

Autumn 2025



## Calendar

10/7 Jr. Pathway Webinar for 18-&-under and parents

**10/15 USTA LI Awards Celebration**

*Girls HS dates below are tentative*

10/21 Nassau Small Schools Champs.

10/22 Nassau Large Schools Champs.

10/24 Suffolk Small Schools Champs.

10/27 - 29 NY State Individuals Tourney

10/30 Suffolk Large Schools Champs.

10/31 LI Small Schools Finals

11/3 LI Large Schools Finals

11/4 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

11/7 NYS Large & Small Schools Semis & Finals

11/9 USTA Eastern College Showcase

visit [www.usta.com/longislandregion](http://www.usta.com/longislandregion) for details on all events

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# On The Ball: News From LI



## USTA Long Island Annual Awards: Special Edition

The USTA Eastern Long Island Regional Council is thrilled to announce the honorees who will receive much-deserved awards at its 35th Annual Awards Reception.

The awards reception and ceremony will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at:

The Sea Cliff Manor  
395 Prospect Ave.  
Sea Cliff, NY

Check-in and cocktail reception will start at 6:00pm. Awards ceremony will follow at 7:00pm.

A full listing of all winners is presented throughout this issue of *"On the Ball: News from LI."*

Tickets to attend the event are \$60 per adult and \$40 per child under age 12. To register to attend, please [click here](#).

**Please register NO LATER than Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

We are excited to have this opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful achievements of our tennis community and look forward to seeing awardees, their families and friends on October 15. If you have any questions, please feel free to [email us](#).

### 35<sup>th</sup> Annual USTA Long Island Region Awardees (2025)

#### PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

##### **Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award**

Maureen McFadzen

##### **Vitas Gerulaitis "For the Love of Tennis" Award**

Amy Gillen

##### **Rose Buck Scalambra Tennis Family of the Year**

The Lombardi Family

##### **Arthur Ashe Multicultural Award:**

Fernando Juguera

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence Awards and 2024-25 High School Champions



**Daniel Burgess, Sr. Community Service Award:** Kevin Boston-Hill

**Madeline Zausner Junior Tournament Director Award:** Rong Ma

**Junior Volunteer of the Year:** Graydon Archondo

**Adult Volunteer of the Year:** Bon Koo

**Tennis Club of the Year:** Deer Park

**Private Club of the Year:** Huntington Crescent Club

**Tennis Professional of the Year (Adult):** Gary Gaudio

**Tennis Professional of the Year (Junior):** Anna Bielen Zarska

**10-and-Under Tennis Award:**  
Advantage All

**Long Island High School Tennis Team of the Year:** Commack Girls Team

**Birdie Tarulli League Captain Award:**  
Jacqueline Peiffer

**Blane Magee League Captain Award:** Don Jackson

**Good Samaritan Award:** Felipe Sobrinho

**Nassau County Boy's Singles Champion:**  
Manhasset - Max Golubenko

**Nassau County Boy's Doubles Champions:**  
Garden City - Ben Wiese & Christian Bravo

**Suffolk County Boy's Singles Champion:** Walt Whitman - Sam Lopez-Cardenas

**Suffolk County Boy's Doubles Champions:** Half Hollow Hills East- Lohit Madisetty & Marcus Gonzales



**NYS Girls Singles Champion:** Herricks - Angel Walia

**Nassau County Girls Singles Champion:** Garden City- Angelina Bravo



**Nassau County Girls Doubles Champions:** Great Neck South - Gabrielle Alexa Villega & Madison Lee

**Suffolk County Girls Singles Champion:**  
Smithtown East - Anya Konopka

**NYS & Suffolk County Girls Doubles Champions:** Bayport-Blue Point - Emilia Romano & Evie Romano

**Nassau County Coach of the Year:** Friends Academy - Owen Kassimir

**Suffolk County Coach of the Year:** Bayport-Blue Point - John Salvaggio



## On Court Successes!

### Robbie Wagner's Juniors Experience the US Open

Robbie Wagner's junior players participated in Net Generation events at the US Open. A special highlight came when Chase Chang and Nathan Liu were selected for the coin toss opportunity.



### Adaptive Athletes Shine

Thanks to David J. Williams, USTA Eastern Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, for sharing news of local success in adaptive tennis.

For the 4th year in a row, the Junior Tennis Foundation helped present the USTA Eastern Adaptive Unified Doubles Championships. Ten teams from across the Eastern Section, each with one adaptive player partnering with a non-adaptive player, competed in a round robin tournament at Sportime Randall's Island to earn the right to represent Eastern at the National Championships to be held at the USTA

National Campus in Orlando, Fla. on October 24-26.

Williams said, "We are so proud of all the teams. The athleticism and sportsmanship on display was



exciting and inspiring."

Congratulations to the two finalist teams: Aaron Stern and Juan Pablo Perez; and Mark Shyr and Andres Sanchez. Good luck in Orlando!

*Photo credit: Damion Reid*

### USTA Eastern Junior Council Is Busy

The USTA Eastern Junior Council — a group of kids section-wide helping to grow the game — is working hard to plan events for their communities. Upcoming programs include:

#### Webinar: How USTA Eastern's Junior Pathway can benefit youth tennis players

[Click here to register](#). This program, on October 7th, is for kids 18-and-under and their parents.

#### College Showcase Day

High school juniors and seniors are invited to USTA Eastern's 2025 College Showcase Day on 11/9 at the [Genesis Health Club at Saw Mill](#) in Mount Kisco, NY. The annual event offers high school players the opportunity to both meet with and demonstrate their skills in front of college coaches in attendance. The day also includes guest speakers and expert panel discussions that will address many of the questions college-bound students and parents ask about college tennis and the NCAA recruitment process. To register, [click here](#).

**High School Player/Coaches Spotlights:** Looking to recognize high school players?

[Nominate a worthy player](#) for USTA Eastern's High School Player Spotlight

[Nominate a worthy coach](#) for USTA Eastern's High School Coach Spotlight

\*Girls HS Season submission deadline: Nov 1, 2025

\*\*Boys HS Season submission deadline: June 15th, 2026



## National Rankings: Adults & Juniors (as of 8/6/25) & League Champs

### MEN

Open Singles: #1 Dillon McKenzie  
35+ and 40+ Singles: #1 Mickey Nisar  
45+ and 50+ Singles: #1 Gerry Bohner  
55+ Singles: #1 Adrian Chirici  
60+ Singles: #1 Jonathan Klein  
65+ and 70+ Singles: #1 Steven Brill  
75+ Singles: #1 Marshall Hubsher

### WOMEN

Open Singles: #1 Tracey Gottlieb  
35+ Singles: #1 Morgan Milleisen  
45+ and 50+ Singles: #1 Betsy Bickar  
55+ and 60+ Singles: #1 Ellen Markowitz  
65+ and 70+ Singles: #1 Lisa Jett

### FAMILY

Father/Son All Ages: Jack Varghese & Vishal Varghese  
Father/Son 60+: Adam Rosen & Benjamin Rosen  
Father/Son 70+: John Titcomb & Brett Titcomb

### JUNIORS

Boys/Girls  
Boys 12 singles: #1 Yifan Nie, #2 Shuo Li  
Boys 14 singles: #1 Jacques Chen, #2 Kanin Michael  
Boys 16 singles: #1 Rocco Roti, #2 Kurt Sayan  
Boys 18 singles: #1 Jack Kennedy, #2 Zavier Augustin  
Girls 12 singles: #1 Catherine Chan, #2 Aya Iwata  
Girls 14 singles: #1 Blake Chang, #2 Gabrielle Brereton  
Girls 16 singles: #1 Paige Wygodzki, #2 Anabelle Janczyk  
Girls 18 singles: #1 Sophia Holod, #2 Paige Wygodzki

### LEAGUES

#### Spring 2024

18 & Over 3.0 Women – Sectional Champions  
Point Set - Captain - Laura Crain  
40 & Over 3.0 Women – Sectional Champions  
Point Set - Captain - Laura Crain

#### Summer 2024

65 & Over 8.0 Women - Sectional Champions  
Sportime Syosset – Captains: Lydia Eitel & Mona Giovanni

#### Fall 2024

18 & Over 4.0 Men - Sectional Champions  
Huntington Indoor Tennis – Captains – Stephen Weiss & Neil Hyman  
40 & Over 6.0 Mixed Doubles - Sectional Champions  
Christopher Morley – Captains: David Ng & Peter Tam  
55 & Over 8.0 Men - Sectional Champions  
Sportime Syosset – Captains: Shyam Shivdasani & Marc Mandelbaum  
65 & Over 8.0 Men - Sectional Champions  
Sportime Syosset – Captains: Harish Khullar & Sarabjit Lamba

#### Fall/Winter 2025

18 & Over 6.0 Mixed Doubles - Sectional Champions  
Sportime Lynbrook – Captains: Donna Healy & Angelo de Bourg

#### 2025 Eastern Team Tennis Sectional Champions

12U L6 Champions: Christopher Morley – Ricardo Aguirre & Salomon Levy

## USTA Leagues Update

By Milly Keighery, LI Adult League Coordinator



While the 2024 league season officially wraps up in a couple of months with the conclusion of

Nationals, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate and thank everyone who's been part of the journey so far in what was an epic season!

I couldn't be prouder of our players - from the veterans who've been part of the leagues for years to the brand-new faces taking their very first swing - you've all made my first season as Adult League Coordinator incredible.

To kick off Sectionals in August, Long Island teams proudly represented at the 18+ & 40+ divisions in Westchester and Schenectady. While only one team will move on to Nationals in October - congratulations to Donna Healy's 3.0 Women! - every LI team battled hard, with some truly nail-bitingly close matches. Although competition is at the heart of what we do, what really stands out is the team spirit, camaraderie and pure fun that comes from being on court together.

In September, we moved on to the 55+ Sectionals, which took place at a new venue in New Jersey this year. LI was incredibly well represented. Amazing matches were played and the list of results speaks for itself.

Congratulations to the following teams that will represent Eastern at Nationals:

**Men:** Adam Moramarco (55+), Matt Crowley & Sarabjit Lamba (55+ 8.0), Lionel Goldberg & Robert Chesney (55+ 9.0)

**Women:** Jackie Mazzarone (55+ 7.0), Mary Alice Ruppert (65+ 6.0) & Lydia Eitel (65+ 8.0)

**Mixed:** David Ng (40+ 6.0), Terry Kossegi (40+ 8.0), Roslyn Chua-McAlonie (40+ 9.0 - this team was actually the finalist, but the Champion team cannot attend Nationals) Closing out Sectionals was the 65+ and 40+ mixed doubles competitions held in New Jersey.

New this season, we're excited to launch a Fall 40+ women's 2.5/3.0 Combo League - an exciting initiative. If you're interested in joining, please reach out to me directly and I'll help place you on a team. Matches begin in the next few weeks.

As we all know the world of tennis never slows down. Our 2025 4.5 Tri-Level Leagues for men and women are already underway and the 2026 18+ Mixed Leagues kicked off in late September. We've still got teams looking for players - so if you want in on the action, [reach out](#).

Congratulations to all the teams that played at Sectionals:

### 18+ Women

2.5: Point Set Stratos/Ireland  
3.0: Deer Park Taylor/Dikman  
3.5: Port Washington/Ma  
4.0: Huntington/Roslyn  
4.5: Huntington Newell/Giovanni

### 40+ Women

3.0: Christopher Morley, Healy - WINNER  
3.5: Blue Point, Mazzarone  
4.0: Bethpage, Banks/Carroll  
4.5: Roslyn, Tacher/Sorin

### 18+ Men

3.0: Lynbrook, Feldman/Minoff  
3.5: Lynbrook, Mosquera/Brahmbhatt  
4.0: Blue Point, Subject/Peters  
4.5: Long Beach Low/Siddiqui

5.0: Long Beach, Siddiqui

### 40+

3.0: LIHR  
3.5: Christopher Morley  
4.0: Christopher Morley  
4.5: Carefree, Chesney/Perri  
**55+ Women**  
6.0: LIHR, Roberts  
7.0: Blue Point, Mazzarone  
8.0: Roslyn, Rey/Franklin

### 65+ Women

6.0: Bethpage, Ruppert  
8.0: Syosset, Eitel/Giovanni

### 55+ Men

6.0 Morley, Moramarco  
7.0 LIHR, Kronenberg  
8.0 Syosset, Crowley/Lamba  
9.0 Robbie Wagner/Carefree, Goldberg/Chesney

### 65+ Men

7.0 Lynbrook, Rothman/Lindenman  
8.0 Syosset, Khullar/Lamba

### 40+ Mixed

6.0: Morley, Ng/Yang  
7.0: Lynbrook, Healy  
8.0: Carefree, Kossegi/Siler  
9.0 Deer Park, Chua-McAlonie

For information or questions about leagues, please [email me](#).



## Advantage All Foundation Shares Love of Tennis

Thanks to KerriAnn Jannette-Hinckley for sharing news and photos of a special event held during the summer:

On Sunday, August 3, Advantage All Tennis Foundation hosted a tennis and pickleball event at Glen Oaks Club. More than 50 players came out to play tennis and pickleball, socialize and support Advantage All's programs. The afternoon was filled with lessons, matches and opportunities to hit with college players and club pros—making it an active and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Guests also had the chance to enter raffles for some incredible prizes.

Events like this are vital in helping grow the Advantage All Tennis Foundation's mission: expanding access to tennis, fostering community and creating opportunities for young athletes.



A heartfelt thank you to Ricky Becker and The Glen Oaks Club for making this wonderful afternoon possible, and to everyone who participated in our summer event.



## Welcoming Milly Keighery: LI Leagues Coordinator

We are excited to welcome Milly Keighery as the new Adult League Coordinator for Long Island. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome! Should you have any questions or concerns about Long Island leagues and league teams, Milly can be reached by email at: [keighery@eastern.usta.com](mailto:keighery@eastern.usta.com)



We also want to thank Becky Bellino for her service to Long Island and wish her all the best in her new role as Adult League Coordinator for Westchester and Rockland Counties.

## Scenes from USTA League Season

*(continued from page 5)*



## Huntington's Jack Kennedy wins US Open Boys' Doubles Title

The 2025 US Open concluded with one Eastern-based player in the winner's circle: Jack Kennedy, of Huntington, lifted the junior boys' doubles trophy with partner Keaton Hance, of USTA Southern California. The duo—who were the No. 6 seeds at the event—defeated fellow Americans and No. 7 seeds Noah Johnston and Benjamin Willwerth, 6-3, 1-6, [10-8], to claim the championship.

"It feels amazing to be part of the list of junior Grand Slam champions," Kennedy said of his big win. "[They are] a bunch of legends who have their names in tennis history. [And] it was truly a special moment to share with Keaton alongside me to capture this title."

Johnston and Willwerth—who also reached the French Open boys' doubles final earlier in the year—certainly made them earn it. After dominating the second set, the eventual finalists led 3-1, 7-4 and 5-8 in the match tiebreak before Kennedy and Hance reeled off five straight points to notch the victory.

"It was a crazy tiebreak, and we were playing from behind the entire time," Kennedy recalled. "Ben and Noah were playing some great points. Keaton and I kept telling each other that we have to stay the course, stay positive and [keep up the] energy. We just kept pumping each other up, saying 'One point at a time.' We both knew that they were going to feel the moment, and if we stuck with them, then we would have our chance. As match point was happening and the ball went over our heads, I think our hearts stopped for a split second. But then it sailed long, and we were super relieved and filled with excitement."

The result capped off a busy US Open for the Long Islander, as Kennedy also competed in the men's qualifying event and the boys' singles draw—where as the No. 9 seed he reached the third round, ultimately losing to eventual semifinalist Luis Guto Miguel of Brazil. Over the course of his singles campaign he got to compete inside Louis Armstrong Stadium twice, a rare opportunity not often bestowed upon juniors over the course of the fortnight.

"To play on Armstrong and to experience everything that the pros experience, it was really cool," he said. "So many moments I felt like I was a pro on that court." Lifting a Grand Slam trophy no doubt gave him that feeling as well.

"The US Open is a special time of year for me, especially being a New Yorker who's been coming to this tournament since I was six or seven years old," he said. "It was a great few weeks, and I was really happy with how everything went, and with my game. I'm handling

all the big moments, from playing in the men's qualifying to the final of a junior slam. I'm also really happy to play, as I like to say, in my backyard, and I'm really grateful for all the opportunities that the USTA has given me. I'm excited for next

year and more US Opens in the future."



**Caption:** Hance and Kennedy (right) pose with the championship hardware after capturing the boys' doubles title at the 2025 US Open. Photo Credit: Bryan Kennedy

## Nominate Now for an Eastern Annual Award

Do you know an individual or organization who's made a huge impact in the community through tennis? With its annual awards, USTA Eastern honors those who have made remarkable contributions toward growing and promoting the sport at the grassroots level. Recipients will be recognized at a special event in January. The nomination window for the 2026 ceremony closes October 17, 2025. Nominate a worthy candidate today!

Individuals and organizations may be nominated for more than 20 awards, including [Tennis Woman of the Year](#), [Tennis Man of the Year](#) and [Organization of the Year](#). All members of Eastern's tennis community are encouraged to submit nominations. [Find category descriptions, previous recipients and submit your nomination here.](#)

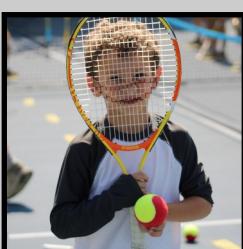


**Caption:** League player Linda Bracco (center), from Long Island, received the 2024 Louise Cilla Award.



## Summer Fun

The USTA Long Island Regional Council and Long Island Tennis Magazine were proud to host two Summer Kids' Day, at LuHi and Island Quest Day Camps. Both were great days of free tennis fun plus many other activities.



## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Long Island Regional Council Executive Committee member Tito Perez invites the community to a free Hispanic Heritage Month Family Festival on Saturday, November 4th at the USTA BJK Tennis Center in Flushing. To register to attend, [please click here](#). For more information, text Tito at (631) 682-4076. Tito is being assisted in this event by his daughter, Sofia, a member of the USTA Eastern Junior Council.



## USTA Eastern Long Island

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### USTA Eastern Long Island 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.