WASN'T WHAT WILLIAM PASCOCELLO did that earned him an award at the USTA Eastern Jr. Team Tennis (JTT) Championships. But rather what he didn't do.

At a tournament where players can make erroneous line calls, and momentum can shift in the heat of competition, William kept his composure, even as his team did not earn a trophy.

"I didn't do anything to get it," said William, after winning a sportsmanship award. "I just got it because I played and was a good sport."

It was that emphasis on playing and loving the sport that was on full display at the JTT Championships, where 300 kids, ages 10 to 18, competed, cheered and celebrated as teams, both on and off the court.

The event, which was held June 18-19 at Central Park and Union College in Schenectady, NY, featured a round-robin tournament, in which teams from each of USTA Eastern's six regions competed for a section title. There were singles and doubles matches for boys and girls, along with mixed doubles and coaching allowed on court. While the teams did play matches, it was the total number of games won at the end of the

tournament that determined the winning teams.

"It's a games-won format, so every game counts, every round counts," said Steve Abbondandolo, the Jr. Team Tennis Coordinator for Long Island. "It doesn't finish 'til it's over, so it really makes it exciting."

TEAM IDENTITY AND SPIRIT

AFTER A GREAT DAY of tennis, the players, parents and coaches attended a party at the Albany Marriott, where the kids competed in a banner contest. The teams created a wide range of banners that illustrated their team identity and spirit. The winning teams were the 14 and Under Advanced team from the New York Junior Tennis League (Metro), and the 12 and Under Maywood team (New Jersey Region).

In addition, the Miller Tennis Center team (Western Region) was crowned the 18 & Under Advanced champions, and one of the team's players, Nate Palmer, received a

18U Intermediate Champions, JAMF Drop Shots (above left), and 12U Intermediate Sportsmanship Award Winner William Pascocello.

sportsmanship award. This was the first year that Miller Tennis Center had a JTT team, and the club's co-owner, Debbie Miller, enjoyed seeing the kids play as a team. "It's just nice to see them enjoying themselves and competing, and all working together," she said.

The next day, the remaining teams played the last two rounds of competition, with those in the 14 & Under and 18 & Under divisions competing for the section title and a trip to the USTA Jr. Team Tennis National Championships in Surprise, AZ, in October.

In the 14 & Under Intermediate division, the Ad-Ins (Metro Region) won the Championship, with the help of Han-

nah Gendel, who organized the team, by collecting emails and coordinating schedules with her teammates. At the end of the tournament, she thanked all of them, and recognized the victory as a team effort.

"We're all really strong players, we all love tennis, and we were determined," said Hannah. "We really wanted it."

CALLING THE LINES

THE MAYWOOD TEAM (New Jersey Region) won both the banner contest at the player party Saturday night and the 12 & Under Intermediate title on Sunday. "We all supported each other so much, and we were all there for every match," said Ana

Bambrick-Santoyo. "And we had fun, more than coming to try to win."

In the 18 & Under Intermediate division, the winner was the JAMF Drop Shots (Southern Region), beating out the PTC Aces of New Jersey and three other teams. Nick Meluso of the Drop Shots said it felt great to win a Championship. "We've practiced a lot on Sunday morn-



JTT WINNERS

12 & Under Intermediate

Champion: Maywood (New Jersey)
Finalist: Rockville Racquet (Long Island)
Sportsmanship Award: William Pascocello

14 & Under Intermediate

Champion: Ad-Ins (Metro)
Finalist: JAMF Slicers (Southern)
Sportsmanship Award: Bobby William Steward

14 & Under Advanced

Champion: NYJTL (Metro)
Finalist: Net Bombers (Southern)
Sportsmanship Award: Mia DiCaprio

18 & Under Intermediate

Champion: JAMF Drop Shots (Southern)
Finalist: PTC Aces (New Jersey)
Sportsmanship Award: Anthony Pastecci

18 & Under Advanced

Champion: Miller Tennis Center (Western)
Finalist: Jr. NY Buzz (Northern)
Sportsmanship Award: Nate Palmer

Banner Contest

NYJTL (Metro) and Maywood (New Jersey)

ings and it's all paying off," said the 16-year-old Meluso.

Of course, with players calling their own lines, it required the kids to be fair and balanced in the competition. Those who shined in sportsmanship were recognized by their coaches and received awards at the end of the tournament.

William Pascocello of the Strike Force team (Southern Region) thanked his father for teaching him how to be a good sport. And his father, Bill, said he was very proud of his son. "He is a good sport, he is very respectful of people," said Bill. "And it extends out from our home. My wife spends a lot of time with him and she's taught him well."



Two Players Reap Benefits Of USTA Eastern Pathway

A YEAR AFTER BEGINNING TO LEARN TENNIS in the Bronx, Alberto Rosario began competing in USTA Eastern Jr. Team Tennis. He enjoyed the camaraderie of playing with kids his own age at the Co-Op City Tennis Club and the opportunity to excel in competition. But he also remembers the pressure he felt trying to prove himself as a young player.

"I was learning the sport at the same time," said Rosario. "I didn't want to look bad in front of my friends."

This past June, at the age of 22, he returned to USTA team tennis, playing on an Adult League Mixed Doubles team that made it all the way to the Section Championships in Schenectady, NY. He joined the team with his friend Michael Hart, whom he played with at Co-Op City, and enjoyed learning how to compete in doubles.

"Every match I learned something new," Rosario said. "And [my teammates] were there to coach me."

Rosario and Hart are among a growing number of Eastern

players who are following the USTA Eastern player pathway, which provides opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels to compete throughout their lives.

"It begins with a community organization or National Junior Tennis and Learning Center, which introduces children to the sport," said Jenny Schnitzer, Managing Director of Competitive Tennis for USTA Eastern. "Then they can play in Jr. Team Tennis and sanctioned Tournaments, in Tennis on Campus during college, and in Adult Leagues the rest of their lives."

COACHING FOR TENNIS AND LIFE

Hart, 20, began playing tennis at the age of 12 at MS 135 in the Bronx. The coach who ran the program, Andre St. Clair, told him about the courts at Co-Op City where he taught, and before long, Hart became close with the founders of the Co-Op City tennis courts, Lorraine Rohlsen and her late husband, Milton Alexander, who died in 2009.

They would take Hart and Rosario ice-skating, invite them to picnics and find them jobs teaching tennis. On New Year's Eve, the couple would rent out some courts for a tennis party for the kids. But they also emphasized the importance of working hard on and off the courts.

"They felt like my grandparents, and put us under their wing," said Hart. "Lorraine made sure we did our school work, and she made us stay on top of our college applications."

That dedication to the success of the children has paid off. Rosario is working part-time and studying at Bronx Community College. Hart is studying at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island, and coaching tennis at a camp in New York City. Both are continuing to play the sport of a lifetime and carrying on the legacy of the man who helped teach them.

"I certainly am proud," said Rohlsen. "I hope they continue to be great young men. Mr. Milton Alexander had a lot of confidence in them."



Michael Hart (top row, left) and Alberto Rosario (bottom row, second from left) are now playing USTA League Tennis.



The Maywood team (New Jersey) was one of the banner contest winners.



The Ad-Ins (Metro) won the 14U Intermediate Championship.



McEnroe, Borg, Courier, and Chang to Play in Buffalo

BUFFALO, NY –Tennis stars John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg, Jim Courier and Michael Chang will compete at HSBC Arena in Buffalo on October 22, as the last stop on the 2011 Champions Series circuit.

The athletes will compete for a prize pool totaling \$1 million to be shared by the top three finishers at the conclusion of the 12-night season. Each of the one-night tournaments will feature four champions paired off in one-set semifinals competing for ranking points, culminating with the winners contending for the title in an eight-game, pro-set championship match.

The complete 2011 roster of legends competing in the Champions Series includes Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Jim Courier, Michael Chang, Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander.

"We are thrilled to reunite seven legends who have won an astonishing 52 Grand Slam singles titles among them," said Jon Venison, Founding Partner of the Champions Series. "This is the greatest generation of champions ever assembled and an unprecedented opportunity for sports fans around the U.S. to reconnect with them."

"Competing against my friends and foes in front of fans across the country is going to get my adrenaline pumping," Courier said. "The player line-up and format of the circuit is ideal for me and my peers to quench our competitive thirst, while showcasing tennis to many cities that lack pro tennis events. May the best man win."

The Champions Series is a tennis circuit for champion tennis players over the age of 30, created in 2005 by InsideOut Sports + Entertainment, the New York based firm which is co-owned and operated by former SFX executive Jon Venison and former world No. 1 Jim Courier.

Tickets and unique interactive VIP fan experiences for the 2011 Champions Series are on sale now. For complete tour and ticket information, visit www.ChampionsSeriesTennis.com. USTA Members should use code USTA10 when ordering tickets.



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Junior Tournament Winners, 10 and Under Tennis Players Recognized on Website

LEVEL 3 (L3) TOURNAMENTS don't count toward a player's ranking, but they do provide a great opportunity for kids to develop their skills and enter the world of competitive tennis. Each year, USTA Eastern recognizes the winners of these tournaments in its honor roll at www.eastern.usta.com.

This year, the section created an honor roll to recognize those junior players who compete in the most 10 and Under Tennis tournaments in the section. Starting next year, all 10 and Under tournaments will take place using the green dot tennis ball on a 78-foot court.

"Junior players who win L3s, or compete in 10 and Under tournaments, are working hard to learn and improve their games," said Julie Bliss, Director of Competition and Player Development for USTA Eastern. "This is our way to recognize their outstanding dedication to the sport."



Here are honor rolls through June.

10 and Under Honor Roll

Christopher Baum • Jason Bloomenthal • Alex Chistyakov • Shiel Logandan • Allison Stillman • Eric Tenesaca.

L3 Honor Roll

**Bold type indicates winner of more than one tournament*

Axel Botticelli • Justin Cafiero • **Adam Warner** • Kate Mazza • **Aidan Rosen** • Kathrine Forst • **Alex Goodman** • Kennan Ewing
 Alex Waxenbaum • Kerri Leah Goldfuss • Alexander Levy • Kristianna Price • Alexandra Chrinkin • Lawrence Benjamin Skutelsky
 Alexandra Miasnikova • Logan Chang • Alison Clark • Lucy Revercomb • Allison Hormann • Madison Li • Ana Grace Turner
 Marcos Lee • Ananya Parlapalli • Martha Topolnitski • Anna Savin • Mathew Roberts • **Antonia Junwei Liu** • Matthew Laforgia
 Berber Jin • Max Frankel • **Brennab Campbell** • Maxwell Schenkel • Brian Kaplan • Michael Wagner • Bridget Connors
 Morgan Voula • Caroline Kantor • Murray Panzer • Charles Brucaliere • Natalie Sun • **Charlotte Mosler** • Nicholas Nathanson
 Christina Sollito • Nicole Warshaw • Christopher Tham • Nikita Israni • Connor Leaf • Nikolay Shakyran • **Daniel Bacal**
 Oliver Zoubek • Daniel Duka • Otniel Polo • Daniel Kiselev • Owen Isley • Daniel Leach • Patrick Sheehan-Delany
David Krasner • Peter Fahy • David Raymond Grant • **Rachel Caplan** • Diana A Editoiu • Radovan Lumban-Tubing
 Elizabeth Kallenberg • Renee Kaplowitz • Emma Haley • Rohan Israni • Eric Burfeind • Rose Fishbein • Eric Chow
 Sabella Temporal • Eric Davidoff • Sam Dewees • Gabriel Groshy • Scott Eric Einsidler • Georgia Ryan • **Shinyi Shang**
 Harika Reddy • Sidharth Chawla • Hunter Schone • Simar Sawhney • Isabel Seaborn • Skyler Wasserman • Jack Flores
 Spencer Lowitz • Jacy Pare • Steven Duka • James Karr • Timmy Chu • Janae Fouche • Travis Laub • Jared Rosner
 Trevor Rosenlicht • Jasmine Kitahara • Tyler Kats • **Jessie Sarkis** • Zak Gelfond • Josh Metzger



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COPELAND CORNER

Welcome to Copeland Corner, a new feature with our official sponsor, Copeland Coating Co. Inc. Copeland, whose roots date back to 1945, both manufactures and installs court surfaces. As a one-stop shop, Copeland is uniquely positioned to help tennis facilities looking for affordable ways to renovate their courts.

In this installment, we provide a step-by-step view of a recent court repair and resurfacing project by Copeland Coating at Katonah Memorial Park in Katonah, NY.

A Fresh Start For Katonah Courts



MAY 15-16, 2011 >

The crew from Copeland Coating uses a power washing machine to clean the mildew and dirt off the courts.



< JUNE 14

The cracks are cleaned out and filled with Action Pave Patch binder. This mix of silicate sand, latex and cement fixes the cracks.



^ JUNE 20

The crew installs two coats of Action Pave dark green filler for the inside of the courts, and then two coats of a lighter green filler for the outside of the courts. The surface will provide a medium to medium-slow speed of play.



JUNE 15-16 >

An Armor Crack Repair system of fiberglass and felt fabric is applied to the filled cracks, and a black acrylic resurfacer is placed the next day on all of the courts.



JUNE 21 >

Four courts of regulation lines are hand painted using Action Pave White Line Paint, and the posts and nets are reinstalled on the courts.

>The Copeland crew in front of the courts at Katonah Memorial Park. From left: Mike Edgerton (Certified Tennis Court Builder), Connor Mallory, Chris Kidney and Chad Kidney.



Did you know the average public tennis court needs to be resurfaced every five to seven years? Don't wait. Call today!

Contact Copeland Coating at (800) 303-4219 to schedule a free consultation.

Don't forget to mention that you read about Copeland in USTA Magazine.

www.copelandcoating.com www.eastern.usta.com