

June 2017



On The Ball: News From LI



Celebrating Long Island Tennis

Coming Soon

7/17 USTA LI Nassau County Kids' Day (rain date 7/24)

7/16 High School Recognition Night at NY Empire WTT

7/22 Long Island Tennis Magazine Challenge

8/3 USTA LI Suffolk County Kids' Day (rain date 8/8)

8/26 Arthur Ashe Kids' Day



visit us at www.longisland.usta.com for details on all events

More than 300 local tennis players along with their friends and families celebrated their own at the 27th Annual USTA Eastern Long Island Region Awards Dinner held on May 3rd.

Awards were given in categories including Prestigious and Excellence, USTA Leagues going to Nationals, high school champions, and junior and adult rankings.

All photos from the Awards Dinner are now online at www.longisland.usta.com (click on Photo Gallery). Photos are arranged by Cocktail Hour, Dinner and Awardees. Please enjoy them and feel free to download and print your favorites.

The Awards Dinner would not have been possible without the support of all the organizations that provided sponsorships. Please see page 2 for a complete list of our 27th Annual Awards

Dinner Sponsors. Thank you to everyone who joined the fun and celebration. Looking forward to next year's event!



Please Support Our Sponsors

Stahl Eye Associates, Awards Ceremony Sponsor

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Sanders, Sanders, Block, Woycik, Viener & Grossman, P.C., Gold Sponsor

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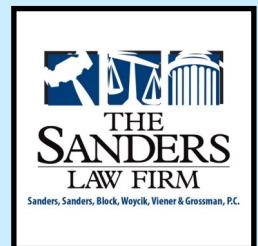
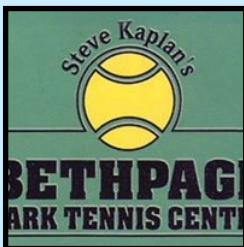
USTA Eastern

Vito's of Glen Cove

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World Gym Racquet &

Sports Arena



Boys' High School Season Recap USTA Long Island Executive Cup Launches

Long Island Executive Cup Tourney

The First-Ever Long Island USTA Boy's High School Executive Cup event pitted Syosset and Half Hollow Hills East in a Nassau vs. Suffolk tournament held at the Hamlet Golf & Country Club in Commack. Syosset won a very competitive match, defeating Hills East 6-1.

The Executive Cup was first proposed by former USTA LI Region President Daniel Burgess for the 2016 Boys' season. It ultimately launched during the 2016 Girls' season, with Friends Academy defeating Commack. It will transition into a Long Island High School Championship starting in the 2017-18 school year, using the following rules/guidelines: when played in Nassau County, the structure will be three singles courts and four doubles. When played in Suffolk, it will be four singles and



Syosset HS, winner of the Inaugural Long Island USTA Executive Cup



ers were: Solomon (1), Peter Siozios, New Hyde Park (2) and Rajon

Vohra, North Shore (3). The top three doubles finishers were: Grossman & Rajpal (1), Khazam & Song (2) and Patrick Bodovitz & Tim Nacca, Garden City (3).

three doubles courts.

USTA LI President Jonathan Klee presented awards to all the players on behalf of the LI Region. "The USTA was proud to sponsor and be a bridge for renewing a Long Island High School Championship in 2018. Our Board would like to thank all the school officials, coaches and players for participating in such a great event," he said.

NYS Championships

Plainview JFK's Yuval Solomon accomplished something very few before him have done — he won back-to-back NY State Singles Championships. Solomon, who was also Nassau County Singles champ, will take his tal-

ents to Wake Forest University in the fall. LI-ers also won third and fourth place in doubles at States, with Syosset's Preet Rajpal & Eli Grossman defeating Roslyn's Sangjin Song & Zachary Khazzam.

The USTA LI Regional Board presented sweat-shirts to each LI competitor at the State championships, which took place at the BJK National Tennis Center in Flushing.

Counties: Individuals

Yuval Solomon won his third straight Nassau County singles championship, accomplishing a feat unmatched since the 1960s. Syosset's Eli Grossman & Preet Rajpal won the doubles crown.

According to Mike Pavlides, USTA LI High School Rep., the last time any boy won the Nassau singles title three straight years goes back to 1963-65 when Peter Fishbach won it playing for Great Neck North.

The top three singles play-

ers were: Solomon (1), Peter Siozios, New Hyde Park (2) and Rajon Vohra, North Shore (3). The top three doubles finishers were: Grossman & Rajpal (1), Khazam & Song (2) and Patrick Bodovitz & Tim Nacca, Garden City (3).

Jack Flores of Huntington won the Suffolk Singles championship, defeating Jackson Weisbrot of Half Hollow Hills West; Abhinav Srivastava (Hills East) won 3rd place. In doubles play, Tyler Nierman & Cameron Klepper (Hills West) defeated Nick Gajda & Alex Amadio (Smithtown West) to win the championship. Dan Tocco & Riley Smith (Westhampton) won 3rd place.

Counties: Teams

The top three finishers at Singles and Doubles for each County all competed at States

Syosset defeated Roslyn to win its third straight Nassau County Championship, while Half Hollow Hills East defeated its crosstown rival Half Hollow Hills West to become the Suffolk champions.



Nassau County competitors at NY State Championships



Suffolk County competitors at NY State Championships



NYS Grants Available

Empire State Development (ESD) offers grants that may be perfect for your tennis program!

ESD covers up to 20% of the cost of projects that create or retain jobs, generate increased economic activity and improve the economic and social viability and vitality of local communities. Tennis clubs accomplish all of these goals and add to the economic fabric of their communities.

Funding can be used for purchase or lease of land, buildings, machinery and/or equipment; acquisition of existing business and/or assets; demolition and environmental remediation; new construction or renovation and more.

This funding can also be used to promote tourism and marketing of a tennis event. For more information on ESD grants, please visit: <https://esd.ny.gov/businessprograms/econdevpurposesgrant.shtml>

Empire State
Development



USTA Leagues

Mixed Teams, Solid Results

Three Long Island USTA League 18-and-over Mixed teams won their Eastern Sectional Championships and will move on to Nationals. They are:

- 7.0 team from Syosset, Captain Dawn Schosberg
- 8.0 team from Carefree, Captain Dan Burgess, Jr.
- 9.0 team from Deer Park, Captain Roz Chua



In addition, Christopher Morley's 6.0 team captained by Darlene Sotomayor won third place in its division. Congratulations to all and good luck to all at Nationals!



65+ League Team Goes to Nationals

The Weckler and Molloy 65-and-Over USTA League team may not have won at Nationals, but the women all had a great experience competing. The members of the Sportime Lynbrook team, co-captained by Leslie Weckler and Pat Molloy, are Rose Staselis, Mary Jo Cecil, Julia Berkowitz, Nancy Rosenthal, Evelyn Morales, Cathy Caldwell, Sue Dalesandro and Jane Muller.



New Senior Men's and Women's Leagues Forming

USTA Leagues has added Men's and Women's 65 and over 8.0 divisions on Long Island.



These divisions will play their matches on weekends during the day to avoid the evening match times used by most adult leagues. In order for a team to be included in the schedule for the upcoming season, a minimum number of eight players is required. Players/teams can register by clicking [here](#). On the top toolbar, click on "Tennislink," then on "Leagues," then click on "Register for a team." The registration number is 1003231941. For further information on participating, please contact Allan Silverstein at (516) 551-4319 or Ken Luba at (516) 672-0852.

Tennis Great Shares Doubles Tips

Tennis great Gigi Fernandez spent the day on Long Island on May 3rd, sharing her doubles tips with participants at a special clinic at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center in Glen Cove and joining participants at the 27th Annual USTA LI Region Awards Dinner.

A tennis Hall of Fame member who is recognized as one of the best doubles players of all time, Gigi won two Olympic Gold Medals and an astounding 71 titles on the WTA tour including two singles, 52 doubles and 17 Grand Slam doubles titles. She recently was named coach of the New York Empire of World Team Tennis. To purchase tickets for NY Empire matches, please visit www.nyempiretennis.com.



Junior Team Tennis Heats Up Winter Season

World Gym Setauket's juniors dominated the 2017 Winter Junior Team Tennis LI Regional Championships in May, with three teams of their teams moving on to play at their respective Eastern Sectional Championships. World Gym's teams won both 14U and 18U play; its 12U team also will represent LI at Sectionals.

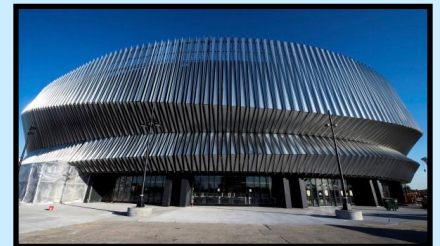
The 14U regional championship was held [Eastern Athletic Blue Point](#) while the 18U was played at [Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center](#) in Glen Cove. The USTA Long Island Regional Board provided t-shirts for all players. Match play was round robin format with the winning teams determined by the most games won during the event. Winning teams in the 10's, 12's, 14's and 18's divisions will play at Eastern Sectionals in June at Schenectady's Central Park.

The Long Island Junior Team Tennis program offers summer and winter league play. For information about 10U Green Dot and Orange Ball leagues, please contact Suffolk County League Coordinator [Tito Perez](#) or Nassau County League Coordinator [Daniel Burgess](#). To learn more about Junior Team Tennis, or to start or join a team, contact Coordinator [Steve Abbondondo](#).



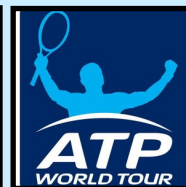
Memphis Open Makes the Move to LI

The Memphis Open will move to the Nassau Coliseum in 2018, bringing professional tennis to Long Island for the first time in 14 years. The event, which will now be known as the New York Open, is part of the ATP Tour and will be played from February 10-18. Organizers are GF Sports and Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment, operator of the Nassau Coliseum.



The event's organizers will be looking for local volunteers to help during the weeklong event. Check the USTA LI web site (www.longisland.usta.com) and Facebook page (USTA Long Island) for information on how to apply to be a volunteer.

The Memphis Open, established in 1976, is one of the longest-standing tournaments on the ATP Tour and is the only ATP indoor tournament played in the United States. It will be the first sanctioned tennis tournament ever at Nassau Coliseum. GF Sports Holdings, LLC owns and operates live events and sports media entertainment platform. It owns and operates tennis tournaments, the BNP Paribas Showdown tennis exhibition at Madison Square Garden, and the Halloween on Ice skating tour.



Around the Region...



The MacArthur HS girls' tennis team hosted its first Aces for Autism

clinic. The Lady Generals held a tennis clinic for a dozen students in MacArthur's Applied Behavior Analysis program. The team also raised \$450 for MacArthur's Autism Awareness program... **Robbie Wagner's After-School Tennis Enrichment Program**



ended its Spring season with all participants receiving certificates, water bottles and beach balls. Robbie's

also completed a program with the Boys & Girls Club of Glen Cove... USTA volunteers including tennis pros and members of the JFK (Bellmore) HS tennis team gave



junior tennis lessons at the **12th Annual Robbie's Run**, a 5K race and community event raising money for two key programs:

placing automated external defibrillators (AED) locations where children play sports and providing AED and CPR training for adults and kids... Dick Zausner, longtime



owner and operator of the Port Washington Tennis Academy, was inducted into the **USTA Eastern Long Island Hall of Fame**.

Joining him at the celebration were USTA LI Board Members Scott Axler, Daniel Burgess and Sunny Fishkind... USTA LI Board Members Jonathan Klee and Tito Perez met with USTA President Katrina Adams at the **USTA National Board Meeting** in Orlando... Junior ten-



nis player Justin Suzzan launched **Serve to Serve**, a tennis outreach program for children, with support from

Port Washington HS Phys Ed teacher and tennis coach Shane Helfner. At its first event of five, about 50 participants from the Port Washington elementary schools came to learn tennis from volunteers. The USTA Eastern Long Island loaned the group equipment to use for the program along with lots of giveaways...



USTA Eastern Long Island

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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.