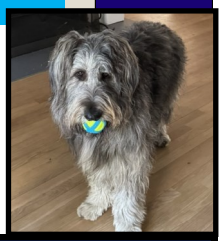
Volume 13, Issue 1

USTA Eastern Long Island

Spring 2024

On The Ball: News From LI



Tennis is "Better Together"

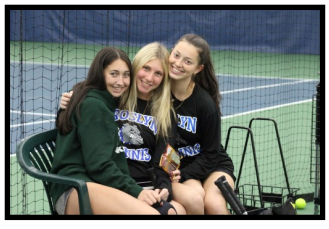
The USTA Long Island Regional Council and USTA Eastern, with Sportime Port Washington/JMTA Long Island and Advantage All of Roslyn NJTL, hosted the first **"Better Together"** tennis event in March.



More than 150 middle and high school tennis players from across Long Island participated in this mixed doubles team event, which raised more than $5,000 for the Roslyn High School Scholarship Fund. The event was held in memory of Drew Hassenbein and Ethan Falkowitz.

Better Together took place at Sportime Port Washington. Teams — each with a minimum of three boys and three girls — competed in three rounds with one boys doubles, one girls doubles and one mixed doubles match per round.

"Everything about this day was in honor of the boys and the way they lived their lives, on and off the court," said Kerri Janotte, Roslyn Tennis Coach. "We wanted this day to be about kids coming together to play the sport the boys loved. No rankings, no ratings, just fun on the court together. I was overwhelmed by the amount of support from the tennis community, the players, volunteers and everyone behind the scenes who made this event so successful."



Congratulations to the winning teams:

Hunchos: Zack Cohen & Russell Notaris (Friends Academy), Bryan Bin (Great Neck), Sahara Ahmed (Herricks), Tiffany Lin (Woodmere) & Teah Login (Huntington)

Harborfields Varsity: Aya Deckman, Hana Deckman, Josephine Rudloff, Boden Rudloff, Brody Surbeck & Nolan Surbeck

Team Zona (Roslyn): Jordan Barish, Joey Goldman, Dylan Laskowit, Gavin Lehrman, Luka Ostad & Brendon Siskin

Plummer and Ern (Roslyn): Alana Borkon, Molly Borkon, Abby Forchheimer, Harrison Goldman, Ethan Goldman & Reid Morris

Free Agents: Emily Guillon, Sarah Guillon, Justin Park, James Kott (Port Washington) & Meghan Mullen (South Side)

Big Hitters: Spencer Goldberg, Ryan Goldfarb, Max Levine, Julia Pnini, Lily Rappaport (Roslyn) & Riley Magner (Westhampton Beach)



"Seeing all these young stars come together for such a fantastic cause was heartwarming," said volunteer Sharon Rapaport, a member of the USTA LI Council and the tournament director. Special thanks to: Jay Harris, Neil Thakur, Mike Pavlides, Kerri Janotte and Rappaport, who put the event together, and to all the volunteers who helped run it: Ken Luba, Rob Walzer, Bon Koo, Michelle Stoerback, Beth Klein, Cara Rappaport, Lauren Borkon, Christina Barish, Tracy Ross, Stephanie Guillon, Steven Ferantello, Jackie Clark and Denise Schmidt.



USTA EASTERN LONG ISLAND

Calendar

(may change due to weather)

4.11 USTA League Captains Meeting

4.19 Autism Awareness Match (Suffolk County)

4.20 San Marco Tournament @Hills East

5.18-19 Section VIII Singles & Doubles Tournament

5.20 "Who is Stan Smith" film screening @Manhasset Cinemas

5.20 Section XI Individuals tournament @Smithtown East

5.22 Section XI Small School champs @St. Joseph's University Patchogue

5.23 Section XI Large School champs @Smithtown East

5.29 Section XIII Small School Champs

5.30 Section VIII Large School Champs

5.31-6.2 NYS Individual Champs @NTC

6.2 Robbie's Run in Merrick

6.7 NYS Team Champs @NTC

visit www.usta.com/longislandregion for details on all events

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follow us on Facebook at Play Tennis Long Island

And Instagram USTA Eastern

Remembering Ethan and Drew

In addition to the USTA Long Island Better Together Tournament held at Sportime Port Washington this Spring (story, page 1), Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center and Christopher Morley Tennis also hosted events in memory of Drew Hassenbein and Ethan Falkowitz.







Drew Hassenbein Dream Big Tournament

Robbie Wagner Tournament Training Center hosted The Drew Hassenbein Dream Big tournament. The event was a L3 Closed Boys 16s event. The winners were:

- Champion: Connor Plunkett
- Finalist: Zen Uehling

1st Annual Ethan Falkowitz "Believe in Yourself" Tennis Classic

At Christopher Morley Tennis Center, the 1st Annual Ethan Falkowitz "Believe in Yourself" Tennis Classic was a rousing success with more than 100 competitors of all levels from ages 7 -18.



"Who is Stan Smith?"



We're all familiar with Stan Smith sneakers, but who was the tennis superstar behind the popular Adidas footwear? The USTA Long Island Region and USTA Eastern are proud to sponsor the the premiere of *"Who is Stan Smith?,"* part of the Gold Coast International Film Festival this Spring.

Produced by Lebron James and Maverick Carter, the film takes a closer look into the extraordinary life of #1-ranked tennis superstar Smith, and includes archival footage and interviews with those including John McEnroe and Pharrell Williams. The film will be shown on Monday, May 20th at 7pm at Manhasset Cinemas.



For tickets, visit www.goldcoastarts.com and use code USTA3 to get $3 off the cost of your ticket.

Long Island Happenings

Tennis for All



Game Set Match Tennis Academy at Long Island Health & Racquet in East Setauket will host its **Tennis for All Special Needs Tennis Program** this spring. Sessions will run on Tuesdays from 4-5pm (through 6/11) and Saturdays 11am-12pm from (through 6/22). For questions or to register, contact JP at juanpitenis@hotmail.com or (631) 561-3982.

Work Out with Collegians



Participants were able to up their games and help support college tennis at **Stonybrook's Spring Fundraiser** in April. Members of the Division 1 tennis team worked out and played tennis with participants.

Professional Training



Tennis coaches seeking **level 2 professional USPTA certification** attended a workshop in March. For more information including details on upcoming events, visit www.uspta.com

$$Grant Money Available$$

USTA, USTA Eastern and USTA Long Island all have **grant money available** to support many kinds of tennis programming. Categories include outdoor resurfacing, programs bringing tennis to new communities and populations including children and special needs adults and kids, and high school coaches, among others. Want to find out if your program qualifies for a USTA grant? Email thakur@eastern.usta.com

Special Olympics Includes Tennis

Long Island Special Olympics Spring games will be held at Plainedge High School on Saturday, May 4th. Tennis will be one of the contests. Anyone interested in volunteering to help out at the games can contact Emmanuel Lindsay.

Huntington Teen Succeeds on the Road

Huntington's Jack Kennedy has been traveling across and out of the United States to compete. In February he won the ITF J200 in the Dominican Republic, defeating Norway's Fredrik Krogh Solheim 6-4, 6 -2 in the finals.



USTA Long Island Regional Council member Randi Wilkins had the opportunity to watch Kennedy play at the BNP Junior Finals in California in March.

Unfortunately he lost in a tight 3rd set in the finals.

Kennedy, 15, trains at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center. Wilkins was at the event and shared photos and her thoughts: "It was exciting to see a Long Islander at such a prestigious event, thousands of miles from home. It was very impressive to see someone at age 15 compete at that level and do so well," Wilkins said.





Tennis in Our Schools

Old Westbury Panthers Celebrate Women's History Month

The SUNY Old Westbury tennis team recognized Women's History Month in March by supporting the university's Panther Community Care Center. USTA Eastern's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Department introduced Jack and Jill of America Inc. to SUNY Old Westbury; Jack and Jill of America contributed to the school's Panther Community Care Center "Mission Menstruation" initiative by providing menstrual products to their menstruating student population throughout March.





High School Coaches Workshop

Bethpage Park Tennis Center — with the help of a USTA Long Island Regional grant, brought back its popular High School Tennis Coaches Workshop in April. This event included discussions, court time, prizes and a special needs workshop.



High School Tennis Spring Season

The boys' high school season is underway, and we look forward to a competitive and exciting Spring. Important dates on the calendar are:

Nassau County-Section VIII

5.16-24: Small/Large School Playoffs
5.18-19: Singles/Doubles Tournament
5.29: Small School Championship
5.30: Large School Championship

Suffolk County/Section XI
4.19: Autism Awareness Match
4.20-21: San Marco Tournament
5.20: Individual County Tournament @Smithtown East
5.22: Small School Championship @St. Joseph's University Patchogue
5.23: Large School Championship @Smithtown East

Long Island
TBD: LI Small School and Large School Championships @Suffolk site

NY State
5.31-6.2: NYSPHSAA Individual Championships @NTC
6.7: NYSPHSAA Team Championships @NTC

Enrichment Graduation

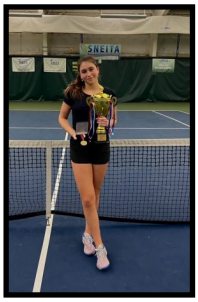
Children from the Bayville and Sea Cliff schools graduated from Robbie Wagner's 10 and Under Off-Site Enrichment Fall program, led by Pro Steve Abby.



Ross School Achievements

Sophia Holod was the Girls 18s champion at the L2 event at the Southern New England Indoor Tennis Academy.

Luma Teixeira and Dhriti Reddy Pylla were the Girls 14s Champions at the L4 Winter Championships at the Ross School Tennis Academy.





USTA Grants Help Teams

Glen Cove Schools Varsity Tennis Coach Christopher MacDonald recently expressed his appreciation for a USTA grant he received that allowed the school to purchase training equipment.

"This is the first week of Varsity Boys Tennis," MacDonald said. "Today was an absolute downpour of rain. We were able to book indoor gym time and have a very productive practice using the equipment provided in the grant."

If your school would like information on grants to help foster their tennis programming, please email ustaonlongisland@gmail.com.



Competitive Achievements

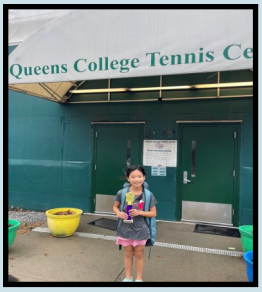
Congratulations to the following champions:

@Christopher Morley Tennis

4th CMT Presidents Cup winners (photos below, right)

- Orange Ball: **Bryan Cheung**
- Green Ball Girls: **Helen Pan**
- Green Ball Boys: **Neev Nigam**
- Boys U12: **Lucas Saltos**
- Girls Open: **Catherine Yin**
- Boys Open: **Aman Arora**

Level 7 Winner at Queens College tournament— **Madelyn Lai**



Madelyn Lai



Leena Friedman, Girls 16s Singles Champion at the 2023 Junior Orange Bowl



@Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center

Sebastian Bielen received a wild card into the Cleveland Open of the ATP Challenger Tour

@Eastern Athletic Clubs

Anabel and Lydia Van Cott won the L6 Long Beach Tennis Center New Yorkers Bowl title in the Girls 16s doubles division



Anabel & Lydia Van Cott



Kurtz & Karmazin

@Sportime Lynbrook

Abby Kurtz and Gabby Karmazin were the champion and finalist, respectively, at the L7 Marshmello Classic held at Long Beach Tennis Center

Excel High Performance Player **Daniella Yogumyan** was the Girl's 16s singles champion at the USTA L6 Holiday Classic

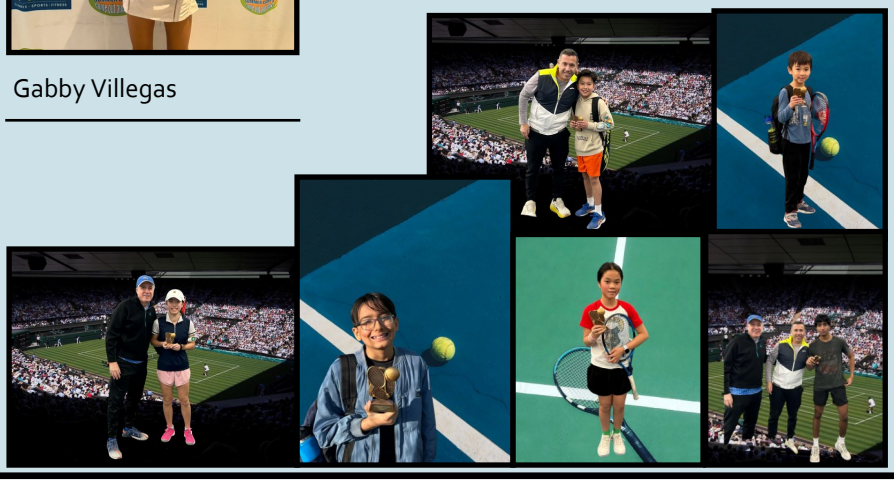


Danielle Yogumyan

Excel High Performance **Gabby Villegas** was the girls 14s singles champion at the USTA L6 Holiday Classic at Sportime Lynbrook. Gabby also competed at USTA Winter Nationals in San Antonio, Texas



Gabby Villegas



USTA Leagues Update

By Becky Bellino, LI Adult League Coordinator

March is always full of chapters closing and new beginnings, and that couldn't ring more true for our leagues in Long Island.

2023 Invitationals closed out the calendar year. Long Island was represented to the fullest with the:

- 65+ 8.0 men's and women's teams in Arizona in February
- Tri-level men's and women's teams in San Diego in early March
- 55+ 7.0 mixed doubles team in Orlando in late March

Not only did we cover all areas of the country, but also a wide variety of tennis levels and age groups, which is what USTA League Tennis is all about!

Our 18 & Over Mixed Doubles Leagues also ended with both familiar and new teams heading to Sectionals in May. Congratulations and good luck to the following teams:

18+ 6.0: Lynbrook - Donna Healy and Stephen Donaldson

18+ 7.0: Deer Park – Suresh Patel and Kevin Bunting

18+ 8.0: Long Beach – Atara Simpson and Matt Freeman

18+ 9.0: Deer Park - Roslyn Chua-McAlone

For 2024, the mixed doubles Sectional will take place in Westchester County. More details to come as the date approaches.

As for new beginnings, both the 2024 40 & Over and 55 & Over Mixed Doubles Leagues have just begun, and scheduling is underway for the much-anticipated spring/summer season. Captains, please mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 11 at 7:00PM** for the annual Captain's Meeting. Schedules will be made available, rule changes discussed and questions answered. A Zoom link was provided to registered captains and a reminder will be sent as that date approaches. The meeting will be recorded for anyone who cannot make it.

For Sectional dates and locations, please click here. For National Tournament dates and locations, please click here.

Thanks to everyone who shared their team pictures. If you'd like to be represented in this newsletter, please email your photos. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the courts!




















USTA Eastern Launches Flex App on Long Island

USTA Eastern is proud to announce that it will bring its new USTA Flex app to Long Island this spring! With USTA Flex, you can play more tennis on your terms—and meet new players in your area.

This program was designed with your busy lifestyle in mind. You make the schedule. You set the time. You play when and where it's convenient for you. And even more convenient, everything is arranged directly through your phone with the USTA Flex app.

Want to compete this spring? Follow these steps!



How to get started:

Download the USTA Flex app from your app store. Go to the search tab and search for a program/competition near you. **The Long Island league will begin June 1.** Hit pay and join.

How it works:

You'll be grouped in a flight (round robin format) with opponents of a similar skill level, and you'll play each opponent in your group once. You and your opponent schedule when and where matches are played, for ultimate flexibility; simply complete each match before the end of the season. You can contact opponents, record scores and stay updated with how other players in your group are doing through the app.

Interested in running USTA Flex at your facility? Here are some FAQs we've received from players and providers since launching the pilot program last year:

Who can play USTA Flex?

USTA Flex was created for adult players with some tennis experience who want to play matches in their area with new competitors. Play is scheduled between players on their own time.

How much does USTA Flex cost the player?

While the USTA Flex app is free, each program costs $35 to join.

Can players sign up through Serve Tennis?

No, USTA Flex is managed through the USTA Flex mobile app, which allows players to contact opponents, record scores in the app and stay updated with their program.

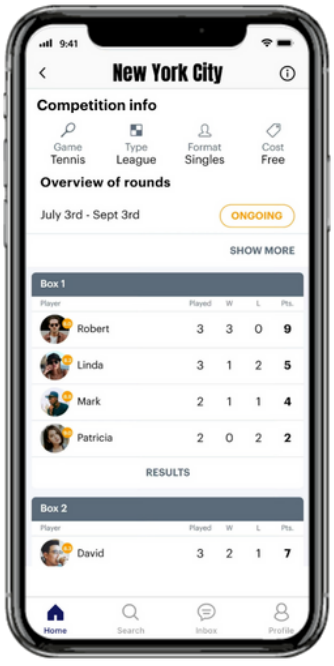
Does USTA Flex generate revenue for my park/ facility?

Players choose when and where they complete their matches. Often, they'll need to reserve court time at facilities where they might not otherwise play tennis if an opponent lives in a different neighborhood. USTA Flex helps to introduce new players to your facility and can help fill court time during lower traffic periods.

Learn more about the program on our **USTA Flex homepage**.

Photo Above: *USTA Flex debuts on Long Island on June 1.*

Photo Below: *A view of what the USTA Flex app looks like.*



USTA EASTERN LONG ISLAND



Kids' Days Scheduled The USTA Long Island Regional Council and *Long Island Tennis Magazine* have announced that the annual Long Island Kids' Days, three free sessions providing tennis instruction, food and fun for children, will return this summer. Programs will take place at Luhi Day Camp on July 10th, Sportime Hempstead Lake on July 18th and Island Quest Day Camp later in the summer. Children are invited to attend as part of a group; special needs groups will also be included.



Tennis Heroes The HERO Program (Help Expand Recreation Opportunities) came to Deer Park in March when Janet Lefkowitz, and Jerry Weil visited the BOCES James E. Allen School. in Deer Park. Every child in the school had the opportunity to experience tennis and win a prize. Volunteers included (from left): Sunny and Eddie Fishkind, Roy Lebel, Janet Lefkowitz, Jerry Weil, Michael D'Agostaro and Nicholas Giannone.





Free Kids' Tennis at Robbie's Run USTA Long Island regional volunteers look forward to participating again in the Robbie's Run 5k race and family carnival in Merrick on Sunday, June 2nd. The event, which raises money to provide CPR/ AED training and to purchase automated external defibrillatiors for youth sports venues, will take place at the Levy Lakeside School on Babylon Road. For more information, click here.



USTA Eastern Long Island

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Regional Council Executive Committee

Michael Pavlides, Regional Director
Jonathan Klee, Past Regional Director
Sunny Fishkind
Tito Perez
Jason Wass
Randi Wilkins

Neil Thakur, USTA Eastern Manager of Long Island Region Schools & Community Tennis

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.