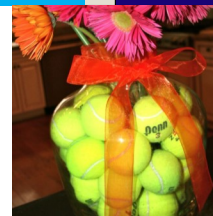


March 2016



On The Ball: News From LI



26th Annual Awards Are Coming!

Coming Soon

- 3/19 1st-Ever LI PTR Senior Workshop @World Gym Setauket
- 4/4 Boys' HS Tennis Season Starts
- 4/5 10U Clinician's Workshop @Robbie Wagner's
- 4/22 10U Clinician's Workshop @Carefree
- 4/29 WTA Empire State Open Wild Card Tourn.
- 5/3 26th Annual USTA LI Awards Dinner
- 5/7 Sets In the City LI (1st of 6 sessions)
- 5/9 Empire State Open
- 5/13 Boys' Div. Indivs. Tourn. (Suffolk)
- 5/14 Boys' County Tourn. (Nassau)
- 5/21 Boys' Section Indivs. Tourn. (Suffolk)
- 5/29 NY State Boys' HS Tourn. @NTC



Join your Long Island tennis family on Tuesday, May 3rd to help honor many special people within the Nassau and Suffolk tennis communities!!

Awards will go to volunteers, league players and teams, adult players, juniors, high school team members and coaches, and more.

The 26th Annual USTA Long Island Region Awards Dinner is moving to a new location this year, Chateau Briand Caterers, 440 Old Country Rd. in Carle Place. Expect a delicious meal in great surroundings.

The Annual Awards Dinner Journal will be published in the May/June issue of *Long Island Tennis Magazine* and will include a list of all

the awards and awardees. In addition, the magazine is offering the opportunity to congratulate awardees through the purchase of special Journal ads. Information on placing ads is available at www.longisland.usta.com.

The Awards Dinner Committee is working hard to make this year's event the best yet, with deserving honorees, an engaging awards ceremony, fabulous raffle prizes and much more, and we look forward

to seeing you there!

Stay tuned to www.longisland.usta.com and our Facebook page (USTA Long Island) for information on the dinner, the honorees and how to register to attend.



Highlights will include:

- *a presentation to Port Washington Tennis Academy in honor of its 50th anniversary
- *raffle prizes including a 55-inch TV, an iPad, US Open and Empire State Open tickets, tennis equipment, accessories and training, gift certificates, jewelry and more

26th Annual Prestigious Awardees

Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award ROBERTA FELDMAN

Arthur Ashe Multi-Cultural Award VICTOR "TITO" PEREZ

Vitas Gerulaitis for the Love of Tennis Award EDDIE FISHKIND

Charles Karp Memorial Award for Overcoming Adversity ANTHONY DeCICO

Birdie Tarulli League Captain Award GAIL SCHOR

Blane Magee League Captain Award BRUCE LINDENMAN

Tennis Professional of the Year AISHA ROLLE

visit www.longisland.usta.com for details on all USTA LI Region events

Sets in the City

USTA Eastern's Sets in the City league will make its Long Island debut in May at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center in Glen Cove.

Sets in the City is a social tennis league for young adults to start or continue playing tennis. It's all about having fun, making new friends and improving your tennis game!

The six-match season starts May 7 from 5 - 7 p.m. All matches will be played Saturday nights (May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11 and June 18). Cost for the season is \$60 per player.

To register for the upcoming season, visit setsinthecityeastern.com, or for more information, contact Hilary Bressler at setsinthecitylongisland@gmail.com or Samantha Chin at (914) 697-2389.



New TSR for Long Island



The USTA LI Region welcomes Gustavo Loza Padilla, the new USTA Eastern Section Long Island Tennis Service Representative (TSR).

In this position, Gustavo is responsible for the growth and development of tennis on Long Island and works closely with the LI Regional Board and others to ensure that tennis enthusiasts and other stakeholders have positive tennis experiences.

A former top-ranked junior from Mexico City, Gustavo

competed at the collegiate level at the University of Oregon and St. Johns University before joining the ATP tour in 2010.

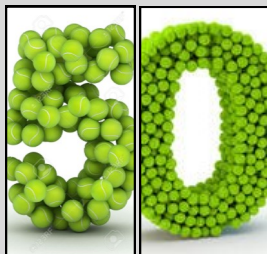
In 2013, he returned to St. Johns as a graduate assistant and earned a Master's Degree in Sports Management. Prior to joining USTA Eastern, Gustavo was Global Youth Advocate for the United Nations. According to the Eastern Section, "his advocacy skills combined with his knowledge of the international tennis landscape and passion for the game will serve him well in the TSR role."

Gustavo says his objectives and goals for his new position are in line with the objectives

of the Section and include expanding the schools' tennis programs, seeking to stimulate demand for the sport throughout local Hispanic communities and increasing overall youth, adult and young adult participation throughout the Region.

"I am currently in the process of reaching out and meeting with organizations, club directors, club members and tennis pros in the Long Island region," Gustavo says. "I had the opportunity to meet many interesting and important people at the Eastern Tennis Conference and I am looking forward to formally introducing myself and meeting with everyone in the upcoming weeks." He can be reached at: (914) 393-8377 or padilla@eastern.usta.com.

PWTA At 50



What local institution do tennis greats **John and Patrick McEnroe, Vitas Gerulaitis, Tracy Austin, Mary Carillo** and many others have in common? The answer is the Port Washington Tennis Academy (PWTA), a Long Island mainstay celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. PWTA and its Director, Dick Zausner, will be honored for this important milestone at the 26th Annual USTA LI Awards Dinner.

While so many tennis players — everyone from champions to juniors just starting out — have trained or played at the PWTA, many may not know its history: Dick's father, Hy Zausner, started the PWTA in 1966 to give the community an activity, keep children out of trouble and try to steer them away from alcohol and drugs. One of the first indoor tennis clubs on Long Island, PWTA gave local tennis enthusiasts a new way to enjoy their sport. Dick took over the business a few years before his father's death in 1992 and says he is most proud of his non-profit facility and how the Academy has helped train children and young adults who couldn't afford lessons. Since its inception, the Academy has trained thousands of youths.

Join us at the 26th Annual LI Region Awards Dinner to learn more about PWTA and cheer on the club as it starts its next 50 years!

WTA Launches Empire State Open



When the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) brings its Empire State Open (ESO) to Hempstead Lake State Park this May, it will mark the return

of professional women's tennis to Long Island and the WTA's only state-side event played on red clay.

Players will include some of the world's top-ranked women including Naomi Broady, Julia Glushko, Grace Min, Olga Savchuk, Barbora Krejčíková, Vania King and C.C. Bellis, as well as local favorites like Alexa Graham and Jamie Loeb.

Work on the courts is scheduled to begin in late March and will include

significant upgrades to the clay courts and installation of a state-of-the-art temporary stadium on the main court. The main stadium will accommodate more than 3,500 spectators and have amenities including VIP lounges, courtside dining tables and luxury suites. Stadium 2 will have its own seating area, open to all ticket holders, plus its own elevated VIP lounge. A show court 3 will be available to all ticketholders as will four on-site practice courts.

The main event will take place from May 9-15 and include world-class tennis competition plus some special events including:

Wild Card Tournament (4/29) The USTA LI and *LI Tennis Magazine* will host this competition on the red clay at Bethpage Park Tennis Center. The

winner will earn a wild card entry into the ESO Main Draw and the runner up will receive a wild card in to the Qualifying Draw.

Players Party (5/9) This kick-off event at the Garden City Hotel will give fans the opportunity to meet and mingle with the stars of the WTA.

Elite 16 \$2,500 College Shootout (5/13) Open to current NCAA players.

Men's Invitational (5/12) Featuring a prize of \$5,000.

Information about purchasing tickets or participating in any of the special events associated with the Empire State Open, please visit www.empirestateopen.com. The WTA is offering a 10% discount on all ticket sales for USTA LI Members. Please visit www.longisland.usta.com for the discount code.

www.empirestateopen.com

Orange Ball Play for Juniors

LI Region member clubs are expanding youth learning and play through Orange Ball Training programs including Early Development Camps (EDC) and PSP tournaments. A new initiative developed by USTA Player Development, EDCs focus on dedicated 7-to-9-year-olds. The camps bring together top players for intensive 1/2-day Orange Ball training sessions. Sportime Kings Park (photo) is the first LI club to hold the EDC program.

Many facilities also are offering Orange Ball tournaments for juniors who are getting started in competitive play. These "PSP" events embody the goals of Participation, Sportsmanship and Performance and include L3 (entry-level), L2 (Advanced Beginner/Intermediate) and L1 (highest level competition). Upcoming tournaments nearby include:

Long Beach TC: 3/19 L3 (ID#100168615) ... 3/26 L2 (ID# 100037516) ... 4/23 L2 (ID#100037716)

Huntington Indoor: 3/26 L3 (ID# 100072116) ... World Gym Setauket: 4/1 L2 (ID# 100050716)

Bethpage Park TC: 4/9 L3 (ID#100028716) ... Robbie Wagner's TTC: 4/17 L3 (ID# 100041716)

Sportime Bethpage: 4/30 L3 (ID# 100031716)

To register for any of these events, visit www.tennislink.com and enter the tournament ID shown. For more information, visit www.youthtennis.com.



Black History Month Profile:

Martin Blackman, General Manager, USTA Player Development



Martin Blackman, general manager of USTA Player Development since June 2015, has been playing tennis since he was a child and cred-

its some of his early success to Long Island. "My dad taught at Hofstra during the summer," he says. "When I was 10 years old, I tried out for a program at Port Washington Tennis Academy and was accepted," but, he says, his family couldn't afford the lessons until PWTA Director Dick Zausner offered him a scholarship.

Says Blackman, "...at every step along the way, somebody opened a door to give me an opportunity I really couldn't afford. My heritage as an African-American person and player means it's my responsibility and my privilege to give back."

As a junior, Blackman trained with legendary coach Nick Bolleteri, alongside future greats Andre Agassi and Jim Courier. He won the USTA Boys' 16s National Championship in 1986 and reached the Boys' 18s final two years later. He was a member of two NCAA Championship teams at Stanford University and played at the ATP level, reaching a career-high of #158.

In 1998, Blackman became the head men's tennis coach at American University, leading the Eagles to three conference titles, two NCAA Tournament appearances and their first-ever national ranking. He joined the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park, Md. As Director in 2004 and helped build it into one of the premier junior training centers in America.

Blackman's proposal to the USTA — recommending that it partner with the best junior development programs across the nation — led to the creation of the USTA Regional Training Center network. Blackman joined the USTA in 2009 as Senior Director of Talent Identification and Development, overseeing the implementation of the Regional Training Center program. He also served as a co-leader of the Coaching Education Department and was USTA Player Development's leader for Diversity and Inclusion. He left the USTA in late 2011 to found the Blackman Tennis Academy in Boca Raton, Fla.

Today, Blackman partners with the US tennis community to identify and develop the next generation of world-class

American tennis players. He oversees both the USTA's Player Development staff and Training Centers, including its Regional Training Center network, and the Player Development facilities at the soon-to-be-created USTA National Campus in Orlando.

When asked his thoughts on attracting more African-American players to the sport, Blackman said, "A big step was the African-American Coaches Symposium the USTA held in December. It gave us a connection with pros who weren't connected to the USTA."



"Looking at our up and coming African American players ... everything begins with what Serena and Venus have done for the game. There has been no bigger positive impact that ... a family could have on American tennis than they have had," he says.

Blackman can be reached at blackman@usta.com. For more information, including a video interview with Blackman on his biggest tennis influences, please visit www.longisland.usta.com.

World Tennis Day

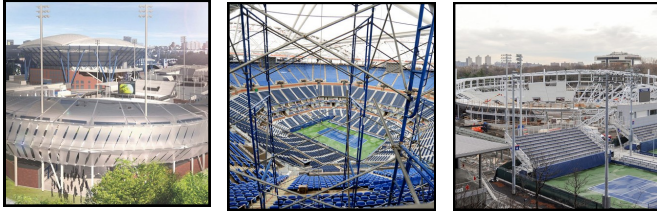


The USTA will host youth and family tennis events throughout March in celebration of World Tennis Day on March 8. The USTA is partnering with tennis facilities, parks and clubs nationwide to introduce tennis to this audience, while providing a platform to register for spring and summer programs. "World Tennis Day is a unique opportunity to promote the accessibility of the sport and inspire kids and families to lead healthy lifestyles," said Katrina M. Adams, Chairman, CEO and President of the USTA. "This special celebration throughout March is part of USTA's commitment to

create opportunities for families to engage in the sport and increase participation in local programs." Since 2009, the USTA has leveraged World Tennis Day to launch thousands of youth events that provide a platform for facilities to register children for spring and summer tennis programs. In 2015, more than 50,000 young players participated in the youth events held in March, each designed to showcase how fun and easy it is for families to get into tennis. To learn more about how families can get involved, visit youthtennis.com.



National Tennis Center Work Continues



Construction continues at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, with workers completing the retractable roof over Arthur Ashe Stadium, building the new Grandstand Stadium and transforming the South Plaza and field courts. Here is an overview of to expect over the next three years (courtesy of www.usta.com and usopen.org):

In 2016

- The retractable roof will be operational over Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- Fans will be able to watch matches from the newly opened 8,000-seat Grandstand in the southwest corner of the grounds.
- In total, 14 new food

and drink stalls will open by Court 12 (six) and the new Grandstand (eight). An oyster bar will open at Court 7.

- A 350-foot long, 40-foot wide pathway will run from Court 17 to the new Grandstand.
- Bleacher seating will be expanded on all field courts and walkways between courts will increase. A raised walkway will connect Courts 8, 9 and 10, while another will connect Courts 13, 14, 15 and 16.

In 2017

- The old 6,000-seat

Grandstand and 10,000-seat Louis Armstrong Stadium will be demolished at the close of the 2016 US Open and construction will begin on the new, larger 14,000-seat Louis Armstrong Stadium.

- A temporary stadium, which will hold between 8,000 and 10,000 fans, will be erected to the side of the current stadium.

In 2018

The temporary stadium will be removed and the new Louis Armstrong Stadium, with a retractable roof, will open.

Reaching for her Dream



Since 2004, United Way of Long Island has given \$15,000 in tennis lessons to help students achieve their on-court goals. The lessons are paid for through United Way's Dreams for Youth Scholarship program, created to ensure that financial need should not be a barrier to achieving one's potential. Available to 7th through 12th graders who demonstrate academic excellence, financial need and a commitment to community service, the scholarships are used for a variety of academic and enrichment activities.

One recipient who is making her mark on the tennis court is 16-year-old Jackie Bukzin, a sophomore at Eastport South Manor Jr. Sr. HS in Manorville. A straight A student, Jackie says her unweighted GPA is 99, and this year she is challenging herself with two Advanced

Placement classes along with her core classes and electives. She first picked up a tennis racquet, she says, at age 5. "I took to it and started playing tournaments at the age of 8. The "Dreams" scholarship has helped pay for her training at Bethpage Park Tennis Center with coaches Keith Kambourian and Steve Kaplan.

A member of her school's varsity tennis team since the 7th grade and the current team captain, Jackie plays about 12-15 hours per week including fitness, practice, match play, tournaments, etc. Her achievements include playing first singles since she joined the HS team, winning All State honors and leading her Division two years in a row. She played at the NY State HS Championships in 8th and 9th grade, most recently coming in 6th in the Main Draw. Outside of school tennis, Jackie says she plays tournaments all year round.

In her spare time, Jackie has been volunteering at the Southampton Animal Shelter in Hampton Bays for the past five years. There, she helps with training, fundraising and getting animals adopted to loving homes "as well as just giving them some tender loving care by walking and grooming them," she says. "I love going there ... when I walk in nothing else in the world matters."

Jackie continues to focus on her studies, her tennis and her shelter animals, and is hoping to be able to play college tennis one day. For more information on the United Way of Long Island's Dreams for Youth Scholarship Program and to apply, please visit www.unitedwayli.org/dreamsforyouth.



Around the Region...



The Long Beach Tennis Center has announced it will undergo renovations to better support its local communi-

ty. The work will return LBTC to the roots of the facility by bringing back the outdoor tennis experience. The upgrade includes: permanent removal of the dome, resurfacing of courts, installing proper windscreens and other improvements that will ensure the courts are some of the best outdoor courts in the area, according to a statement. LBTC will continue to provide four indoor hard courts year-round with temperature-controlled air conditioning and heat. Work will be completed in June... The Farmingdale State Rams Women's tennis team completed a suc-



cessful fall season, winning their third consecutive Skyline Conference Championship. Four players were given all conference honors: Juniors Priscilla Signore (Staten Island) and Tatiana Rosamilia (Malverne) were each named to the First Team, while junior Michelle Fredericks (Farmingdale) and senior Denise Liguori (Massapequa) earned Second Team honors. Head coach Adam Waterhouse was named the Sky-



line Conference Coach of the Year... Clayton Almeida

— who spends his summers in Southampton as Head Pro and Director of Junior and Adult Tennis Program at Meadow Club — was named PTR Male Player of the Year at the organization's 2016 PTR International Tennis Symposium. A PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) Master of Tennis -Performance, he is also a certified Professional in Adult Development...



Game, Set, Match: the end of an LI tennis institution



USTA Eastern Long Island



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ustaonlongisland@gmail.com

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."

Visit us on the web at:
www.longisland.usta.com

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