



LONG ISLAND  
JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE

# *Scholarship Awards Breakfast*



## *Class of 2019*

*July 14, 2019 Huntington Hilton*





# *Program*

Welcome

Lynn Scarpati  
Chairperson Scholarship Committee

Pledge of Allegiance

Joan Connor

Blessing

Michael D'Ambrosio

Breakfast

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Closing Remarks

Lynn Scarpati

## *About the Scholarship Awards*

We are privileged to present these 29 awards to some of the finest student athletes in LIJSL. Although 17 of these scholarship awards are memorial awards, these scholarships memorialize 13 individuals for the way they lived, rather than defining them by the way they died. These individuals had a passion for life and soccer was part of life.

We are proud of the corporate and foundation support that enables LIJSL to expand these awards.

The contributions made by individuals and organizations enable LIJSL to provide these scholarship awards, which honor these exceptional young adults.



# Scholarship Awards

## *Presenters*

## *Recipients*

Lynn Scarpati	Anthony Shoostary, Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship
Lynn Scarpati	Ashley Butcher, Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship
Lynn Scarpati	Lauren Redus, Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship
Richard Frazita	Madelyn Wasilus, Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship-Female Student Athlete
Pat Secko	Madison Kasten, Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship
Bill Roller	Krisia Romano, Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship
Maureen Brown	Jose Peña, Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship
Bill Roller	Kyle Kelly, Pat Grecco Scholarship
Chris Scarpati	Paul Leheste, Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship
Chris Scarpati	Alexander Wright, Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship
Lynn Scarpati	Hunter Ganz, soccer.com Scholarship
Lincoln Page	Paige Schroeder, Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship
Lincoln Page	Kelsey Jordan Miller, Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship
Nicole and Gary Urda	Avery Stevenson, Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship
Lisa Amoroso	Garrett Rospars, Rocco Amoroso Sportsmanship Award Scholarship
Tina Arce	Ariana Vargas, Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship
Randy Vogt	Jason Brigandi, Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship
Randy Vogt	Angelina Fucile, John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship
Joan Czach	Julianna Fryman, Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship
Cheryl and Tom Walsh	Courtney Nelson, Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship
Cheryl and Tom Walsh	Aidan James Lotrugio, Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship
Lynn Scarpati	Julianna Gullo, Modell's Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Justin Kohan, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Aidan Padala, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Lynn & Jim Scarpati	Ryan Sisco, Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship
Jerilyn Marinan	Frank Iemma, Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Jason Brigandi, George Hoffman TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Nicholas Valentine, George Hoffman TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship
AnnMarie Toth	Paulina Valentine, Modell's TopSoccer Volunteer Scholarship





## *Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarships*

David and Bobbie Marks were philanthropists, whose planning enabled them to be generous to such organizations as hospitals, the United Jewish Appeal and the Anti-Defamation League, as well as The Long Island Junior Soccer League. The Harold children inspired this scholarship award and the benefits to soccer became apparent. This generous support helps Long Island Junior Soccer League continue the work of the Scholarship Program and supports promising young men and women.

Bobbie Marks was born in Nottinghamshire, England in July of 1923. She grew up in the small village of Attenboro with her mother, father, older sister, and a pony named Snowflake. Growing up in Nottinghamshire, her family was a strong supporter of the Nottingham Forest Football Team.

During World War II, she was a young adult. In 1943, she met an American soldier who was stationed near her home. They eventually fell in love and were married at St. Mary's Church, Attenboro, England, in October 1945. While serving in England, Bobbie's husband, David, was introduced to English football by his father-in-law, who took him to a Nottingham Forest game.

At the war's end, Bobbie and her husband, David, returned to the United States to start their new life together. They eventually settled in Port Washington with their two children. Bobbie and David were avid sports fans. They loved to watch ice skating, tennis, golf and soccer.

When their grandchildren started to play soccer in the LIJSL, they were happy to hear about their games. As they became older and better players, The Mark's started to learn how the game could really help young people grow into responsible young men and women. Soccer helped their granddaughter get a scholarship to a great university.

Bobbie and David loved coming to the annual LIJSL convention, where they learned of all the activities going on within the league. They realized they wanted to contribute something to the lives of the young people involved in soccer, as these student-athletes started their journey to becoming capable and responsible adults. Their caring for others continues to support young adults that they have never met.



## *Anthony Shooshtary*

Anthony is a 2019 graduate of Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, where he played for both the JV and Varsity Boys Soccer team. Anthony has played for Syosset Soccer Club since U14.

In his essay Anthony wrote, “In seventh grade I tried out for Syosset Santos. Things were not going well for me on POB Arsenal...Coach Bill said I was “rusty”, but he thought I had potential. Playing under Coach Bill was the best decision I ever made. He was our trainer and coach. He taught us discipline and sportsmanship. I grew as an athlete as well as a person...Playing soccer...taught me the importance of commitment, courage and determination...I never missed a game.”

Declan McSheffrey, Syosset Santos U19 Soccer Coach, wrote, “...He is a conscientious individual who comes to the athletic arena with a no-nonsense attitude and a fervent desire to compete and win. Though this demeanor is reserved, his intensity on the field is second to none. ...I have been impressed also by his charitable activities such as volunteering such as volunteering for the Ronald McDonald House, The Breast Cancer Coalition and Island Harvest. Perhaps, most impressive is his work as a tutor for both ELA and math, which allows him to give back to his community.”

Anthony is the recipient of the **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship Fund** and will be attending the **University of Rhode Island**.

**Anthony shared:**

**“I am going to URI in the Fall, majoring in international business. My favorite quote is: ‘It is what it is.’ My mom says that all the time. I’m going to continue playing soccer in college.”**



## *Ashley Butcher*

Ashley Butcher is a 2019 graduate of Wantagh Senior High School. She played on Wantagh/Seaford Thunderbolts travel team and has played for Wantagh/Seaford PAL soccer club throughout her soccer career. She also played on Wantagh junior and varsity teams.

Tim Nolan, Wantagh/Seaford PAL coach said that “Ms. Butcher is a young woman that absolutely embodies the LIJSL motto of “Building Character through Soccer”... She has displayed integrity, sportsmanship and tenacity in everything she does, especially out on the soccer field...As a coach and club official it is my pleasure to have a young woman like Ms. Butcher representing our community and wearing our badge on her jersey”.

Ashley wrote in her essay, “I was diagnosed with Sensory Integration Disorder, being told I would never function normally.” Ashley said, “...nothing came easy because doctor’s told me I would never function like a normal child, but my dedication proved them wrong.” She is an honor roll student and partakes in community service and is a three-sport athlete. “Dedication is how my character was built through soccer. From on and off the field, dedicating yourself to working hard and achieving your goals is an attribute held close to my heart. Playing in LIJSL for the past ten years taught me life lessons but learning dedication from this league will stay with me forever.”

Ashley is a recipient of a **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will continue her education at **SUNY Cortland**, majoring in Inclusive Childhood Education.

### **In Ashley’s words:**

**“In the future my main goal is to become a principal of an elementary school because I love to work with children. A fun fact about me is that I have a twin sister who also plays soccer and plans to attend SUNY Oneonta. I also played on my school’s varsity soccer team for two years. Although I will not be playing soccer for the school itself, I plan to partake in club ball of some sort.”**



## *Lauren Redus*

Lauren is a 2019 graduate of Plainedge High School and a member of Plainedge Red Storm Soccer Team. Academically, Lauren is outstanding with an SAT of 1450, a weighted GPA of 104 and a member of the National Honor Society, Forensics Club, Math Honor Society and Treasurer of the International Club. Lauren shares her skills and talents by supervising and teaching soccer skills at Plainedge Soccer Club and tutoring Algebra, Chemistry and History.

In her essay Lauren wrote, “Although winning is favorable, the score of the game never mattered to me. Instead, the satisfaction of playing with my teammates meant much more. I was always an independent student but being on a team forced me to share my skills and passion with others. For 5 hours a week, I was able to do the one activity I loved while blocking out the rest of the world. From soccer I learned life lessons I couldn’t find in any classroom, and these values will continue to influence my future decisions.”

Brian Kester, Head Coach of Plainedge Red Storm, wrote, “Lauren is a determined and considerably dedicated young lady who always works hard in practice to improve her skills. Her commitment to the team is exemplified on the field by her game awareness and willingness to make her teammates better.”

Plainedge teacher, Peter Rosenstein stated, “Lauren is a true intellectual who enjoys learning in any discipline. The term “intellectual curiosity” would be too mild for her “need” to constantly learn more...Lauren is also a passionate and compassionate individual.”

Lauren is the recipient of a **Bobbie and David Marks Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Rochester** and majoring in mathematics.

**Lauren’s Fun Fact:** “I am a triplet and I am going to be away from my siblings next year for the first time in my life.”



## *Eileen Frazita*

### *Memorial Scholarship Female Student Athlete*

Eileen Frazita was born in Brooklyn on April 13, 1940, a descendent of two ancient Irish clans, O'Leahtobhair (Lalor) and Ó' Broin (Byrne). She grew up in Bedford Stuyvesant, graduating in 1958 from Bishop McDonald Memorial High School. An enthusiastic Brooklyn Dodger fan, she was unaware of the beautiful game except for a few tales her mother spoke of a distant Irish relative named Willy Lynn, supposedly a famous soccer

Married in 1960 to Richard (Dick to their soccer friends), they began their 54 years of married life in Deer Park, where they raised two boys, Richard Edward followed by Stephen five years later. Their home was a few blocks from a neighborhood park, with a baseball diamond and football field and a full size dirt soccer pitch for the U19 boys who were just getting started in a fledging LIJSL league under Commissioner Jack Maher's initiative.

In 1969, Saints Cyril and Methodius CYO held registration for the coming fall season and for the first time included soccer for young boys due to Jack's urging. Eileen wasn't fond of little league baseball or football, too much adult pressure and possible injury, so Eileen was curious about this other alternative for young Richard. That evening, Eileen and Dick met Jack and a few other coaches, George Beigler and Chris Halpin and shortly became good friends with a common goal – establish this sport at the youth level here in America. It became clear in short order that these well intentioned men needed lots of help and Eileen and Dick both jumped in on the organizational side, hook line and sinker. In the process, Eileen became an enthusiastic soccer mom, met so many new friends and became a fixture and leader in the parish soccer program. Excellent with people and having the patience to deal with the growing pains, everyone knew and respected her for her fair and friendly way. Jack Maher's dream became a reality and in a few years with the help many others, the Deer Park Celtics Soccer CYO was a well-funded, well coached and recognized successful intramural and travel team program which overtook the other organized sports in enthusiasm, numbers and coverage in the local papers. Even Marco Malusa's young team from Glen Cove played in our intramural league as it became well known on the Island. Eileen was keeper of the keys to the park's lighting system which the Town of Babylon donated due to the lobbying effort of our growing program and friends in Town Government. For years, she fed many a coach coming back from evening practice in exchange for returning the keys and good dinner talk about the teams.

Not content with the boys having all the fun, Eileen decided it was time for the girls of Deer Park. She recruited and coached their first girls' team in the mid '70's. Initially, there were only a few others on LI, nevertheless lively competition developed among Deer Park, Hicksville (Ann Camara), Massapequa (Lisa Gosley) and East Meadow (Manfreid Weirich). Following that first year of competition, more club programs sprung up and the girl's division of LIJSL became firmly established, just as other similar programs were emerging across the country. History speaks to the amazing progression of women's soccer at all age and skill levels, culminating in a major milestone in 1991 when the United States won the first ever FIFA Women's World Cup.

Eileen was elected to the LIJSL board of directors in 1978. With help of steady volunteers, she successfully managed the summer tournaments at CW Post for years. Peter Collins then asked Eileen to manage the Boys Select Team Program. This became her signature achievement for the league. She applied her talents towards a higher level of team excellence by recruiting college coaches, provided them with resources and a modest financial incentive in return for commitment and accountability, and most importantly instituted a fair and open player selection proces, while managing the coaches and the daily business of the program. Her accomplishment is noteworthy as a significant step towards the evolution of the LIJSL Select Team initiative into today's PDP program. In 1987, Eileen received the LIJSL Gordon Bradley award and is an LIJSL Hall of Fame member.

Sadly, she passed on June 9, 2014. Eileen would be delighted that this award is going to an outstanding female student athlete of the beautiful game.



## *Madelyn Wasilus*

Madelyn is a 2019 graduate of Northport High School and a well-rounded athlete. Maddy played soccer for the Elwood Lightening (captain) since Middle School, JV (captain) and Varsity Soccer at Northport HS which won the 2017 Suffolk County Championship, was All County Academic Varsity Soccer, played for Northport's Varsity badminton team, JV lacrosse & JV basketball teams (captain) and CYO girls' basketball. An excellent scholar, Maddy has a 1320 SAT score and a 98.6 GPA, was elected to the Junior & National Honor Societies seven years straight in basketball teams (captain) and CYO girls' basketball. An excellent scholar,

Maddy has a 1320 SAT score and a 98.6 GPA, was elected to the Junior & National Honor Societies seven years straight in addition to the World Language Honor Society in 2018. Community oriented, Maddy volunteered for seven consecutive years with her Parish Youth Group serving the community in need.

In her essay Maddy wrote, "Playing for Northport my team became a family, and like many families we had a catastrophic incident occur... my beloved coach died in a car crash ... I felt lost because the man who had taught me to love soccer was no longer in my life...I also recognized that each time I thought about him and wanted to cry or became frustrated during soccer because he was not there, someone on my team was always by my side. This is how I realized that my team was not just a group of girls ...Through soccer, I learned an important lesson about community and how close people can become from not only sharing joyful experiences, but also devastating ones."

Robert Schleier, coach of the Elwood Lightening wrote, "I knew from the first day of practice that I not only had an exceptional soccer player on my team, but also a natural born leader ... Maddy would very quickly become one of the best players I've ever coached. She never complains and gives me 100% wherever she is positioned. She is a fierce but fair competitor..."

Louis Acconi, School Counselor at Northport stated, "She is passionate about studying nursing in college with the ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric nurse... She works during the summer at the Knox Summer Adventures as a counselor for 6-8 year olds, and works during the year as a basketball referee for children between the ages of 8-12....I asked her to tell me something about her that I might not know. Her response was simple, yet very telling. She stated, 'I always do whatever I can to make someone's day even the slightest bit better'... This statement defines Maddy... She is a leader, extremely resilient and absolutely selfless."

Joe Chiovarelli, St. Anthony of Padua's Youth Minister, wrote: "... She has grown into a mature, caring and compassionate young lady. ... She has participated in almost every stewardship project or activity our youth group accomplished since her joining (2012). I believe that it was because of her genuine sense of compassion that she involved herself so deeply in all these people-helping activities... Maddy walks the walk..."

Maddy is the recipient of the **Eileen Frazita Memorial Scholarship** for a Female Student Athlete and will be attending **Fairfield University**, pursuing her goal of making children's lives better.

### **Maddy shared:**

**"I grew up in Northport and just graduated from Northport High School where I spent my time playing basketball and soccer. Next year I am attending Fairfield University where I am majoring in nursing and I plan on playing club soccer."**



## *Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship*

Some people make a difference by being who they are. That was Mike Secko. He touched many lives in all areas of his life, family, work, soccer, and community. The ultimate volunteer, he shared his wisdom and set a good example to those under his care, and he put great emphasis in work done well, especially pertaining to the sport he loved most, soccer. Never did he guess that his involvement would take him places both domestic and abroad. A positive person, he looked for the good in everyone he met and every challenging situation that arose along the way. Starting his career in the Father Joe Basel Sports Program through St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, Mike volunteered as a Munchkin League soccer coach for his eldest son, Michael III. Soon after, Mike became the program's director and he remained in this position for twenty years. As time went on and his children grew, Mike's career moved forward as well. Looking for a solid soccer program in which to enroll his children, Mike discovered the Sound Beach Soccer Club. As a committed father and fan of the sport, Mike took on the role of head coach for two teams, the Sound Beach Wildcats, Michael's team, and the Sound Beach Breakers, Matthew's team. For many people, this would be enough. Not for Mike. As Mike's children grew, so did his love for the game. It comes as no surprise that Mike would eventually become the club vice president, and then president. In addition, Mike's affiliation with LIJSL led him to serve on various committees: Games, Convention, and Waldbaum's coordinator. He also helped with presentations for the College Bound Player Committee and was on the Exceptional HS Senior Soccer Game committee. On a state level, Mike coordinated for the State Cup Tournament and was team administrator for the State Olympic Development Program.

Over the course of his life, many admired Mike's overwhelming accomplishments, including a number of Waldlbaum's Cup wins, out-of-state titles, several sportsmanship awards, taking the Sound Beach Wildcat team from 9<sup>th</sup> Division in 1987 to 1<sup>st</sup> Division in 1992, and a personal highlight, winning the State Challenge Cup in 1994 with the Sound Beach Breakers. Aside from the medals and trophies, however, Mike's most cherished accomplishment was being an assistant coach and administrator for Terryville Fire in which his youngest son, Mark, was a member. In 2007, the Terryville Fire won the State, Region I, and National Championships. It was a proud journey to have shared with his son. Beyond soccer, Mike was a kind, loving, and generous man. His love of family knew no bounds. For Mike, soccer was about spending time with family, and all three of his sons will forever remember their biggest fan, the man who supported their entire journey. Sadly, in December 2012 Mike lost his battle to cancer, almost one year to the day he discovered his diagnosis. The void left behind can never be filled by the ones who loved him most. For them, it was Mike who made this world a little bit better, a little bit brighter. In his memory and in celebration of his life, we hope that his memory continues. Much like Mike who made a significant difference in all those around him, we hope this scholarship will make a difference, too.



## *Madison Kasten*

Madison is a 2019 graduate of Oceanside High School, playing on the Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls Soccer Teams. Madison is a member of Oceanside Soccer, most recently playing for Intensity and the Panthers. Madison is a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, winner of an All County Art Award, an officer of the Future Physicians Club and Senior Class Secretary.

In her essay Madison wrote, "LIJSL has taught me to never to give up and to always work hard to achieve my goals. I eighth grade it was determined that I would need heart surgery... After I realized that soccer would have to be put on hold for a while, I was devastated... Flash forward to my post-surgery checkup with my cardiologist. I tell him how much I'm dying to get back onto the field, and even though I know it will be a long journey to regain my strength. Throughout my recovery, I learned who and what was most important in life. My soccer team came to visit me. They brought gifts, made me laugh and helped me forget the state I was in. Through LIJSL, I met another family who cared for me."

Danielle Casquarelli, Oceanside High School Art teacher wrote, "She is an outstanding individual in every regard. Madison has stood above her peers with exceptional attitude, kindness and consideration of others. She is an example of the best of Oceanside schools."

Madison is the recipient of the **Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Maryland** and majoring in biology.

### **In Madison's words:**

**"I will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park and majoring in biology. In the future I plan to be a pediatric speech pathologist. A fun fact you may not know about me is that I love to draw and paint and my favorite medium to use is charcoal! I also love to read! I will be playing intramural soccer in college."**

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## *Addie Mattei-Taia* *Presidential Scholarship*

In 29 years of dedicating herself to youth soccer on Long Island, Addie Mattei-Taia touched nearly every aspect of the game. It started in Smithtown, where she continued to coach and then helped co-found the Smithtown Soccer Club. Later, she created, organized, and ran the Smithtown International Tournament that brought teams from around the world to Long Island.

Soon she was volunteering at the league level, where amongst many other things, she served for 25 years as the chairperson of the LIJSL Convention. Addie served on the LIJSL Board of Directors for 18 years, and in 2004 she succeeded Peter Collins as president of the league. She also served as a Vice President on the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association Board of directors.

In ten years under her watch, the league's enrollment grew annually, and she increased sponsorships and revenues to support league programs like TOPSoccer, the Scholarship Program, the Player Development Program and more. Addie also spearheaded an agreement with the New York Red Bulls that allowed the LIJSL's top players to take part in the MLS club's Regional Developmental School. She also made improvements to the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park in Plainview, making it one of the finest soccer only facilities in the region, provided support to families and soccer communities in need after 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy, and secured a new office facility for the league.

She has been recognized as an ENYYSA and LIJSL hall of fame inductee, and in 2007 she was honored as the USYSA Region I Administrator of the Year.



## *Krisia Romano*

Krisia is a 2019 graduate of Hicksville High School and played for Hicksville Explosion. Additionally, Krisia participates in life through her involvement in many activities at Hicksville High School, including Swim Team, Track and Field, Marching Band, Chamber Singers, Jazz and String Ensemble and participation in HHS' production of "Guys & Dolls". She is a member of several honor societies, including the National Honor Society, Math, Science Social Studies and more. Academically, Krisia has an SAT score of 1330.

In her essay Krisia wrote, "...I know I am no Usain Bolt but my soccer training as a midfielder and forward instilled some interest in participating in Track during middle school and I decided to try out for the Track Team. Little did I know that I would soon become the captain of the Hicksville Middle School Girls team and continue running track through high school. Soccer has provided me with countless memories and opportunities that I will always hold dear to my heart...I want to show other students that with hard work, great things can be achieved as long as you don't give up and let people support and help you."

Martha Montero, Executive Director of the Central American Committee of New York wrote, "She is truly a stand-out individual who will impress everyone she meets. Krisia will undoubtedly succeed in anything she pursues. She is a leader, hard worker, caring and motivated student. She is determined to achieve great things and make her family even more proud than what they already are."

Hicksville High School Principal, Raymond Williams stated, "Krisia is a very well-balanced young woman; for in addition to all of her many accomplishments her altruistic nature has led her to be involved in volunteerism both through school and through her community, her competitive nature has brought her numerous athletic and academic awards. Krisia's self-motivation, kindness to her fellow students and respectful positive demeanor make her a highly valued student by all of her teachers."

Krisia is the recipient of the **Addie Mattei-Iaia Presidential Scholarship** and will be attending **Stony Brook University**.

### **Krisia shared:**

**"I love science, music, sports and community service. I want to thank my family for their unconditional support. I plan on attending Stony Brook University in the Fall majoring in Biology with a Pre-Med Track and am pursuing a career in the medical field."**

**Fun Fact: I am a mariachi singer**



## *Peter C. Collins* *Presidential Scholarship*

Peter became LIJSL President in 1977 and stepped down from that position on January 1, 2004. Under Peter's inclusive leadership, significant achievements have occurred during Peter's leadership of our league.

Under Peter's leadership, the LIJSL more than quadrupled in size and now sports more than 1,500 teams. In 1978, the LIJSL became the first formal soccer league to begin a Special Children's Program. In that same year there was the creation of a springtime annual cup competition for all LIJSL teams. Originally named the Long Island Cup, it morphed into the Chase Cup in 1982 and became the Waldbaum's Challenge in 1996 currently known as the LI Cup .

The esteemed LIJSL Sportsmanship Program began in 1980, now copied around the world; Peter was influential in starting the high school all-star competition, known as the Exceptional Senior Games, which also has been copied across the United States by other soccer leagues.

In 1983, the LIJSL Convention was created and it quickly became and still is America's largest soccer convention. Creation of the Long Island Soccer Park in Plainview, which has been used by the LIJSL's Special Children since 1985 and other teams on a rotational basis during the past decade is another testament to Peter's tenacity.

The LIJSL's 60,000 players might not know what Peter did as LIJSL President but know of him today because of the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park in Plainview, since a home playing facility for the LIJSL was part of his vision for the league. The LI Soccer Park was renamed the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park.

Peter coached the Hicksville Minutemen to the McGuire Cup finals in both 1979 and 1980.

Peter has been inducted into the LIJSL, Eastern New York and National Soccer Halls of Fame and is a lifetime member of the United States Soccer Federation. the LIJSL Board of Directors changed the name to the Peter C. Collins Soccer Park on May 22, 2004 in honor of the legendary figure who had given his life for youth soccer.

Peter did a very rare thing indeed. He made us dream of all the possibilities when people work together for the good of the game.

Peter passed away December 2018 at the age of 87.



## *Jose Peña*

Jose is a 2019 graduate of Chaminade High School, where he was a starter on Junior Varsity and Varsity, participating on the NY CHSAA State Champions team in his junior and senior year. Jose played for the Village of the Branch Celtics and United and Lake Grove Newfield United. Academically, Jose has a 1420 SAT and participated in numerous community activities including Share My Music piano performances at local nursing homes.

John Reardon, VOB Soccer coach said, “He is a true leader on and off the field. He is someone I feel will make the right decision in tough situations...He is willing to take responsibility for himself and lead the team in good times and bad...Once he crosses the line and is on the field, Jose is an ultra-competitive player. He will challenge his opponents and support his team to the utmost. He would always sacrifice himself for the good of the team. He plays to win but always within the rules of the game and always with the utmost respect for his team, coaches, referees and opponents. The total package in my opinion on and most importantly off the field.”

In his essay Jose wrote: “...I’ve never been more in touch with my identity as a first-generation son to immigrant parents than when I first faced the realism of racism at a travel soccer game in 7th grade. ...Like most games, my coach started me as center attacking midfielder. I dribbled past a defender. I felt a sharp pain in the back of my ankle. The opposing defender slid into the back of my ankle... The next time I had possession, he elbowed me in my lower back and I dropped face forward...My anger fueled my energy for the rest of the game...I felt like I was running faster, tackling harder and shooting with more power. After I finished the game with 3 goals, I thought I had surely earned the respect of the opposing team. Some of them did show recognition after the game, going in for the handshake. However, I was shocked when I approached the first kid who made the racist remark. I extended my hand, but all I received in return was one last dirty racist remark....Going forward, I realized that his comments were borne out of ignorance...It became apparent to me that everyone has an ethnicity or background that may be different for the person sitting next to you.”

Jose is the recipient of the **Peter C. Collins Presidential Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Boston University**.

### **In Jose’s words:**

**“I plan to bring my musical, athletic, and academic interests this upcoming fall to Boston University, participating in BU’s Seven-Year Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program, pursuing a career as a physician (BA Medical Science ‘23, Boston University School of Medicine ‘26). While not pursuing Varsity Soccer at BU, I hope to be involved in their Club Soccer program.”**



## *Pat Grecco Scholarship*

Pat Grecco is the quintessential volunteer and LIJSL players, parents and leadership have often been the beneficiaries. Pat joined the Scholarship Committee in 1991 and was Chair of the committee from 2000 through 2013, leaving this post only because of her relocation to North Carolina. Pat is a 30+ year volunteer within the soccer community and was inducted into the Eastern New York State Soccer Hall of Fame in 2008 and The Long Island Junior Soccer League's Hall of Fame in 1998. Pat has been the Director of College Bound Player Program for the LIJSL, serving as Director of Girls LIJSL ODP, Exceptional Senior Games and Scholarship Committee. Pat and her husband Frank Sr. have three children; Ellen Grecco-Gilmore of Fairfield, CT, who played club and Varsity soccer and graduated from Fordham University, Beth Grecco-Gothers of East Granby, CT, who was a National Pool Player and received a full scholarship to The University of Connecticut and was a 3 X All-America Selection and Frank Jr. of Cary, NC, played collegiately at The United States Naval Academy where he was a four-year Varsity soccer player and later served six years in the United States Marine Corps. A genuine soccer family, Frank Sr. was a long-time soccer referee.

Pat has personally helped more players get to college, many with full scholarships... than anyone on this planet. Mrs. Grecco has volunteered thousands of hours of her time and always finds time to help a disadvantaged family with a difficult problem. She is currently working to identify Hispanic players in her region who need help with the college search process, sometimes offering pro-bono help to anyone who asks; however, in recent years, a spinoff of her volunteer work, came about. In addition to Soccer, Lacrosse and Football, she has worked with numerous student-athletes, representing nearly every sport, as well as lesser-known sports such as Fencing, Rifle/Pistol, Crew, Cheerleading and even Chess, to name a few. It gives her great pleasure to help others, be they the best athletes, best students, or perhaps a student who struggles in school. She has worked with a diverse group of student/athletes, including a home-schooled soccer player from Florida to many international soccer players, placing a female soccer player from Bangkok, Thailand to Hofstra University on scholarship. Best of all and it is true, she does boast a 100% success rate. "There is a school for everyone to play at as well as to study, that's what makes America such a great country."

When asked the true value of her work, Pat continually replies "my most important offering is to find the very best academic opportunities for the student athletes I work with. Using their sport to open the heavy door of the admissions process and finding money to pay for it."



## *Kyle Kelly*

Kyle Kelly is a 2019 graduate of Northport High School. He played for the Northport Cow Harbor Soccer Club and was on Northport Cow Harbor Varsity Soccer Team for two years, and a member of the 2017 Northport Varsity Soccer League II Champions.

In his essay, Kyle stated: “ What I have learned about myself, from playing soccer, will stay with me long after I graduate from school this June. I have learned to trust myself and have confidence in myself. I have learned to have pride not only in my accomplishments but in the accomplishments of others. I have learned how great it feels to stand shoulder to shoulder with my teammates and cheer for our team whether on the field or from the bench.”

Mathew Power, Kyle’s coach for the last five years stated: “Kyle distinguished himself as a leader and a person I looked to assist me in managing the team. He is selfless in his play and to me, his most redeeming quality is his encouragement and nurturing of his teammates.” Kyle is a regular volunteer for our club, especially during the Columbus Day Tournament. He was awarded the “Unsung Hero Award” by his High School Soccer team.

Another coach, Sean Boylan, states that Kyle will be an excellent educator. His work ethic is unbelievable and his ability to relate to all kids will allow him to succeed in any environment. Kyle will be a good teacher because he is already a good role model. He leads by example, engages in positive pursuits and puts tremendous effort in all that he does.

Kyle is the recipient of the **Pat Grecco Scholarship** and will be attending **SUNY Albany** in the Fall of 2019 majoring in English.

**In Kyle’s words:**

**“I am a part of the Northport Boys Varsity Soccer team, and the Northport Lightning. Next year, I will be attending the University at Albany and will be majoring in English in order to pursue a teaching career.”**



## *Michael B. Scarpati* *Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship*

(January 3, 1981-May 14, 2001)

Born at 9 lbs. 12 ½ oz and happy, Michael embraced life and people with arms wide open from that moment and all of the moments of the rest of his life. His bear hugs became legendary in our family.

He began to play baseball, tennis and soccer at the age of six and was one of the youngest competitors on the Half Hollow Hills Swim Team. Somewhere along the way, soccer became his passion.

About the age of 10, his abilities as a keeper began to show. He understood the game, loved the people he met and enjoyed the places soccer took him, - Columbia, MD, Springfield, VA, Coco, FL, State Cup Finals, Regionals, England, Chaminade High School and Bryant College. He was the biggest supporter of his two younger brothers and always shared the goalkeeper's perspective with his field player brothers.

Michael enjoyed working with the younger players, trying to give them the benefit of some of his hard won experience. Paul Riley said that Mike had something no one could teach, - he had passion and heart.

Mike died suddenly on May 14, 2001, the day after Mother's Day at the age of 20. There is a void for all who loved him that can never be filled. We had a glimpse into his future and only saw promise.



## *Paul Leheste*

Paul Leheste is a 2019 graduate of Rocky Point High School, playing JV and Varsity Soccer. He played for Rocky Point Rebels and most recently Terryville Arsenal. Paul has participated in multiple community service projects, is a member of the National Honor Society, an Eagle Scout candidate and had an SAT score of 1400.

Paul's Varsity Soccer Coach, Joe Camarda, wrote, "Paul is a rare type of player who combines maturity, exceptional natural ability and a willingness and eagerness to learn. He is able to help his peers with challenges within the classroom and on the playing field but does so in a way that is both practical and non-condescending. Although, he is aware of his natural abilities, Paul is constantly trying to improve upon himself...He is very involved in our community by being a role model for all future soccer players that enter my program. He sets high standards for himself and the team and expects nothing less. This quality is not just at the varsity level, he is very involved with the Rocky Point Youth Soccer Club."

In his essay, Paul shared, that the 2014 World Cup Final between Argentina and Germany inspired him to become just like Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. "Having never played soccer or any sport until much later than most kids didn't deter me. I prepared myself for a future travel team tryout and was invited to come to some practices. I had to learn basic soccer skills kids usually master in grade school. I was very upset, but not completely discouraged. My hard work and dedication paid off and I made the team. Over the summer the high school sponsored a soccer clinic for students preparing them for "hell week", six days of five-hour long practices each day which serves as the tryout for school's soccer team...The week was grueling and pushed me to my limits multiple times. The goalkeeper trainer sometimes forbade us from drinking water because "it made us heavy". After the first day I came home and laid on the carpet and cried. It wasn't just because of the physical pain but the crushing realization that all the work I'd invested had not served to prepare me for this torture. It took every ounce of strength to get myself on the field each morning...I was thrilled to find out I made the JV team and eventually pulled up to varsity."

"I experienced true friendship among my teammates and earned their respect and that of my peers. When I was put in for those few minutes at the end of school team games, I received the loudest cheers from the stands and the bench. This made me extremely proud. They weren't cheering because I was the best goalie but acknowledging the dedication and hard work that brought me to this level. I learned many things about rising from failure and recovering from setbacks. The ultimate path to my goals will always be dynamic and I am adaptable to this unpredictability."

Paul is the recipient of the **Michael Scarpati Memorial Goalkeeper Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Minnesota** and majoring in biology.

### **In Paul's words:**

**"When I'm not playing soccer, I have a passion for history and spend weekend mornings going to yard sales, searching for antiques."**

**Fun fact: Paul speaks German.**



**Matthew Logan Scarpati**  
**June 26, 1990 to July 20, 2009**

**Glory, Glory Matt United!** Matt's favorite team was Manchester United. It pained him greatly that his cousins are Chelsea fans. With his first nephew born on June 1, 2009, he looked forward to teaching him how to wear the appropriate jersey and cheer for the appropriate teams. That will never happen because a drunk and speeding motorcyclist left the Wantagh State Parkway, at approximately 100mph and collided with Matt, who was out for a bike ride and had stopped to fix a flat on the Wantagh State Bike Path. He attended the 2009 LIJSL Scholarship Awards on 7/19/09.

## *Matthew L. Scarpati*

### *Memorial Scholarship*

Matt is the youngest of four boys, all of whom played soccer. Soccer was a passport to many places from Italy and England to Maryland, California, Pennsylvania, Virginia and New Jersey. Matthew was a 2008 graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School East and had completed a vigorous academic freshman year at the University at Buffalo. He made friends easily, but he always seemed to have a center compass. He loved all sports-soccer, lacrosse, tennis, golf, basketball and cycling. He made excellent choices in his friends.

Matt started with Northport Soccer Club, since they had a program for four year-olds. He played travel for Northport, Brentwood United, Auburndale Supersonics and East Meadow Jets. Matt was selected as an alternate for the ENYSSA ODP team and played with LIJSL ODP team. He played varsity soccer for Half Hollow Hills East and was a co-captain in his senior year. He played JV and Varsity lacrosse as well. He wanted to play soccer in college. However, the schools that were thinking of Matt were not the schools Matt wanted to attend. A fractured and dislocated ankle in his senior year of high school made that decision a sound one. When he had completed two surgeries and physical therapy at the end of October 2008, he was able to play some intramural soccer at the University at Buffalo. He said he had forgotten how much he loved playing and he was determined to get back in the game, working out with a friend from his dorm.

Matt was an Economics major at UB, loved Disney World, video games, music, fun and cooking. Yet he could be serious about politics, faith and fashion issues. He was a Renaissance Man. I was not totally surprised to learn that he was a Sunday evening regular at the UB Newman Center for Mass and pledged Pi Lambda Phi. He was a wonderful blend of curiosity, generosity. He was a best friend to his family and friends. He had just finished reading "Liberty and Tyranny" and "The Three Musketeers" and had Wealth of Nations on deck for the next read. He was working as a doorman at 24 Gramercy Park South during the summer of 2009 and was enjoying the eclectic group of people that he met.



## *Alexander Wright*

Alex is a graduate of Cold Spring Harbor High School, where he was a member of the Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer team, and a member of the Conference Champions Class AA Fall 2017. Alex has been a member of the Syosset Santos since the 4th grade. Academically he received a composite ACT score of 34 and a weighted GPA of 4.08. Alex is the recipient of the Congressional Award – Silver Medal, The Presidents Volunteer Service Award-Gold Medal, the Coaches Award for Varsity Track and Field, AP Scholar with Distinction. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, Société Honoraire de Francais and National Speech and Debate Honor Society. Extracurricular activities abound with Chess Club, School Newspaper, Outreach Tutoring Program and the Debate Team. He volunteers with the Helping Hand Rescue Mission and Chess Mates as a Chess coach.

In his essay Alex wrote, “ I have never been the tallest of largest player on the field. In fact, I am only 5’ 7” so I have always been one of the smallest players on the field. I have never let my size hold me back from playing defense. On the contrary, my size has given me purpose to always work harder than my opponents...I have found that, in lieu of my size, I would have to be the fastest player on the field. With this in mind, for the better part of a decade, I have trained to improve my run times and physical stamina, factors of the game I could surely control. This process of overcoming my size has instilled grit and built my character...In the end soccer has taught me to always put my best self forward, to work hard and to never give up.”

According to his School Counselor, Mary-Jo Hannity, “Alex is extremely well read in a wide range of subjects. He reads many newspapers on a daily basis and loves to discuss politics and world events, even or perhaps especially, with those who hold opposing viewpoints. Alex views this as an opportunity to learn. Alex has been a member of Speech and Debate team throughout high school. Alex is strong in his convictions. He does not back down from tough conversations and is not afraid to speak his mind, even if he is the only one in a room to hold that opinion. He is respectful of his peers’ thoughts and opinions, even if he does not agree with them. Alex is comfortable being a ‘minority of one’. He does not care if his opinions do not conform or make him ‘popular’. He is comfortable with who he is. “

Alex is the recipient of the **Matthew Scarpati Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Vanderbilt University** and plans to major in Economics and Public Policy.

### **Alex shared:**

**“I am a foodie and an avid cook; one day, after a professional career, I hope to own a small restaurant of my own.”**

## *soccer.com Scholarship*

soccer.com is the sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League. They are a major sponsor of the LIJSL annual convention and supporting sponsors of almost every other LIJSL program from TOPSoccer Special Children's program to LIJSL PDP. Thanks to the generosity of soccer.com we are able to continue many of the programs that help to develop and benefit our young athletes.



### *Hunter Ganz*

Hunter Ganz is a 2019 graduate of Syosset High School. Hunter was a three-year member of Syosset High School Varsity soccer team and was team captain in 12th grade. Hunter was chosen as a recipient of Syosset Soccer Coaches Award and All-Conference in 11th and 12th grades. He played on Syosset Cyclones travel team. Hunter is a member of the National Honor Society, Business Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He was the leader of DECA Business Club, competing for two consecutive years at the New York State competition. He has participated in community efforts such as Peers Reaching Out, Elementary School Outreach and Mary Brennan Inn Soup Kitchen. Academically, Hunter has a 1350 SAT.

Hunter wrote in his essay, "Teamwork has always been important to me, on the soccer field and off, and I pride myself in having used teamwork to transform adversity in my life into opportunities." He was disappointed by two fathers in his life and said "faced with the sad reality that I couldn't any longer just let anyone into my life, I became very defensive and, interestingly, transitioned into playing defense on our varsity soccer team. There I protected the net. Off the field, the "team" is me and my mom, and there, I protect her."

Guidance Counselor, Patty Haddow, said "Hunter's demonstration of leadership and athleticism outside the classroom is exemplary. Hunter is a talented soccer player. He is a 3-year varsity player and currently the Captain of the Varsity Soccer team here at Syosset High School. As team captain, Hunter leads his team through his actions on and off the field. Last year he helped his team become Co-County Champions and he himself earned All-Conference recognition. He is motivated to earn all-county recognition this season. He is very competitive in nature. This competitiveness helps to contribute to his many successes throughout the sport."

Hunter is the recipient of the **soccer.com Scholarship** and will continue his education at **Ohio State University**.

#### **In Hunter's words:**

**"Soccer is a passion of mine. I play Center Back. I am an aggressive defender where my strengths are speed and control. In my future I will be attending Ohio State University where I will be Studying business and plan to go on to receive an MBA. Also, I would like to continue playing soccer for the school in any way that I can."**

# *The Sandra Atlas Bass and Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund, Inc. Scholarship*

This scholarship award was established through the generosity of the Sandra Atlas Bass and Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund, Inc. A real estate executive and philanthropist, involved with many charities in the Long Island region, especially health care, youth development and animal welfare, founded the fund.



## *Paige Schroeder*

Paige is a graduate of Kellenberg Memorial High School. Academically, Paige has excelled, with a 4.0 GPA, an SAT score of 1270 and a member of the National Honor Society.

Paige has played with the Hicksville Explosion since 2010, was a member of LIJSL PDP training team beginning in 2013 and was a member of the KMHS JV Soccer Team.

Coach Michael Tuzzolo wrote, "I have personally known Paige for over ten years as the head coach of her travel soccer team, Hicksville Explosion. I have experienced an individual who shows up earlier than asked, works hard and carries herself in a polite, respectable manner."

In Paige's essay, she wrote, "I joined LIJSL PDP...and even got to travel to England with them in 2015. My confidence was tested during a game in 2016 when the goalie got hurt. Somehow, I got the courage to step in net and never looked back. I suddenly found myself calling out directions to my teammates and they started looking to me for guidance and assurance. The skills I've learned playing goalie these past few years have influenced every aspect of my life. I joined clubs at school, volunteered at a group home and really came out of my comfort zone when I tried out for a spot on Kellenberg's annual Blue and Gold sports night. If you know me, I am not a dancer, yet there I was three years in a row (soon to be four) dancing at Hofstra Arena."

Paige will be continuing her education at **Sacred Heart University**, where she can continue to grow as a student, and most importantly as a person.

Paige is the recipient of the **Sandra Atlas Bass Scholarship**.

### **In Paige's words:**

**"My plans for the future are to get a degree in Biology from Sacred Heart University, go on to medical school, and hopefully become an orthopedic surgeon."**



## *Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship*

Carolyn Page of the Massapequa Soccer Club left behind a tremendous legacy. Carolyn passed away after a fourteen-year battle with cancer but remains in the hearts of her husband, Lincoln Page and her three daughters, Lorraine, Cynthia and Pamela as well as all who knew her.

Carolyn began coaching her daughter when she was told, “if you don’t coach, there will be no team for your daughter to play on.” Carolyn coached for the Massapequa intramural program and later in the travel team program. She was involved with the Massapequa Memorial Day Tournament, specifically taking care of the trophy presentations.

Carolyn later became an administrator for Girls Select and was a chaperone for the distant tournaments. Carolyn was totally supportive of her husband and daughters, and took on any job necessary to help.

Lincoln mentioned that he could not have gone on to be President of Massapequa Soccer Club, Tournament Director, State Cup Commissioner, LIJSL Arbitration Board Chairman, only to name a few jobs he held, without the support of Carolyn. In fact, she used to say in jest, “I did all the work and he took all the glory.”

Carolyn, a true-soccer Mom/Wife, and consummate volunteer.



## *Kelsey Jordan Miller*

Kelsey Miller is a 2019 graduate of Syosset High School, playing Syosset JV for two years has played for Syosset Soccer Club since 3rd grade, currently playing with Syosset Jericho Fusion. Kelsey is active in community service, including Sunrise Day Camp, TOPSoccer, Syosset (co-founding coach), Mary Brennan Inn and Ronald McDonald House to name a few.

Marna Muller, Syosset HS teacher wrote, "She has shown that she is able to overcome obstacles that most would not have been able to handle...Kelsey has continuously shown the ability to apply her diligence and hard work, as well as skills and strategies to see her through challenging tasks. Her teachers speak quite highly of her and enjoy conversations with her both in and outside the classroom. She is a young lady who has compensated by using her strengths in other areas with her strength, determination and dedication.

Her Coach, Adriana Fragoso, stated, "She is extremely bright, kindhearted and puts forth her very best effort in order to succeed regardless of any adversities. In addition, she has had to endure extreme obstacles in her athletic and personal life which she has handled and overcome with more strength, maturity and poise than I have ever witnessed from someone so young. She has also demonstrated leadership skills beyond her years and has been an exemplary teammate to her peers. She welcomes and works well with anyone who is on her team, respects those around her in any circumstance and shows great compassion to all, particularly those who are in need. "

One of Kelsey's most difficult moments was watching her father suffer from kidney disease for 5 years and losing his battle. He was a good man and volunteering with Syosset soccer really brought joy to his life. He taught her so much about giving to others, working hard, doing what is right. Soccer was something they loved together, and soccer is always going to be a connection to him.

One of her wishes is to make her father proud....Kelsey, I'm know dad is very proud of you today and always.

Kelsey is the recipient of the **Carolyn Page Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Arizona**, pursuing a degree in Education.

### **In Kelsey's words:**

**"I want to tell you and LIJSL how grateful I am for this honor. I hope to earn it every day. I will be attending University of Arizona this fall to study early and special education. My experience for five years with TopSoccer, and also with Variety Day School and Sunrise Day Camp, have confirmed this is what I am meant to do in life. I owe so much to the support, guidance, and lifelong memories of soccer here at LIJSL and with Syosset Soccer Club. I hope to participate in intramural soccer in college."**



## *Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship*

On January 26, 2015 in his senior year at John Glenn High School, Sean Urda tragically lost his life in a sledding accident. He was one of those special people that lived every day as if it were his last. He knew that a smile made a difference and that laughter could warm your heart. He touched everyone he came in contact with in a special way. “Work hard, play hard” is a phrase that applied to the way Sean lived his life. He was always aiming higher and working to become better whether in school, on the field, or in life. Above all else Sean loved his family, friends and soccer and he was loved in return.

At one year old Sean got his first soccer ball and it has never left his side. By three years old, Sean was a soccer dynamo and the Elwood Soccer Club allowed him to begin playing early. By eight, he was playing on both his team and his older brother’s team, when they needed subs. Later, he went to play for Northport Soccer Club and his tournament team the Score FC. He was recognized as a leader on his teams and named captain. In high school, Sean was a three year varsity player and awarded All-League in his senior year. The #14, Sean’s jersey number, has become very important to his family and friends. His HS will retire his number once his younger brother graduates. The # 14 has become a symbol of Sean to many that cared about him.

Sean was an all-around athlete and enjoyed lacrosse, skiing, snowboarding, and his favorite gym sport – pickle ball, but his passion was always soccer. In addition to high school athletics, Sean was a member of Natural Helpers, National Honor Society, the marching and jazz band and a counselor at the Huntington Playground Camp.

His dream was to play at a collegiate level and he hoped that his academic achievements and goals would align with a school that he would attend and competitively play soccer for. Sean was accepted to all 14 schools he had applied to but unfortunately, he never got the chance to choose.

What we would like you to know of Sean is that for him people always came first – family, friends, teammates, classmates, everyone. He went out of his way to listen, to make someone smile, and to help anyone when they were down. He was 100% genuine and a true friend to all.



## *Avery Stevenson*

Avery is a 2019 graduate of Farmingdale High School, playing on both Junior Varsity and the Varsity Soccer team. Avery played most recently for Bellmore Ice, but also played for Farmingdale Green Hornets and Force, as well as HBC Blast. Avery was a member of the National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society and the Business Honor Society. Avery has been a member of the Boy Scouts and volunteered at Central Island Healthcare and Temple Sinai. Academically, Avery has an SAT of 1340 and a weighted GPA of 102.

In his essay Avery wrote, “Standing on the field in a puddle of throw up was not the initial image popping into my head when imagining the first day of tryouts...However I was not going to allow one awful day to ruin my goal of playing soccer at a higher level...My stomach began to roar louder with each passing second, but the thought of sitting out seemed like a guaranteed “cut” from the team...Following this was the walk of shame into the nurses’ office where I was told to call my parents. Despite this negative beginning, I convinced my parents to allow me to stay an even continue to try out that same day.”

Coach Kevin Shanley, Farmingdale High School, wrote, “He is without a doubt, one of the most genuine, humane, diligent gentleman I have met as an educator, and his teachers confirm this...What impresses me most is that Avery has learned the key to success on and off the field. On the field, Avery has always stood out as the most consistent player on the team. He plays in an often-unheralded defensive position, but as his coach, I charge him with marking the most talented opposing player. And he does not let me down...it was an easy decision for me to recognize him as the Most Valuable Player for this year. Avery was selected All-County by the other coaches and played in the exceptional seniors’ game.”

Bellmore Ice Coach, Matt McElwee stated, “If you could see Avery play, he is the quarterback on the field, he is worth 2 players, and his value to the team was invaluable. Our team played better, because Avery made them better...It has been an honor to coach Avery...He is a leader both on and off the field and finally he is the nicest person someone could meet.”

Avery is the recipient of the **Sean Urda Memorial Scholarship** and continuing his education and soccer career at **SUNY Purchase**.

**Avery shared:**

**“I’m honored to have won an LIJSL scholarship. I will be attending SUNY Purchase. I will be majoring in Economics and I will be playing on the SUNY Purchase soccer team. When my varsity soccer coach and dean, Kevin Shanley, recently presented me with a scholar athlete award he described me as a kind and humble person, who is a warrior on the soccer field.”**

# *Rocco Amoroso*

## *Sportsmanship Award*

### *Scholarship*



**“Mr. Sportsmanship”**

Rocco was a **US Soccer Life Member** and a member of the **Hall Of Fame** for **LIJSL** and **Eastern New York**. Rocco cared about the sport and the effect it could have on players, parents, coaches and referees. He left his mark on all of us with his kindness and love of the game of soccer in more ways than many know. He should be remembered as the founder of the **LIJSL Sportsmanship Program** “Building Character through Soccer” in 1980, the first program of its kind in youth sports. He wanted to remind all of us about the lessons of civility, teamwork and fair play. He is not here today, but his spirit will live on. He was a blessing to all who knew him.

*“Remember, greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service and character and that character, once acquired, becomes one’s most valued possession.” - Rocco Amoroso*



## *Garrett Raspars*

Garrett is a 2019 graduate of Northport High School, playing for Northport Cow Harbor United Lightning since the 6th grade as well as Junior Varsity and three years of Varsity soccer. Garrett has spent numerous hours on Northport High School's annual CPR/AED Awareness Day.

In his essay Garrett wrote, "Playing soccer has taught me that hard work and loyalty, as well as having social skills are essential for being a good player, and an even better teammate. However, it does not stop there. These are skills you need in all aspects of life and playing the sport has shaped me into the person I am today."

Jack Kelly, NCHU Lightning head coach, wrote, "Garrett's talent, hard work, and determination can be easily seen by anyone who watches him play. What stands out the most to those teammates who have played with Garrett, or other coaches and trainers who have worked with him, is his character. Garrett is a role model for what a young soccer player, and young man should be. He has a kind spirit, which is always shown welcoming new players to the team...As a team captain he leads with positive encouragement, motivating teammates to perform at their best, and providing support to lift them up..."

Northport teacher, John DeRosa stated, "Garrett is one of the most talented graphic designers I have seen in my 18-year teaching career. He has become my "go to" student when I need assistance... Garrett also designed the cover for the commencement packet for graduation...Garrett is an award-winning artist, receiving an honorable mention for one of his 3D Modeling interior design pieces."

Garrett is the recipient of the **Rocco Amoroso Sportsmanship Award Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Rhode Island** and studying mechanical engineering.

### **Garrett shared:**

**"In addition to soccer, I have been heavily involved in Unified Basketball at Northport High School. Since its launch in Suffolk County three years ago, Garrett has been committed to the NHS team that brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities to practice and compete on the same team together with the goals of developing understanding, breaking down stereotypes, and creating friendships. Playing on this team with special education students has been the most rewarding experience in my high school sports career."**



## *Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship*

According to Newsday's article, "Everybody Loved Him" Frank was a Brentwood resident for 26 years who had recently moved to Farmingville. He was hit by a car and died on January 5, 2003. Those who knew Frank said he didn't merely strive for perfection, he achieved it! The former Brentwood High School track and soccer star ran more than a thousand miles a year to keep in peak condition.

The 26-year-old soccer coach and youth leader was an All-America in the 3200-meter run after he earned third place in a 1994 national competition while attending Brentwood High School. Frank began his soccer career when he was 3 ½ years old in Brentwood where he also served as a referee, assistant soccer coach and trainer of youth teams. He later played for Hofstra University where he was known as "Stormin Gorman." He graduated from college in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. After graduation, Frank divided his time between a job at his mom's All-State Insurance office in Bay Shore, coaching junior Varsity at his high school Alma Mater and playing soccer. Frank also worked with Adelante, where he enjoyed being able to talk to the kids one on one about their future plans. A tribute to Frank given by Hofstra University soccer coach Richard Nutall, which he said, "Frank had a fantastic ability to bring people together. He was more instrumental than anyone in bringing the men's soccer squad together as one. He was a major catalyst for team harmony, the "foreigners" and the "Americans" were made to mix by his constant Gorman social diplomacy.

"We always thought of him as "Little Frank" to distinguish the difference between his Dad, "Big Frank" but "little Frank" wasn't small, but just how grand was he?" The answer to the question of how grand was "little Frank" is easy, Frank was MASSIVE-MASSIVE in our heart and massive in our minds forever.



## *Ariana Vargas*

Ariana is a 2019 graduate of Brentwood High School. Ariana plays for Brentwood Pumas and was a 4-year member of the Brentwood Varsity Girls soccer team, and captain. She was a member of the National Honor Society and a member of All State and All County Choir.

In her essay Ariana wrote, "Soccer will never be just a sport to me, and I will make sure it will never be a sport to any kid I know. No matter what came into my path, it was soccer that gave me my characteristics of determination, courage and respect for those around me because everyone is different... that doesn't change what they are capable of doing if they have the desire to complete it. I take my time now helping kids in the Brentwood community alongside my father where I help coach and train girls so they know that no matter what people say they can achieve anything with a goal and a drive."

Martino Sottile, Brentwood Varsity Soccer Coach, wrote, "She earned All County honors two consecutive seasons and was a finalist for keeper of the year for Suffolk County. Ariana was one of the most exceptional leaders I have had the privilege to coach on the Girls Varsity Soccer team. Along with being an exceptional leader and player for our girls' soccer varsity team, Ariana was a very involved in her community as she made a positive impact everywhere, she went."

Ariana is the recipient of the **Frank Gorman Memorial Scholarship** and will be continuing her education and soccer career at **CUNY Queens College**.

### **In Ariana's words:**

**"I am very honored to receive this scholarship. I describe myself as a person who is built to defeat the odds my height, race, and background. I have never stopped from becoming the person I am today. I am going to be the first child in my family to finish college and I am the only child in my whole family to be playing a sport in college. I will be attending Queens College this fall and playing as a Knight."**



## *Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship*

Joe Lombardo was born and raised in Astoria, Queens, where he met his wife, Mary. They were blessed with two children, Joey and Michelle. The Lombardo Family decided to move and raise their family on Long Island. Not long after moving to South Huntington, Joe began coaching soccer. He started off coaching Joey's team and then Michelle's team to many first place wins and NY State championships. Joe loved the sport. In addition to coaching, Joe helped start the HBC TOPS Soccer Program and Special Olympic Soccer League, organized and managed the HBC Peter Renzulli Labor Day Tournament and was a champion of sportsmanship.

Joe became President of HBC Soccer Club and in 1989 was inducted into the LIJSL Hall of Fame. You could always find Joe on a soccer field, whether it was watching a game, lining fields or handing out trophies.

Joe was a man who touched the lives of so many people. He was a kind, generous and loving husband, father and grandfather. Joe was a man of integrity, who always saw the good in everyone.

Joe Lombardo passed away on June 26, 2014 from complications from pneumonia.



## *Jason Brigandi*

Jason Brigandi is a 2019 graduate of Commack High School. Jason has played for Commack Great Danes Travel soccer from September 2008 to present and was on the Commack Varsity soccer team and was Senior Day captain. Academically, Jason had a 4.0 unweighted average and an SAT score of 1470. Jason is a member of the National Honor Society, Business and Marketing, Math, Science, English and Italian Honor Societies.

Jason was founder and President of the Finance Sector of the FBLA. He wrote about TOP soccer program: "I was able to organize an annual tournament for all of the TOP Soccer Programs on Long Island." He made significant gifts from his fundraising – new practice jerseys and new uniforms for tournaments. "Soccer has provided me with a platform to make a social impact in my community and played a significant role in shaping my identity." Jason said that "soccer has shaped my identity in other ways as well." Soccer has taught me to not only accept failures but embrace it."

The coach/coordinator of TOP soccer said Jason ran a fundraiser for his soccer team and Jason nominated TOP soccer to get a part of it and his teammates agreed. She said, "she could not say enough good things about this fabulous young man."

David Moran, Commack High School Boys Varsity Soccer Coach, said, "During games and practices, he would lead his team by example while never belittling others for making mistakes...He exemplifies the true "Student-Athlete" DNA, by the way he dominates the classroom; just like he does on the soccer field."

Jason is the recipient of the **Joseph Lombardo Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending the **University of Michigan** and majoring in applied math.

**In Jason's words:**

**"A fact about me is my dream is to start my own hedge fund."**



## *John R. Pinezich Memorial Scholarship*

John Pinezich was born in Astoria, Queens in 1933 to immigrants from what is now Croatia. He was a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School in 1951 and was awarded a scholarship to Pennsylvania State University where he played on the varsity soccer team for 4 years. As a freshman, he was part of the first U.S. diplomatic mission to Iran as the youngest member of the Penn State Soccer team. They played a series of goodwill games with Iranian teams throughout the country. In 1954, he captained the NCAA championship team for Penn State and received First Team All-American honors. He was a member of the U.S. National Team in 1955, and had one cap in a game against Iceland. He also traveled the world as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces soccer team.

Throughout his youth, beginning in the early 1940s, he played soccer for Eintracht Soccer Club in the former German-American League. His team won the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup in 1955, the highest achievement in soccer at the time. He scored two goals in the last six minutes for a 2-0 win in the championship game against the Los Angeles Danes (one with his left foot and one with his right, as he liked to point out.)

In 1958, he met the love of his life, Evelyn Reis, and they were married for almost fifty years. They moved to Northport, Long Island in 1962, and raised three children, John, Lyn and Karin, all of whom played soccer. His love for the game lead him, in 1971, to help found the Northport Soccer Club. He spent the first 5 years as Club President and remained on the Board of Directors for many years. He was actively involved in coaching teams for Northport and the Long Island Junior Soccer League for almost 30 seasons, even after his children were no longer playing for the club. He coached the Long Island Region gold medal winning Scholastic Girls teams for the Empire State Games in 1983 and 1984, and the Open Women's team to a gold medal in 1982. He was also a USSF Region 1 girls select staff coach in 1983 and coached the LIJSL Boys select in 1975-76.

He passed away in 2008 at his winter home in Stuart, Florida of a stroke. He lived a very full life pursuing his endless interests: soccer, landscaping and bonsai, history, sailing, airplanes, architecture, design, travel, his Croatian community and his wonderful extended family. Throughout his life, he touched us all with his strength, modesty, dignity, curiosity, and passion. His openness of emotion, love and generosity embraced us all. We are honored to establish this memorial fund in his memory.



## *Angelina Fucile*

Angelina Fucile is a 2019 graduate of Oceanside High School. She played for Lynbrook/East Rockaway Eagles travel team since 2016 and was on the Oceanside varsity and junior varsity soccer team. Angelina was very involved in all aspects of Oceanside High. Academically, she is very strong with an SAT of 1370 and a GPA of 99.

Her School counselor, Mindy Stecklow, said about Angelina "...a life-long athlete, the commitment to her soccer team has provided her a sense of community, allowing her to further hone her leadership skills and enhance her confidence as well as her athletic prowess. Most impressive is that she is the senior class president."

Marianna Winchester, Oceanside Varsity Soccer Coach, said that "She is an extremely strong defensive player and basically shut down many of the strongest girls on the opposing teams we played. She was also selected as an All Conference player by the Nassau Coaches Association. Angelina gave one hundred percent effort on and off the field. She was well respected by her team and her coach. She did and accomplished whatever was asked of her."

Angelina said "my character was built mostly by sitting on the bench. Sitting on the bench taught me that you do not have to have to be a star to make an impact. I could still contribute to the team by encouraging and supporting my teammates. I believe that although I was not the best on my club team, I did have the biggest heart." The most important thing soccer taught her was "it is okay to feel sad for yourself, but it is more important to celebrate other people's accomplishments. My character through soccer was built by having me realize I am not the center of the universe".

Angelina is the recipient of the **John Pinezich Memorial Scholarship** and will attend **Lehigh University**.

### **In Angelina's words:**

**"I am attending Lehigh University this fall and will be majoring in Biology. I intend on playing club soccer. Something you may not know about me is that I am Senior Class president at Oceanside High School and love to travel."**

# *Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship*

Jonathan Marc Serota was a 9 year old Rockville Center Soccer Club travel team member who passed away on January 9, 1983 after a sudden and brief yet virulent illness. Even at that young age, he displayed a special gift and passion for soccer that lit up the sport for teammates and opponents alike. He was the leading goal scorer in the travel division and captain of his championship team. Nevertheless his own greatest pride was in making assists and his greatest joy came from his team's and his teammates' successes.

Jonathan Serota is remembered not just as being what many considered the dominant player in the L.I. Junior Soccer League in his division; but as a nice boy, a truly kind human being, who enjoyed the real and mutual friendship of his teammates on and off the field - such that every year on January 9th, since his passing, his teammates and their parents continue to make an effort to get together in his memory.

Jonathan Serota is remembered by the Rockville Centre Soccer Club who have for the past 29 years sponsored The Jonathan Serota Memorial Soccer Festival on the Saturday of each Memorial Day weekend in his memory. And, believe it or not, in keeping with the special light brought to everyone around him, the sun has always been shining while the many games of The Jonathan Serota Memorial Soccer Festival are being played. In 29 years, there has not been one rain out.

Jonathan Serota, who was also known for academic excellence and love of learning, is remembered by the Rockville Centre Public Schools with a playground named after him at the elementary school he attended. As a result of the special outpouring that occurred from the community after his passing, The Jonathan Serota Memorial Foundation was founded. It continues to provide college scholarships each year for the high school graduating senior boy and girl soccer players who are the kind of scholar athletics helping others that Jonathan hoped to be.



## *Julianna Fryman*

Julianna Fryman is a 2019 graduate of Plainview Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School. Julianna played with Hicksville Explosion from 2016 to present. Julianna was a member of the National Honor Society, Science Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Julianna has volunteered with The After-School Group, STREAM Day and the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery.

Michael Tuzzolo, coach of Hicksville Explosion, said that “Julianna’s caring personality toward her teammates and their well being has earned the title of “Team Mom” because she is always taking care of one of them in games and practices.”

In her essay, Julianna wrote, “Soccer is about compassion, acceptance, and above all, inclusion.” She learned a lot from soccer as a player and being a referee for the last 5 years has taught her more. She noticed that when referring an intermural division game that the 8-year-old were not ignoring their special needs teammates. She said that soccer has influenced the lives of many players – soccer has taught tolerance.

Her social studies teacher, Raymond Tesar said “ She would rather her accomplishments remain unnoticed and put the focus on helping others around her... I know she can truly enrich the lives of all around her. She is without a doubt the heart and soul of my research program.”

Julianna is a recipient of the **Jonathan Marc Serota Memorial Scholarship** and will be attending **Tulane University**.

### **In Julianna’s words:**

**“I consider myself to be a social advocate doing not only what is right for others but for the environment as well. Additionally I love to read and swim and can recite every line of every single Harry Potter movie. In college I plan to study cell and molecular biology on a pre-med track with professional aspirations of being a pediatric oncologist. I will be attending Tulane University.”**



## *The Brittney Walsh Memorial Scholarship*

Brittney Walsh was a proud graduate of class 2012 from the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. This is where she would challenge herself and her friends to make everything she was involved with just a little bit better. Being ranked number 22 in her class, Captain of her winter track team and 3-year Captain on the Girls Varsity Soccer Team, she was often the one to follow. Her passion for track came when she lost a close friend in the 10th grade due to a brain aneurism. She made a promise to her friends that she would continue running for him. Making the Spring track team in 11th grade she quickly pranced her way to Penn Relays where they placed 3rd in the 4x4 (never done in Copiague). Her track coach and fellow runners would comment on her constant talking when running. "How could she do that".

Brittney's long-time passion was for soccer. She started playing soccer at the age of 5 and continued playing. Brittney played soccer for Lindenhurst early on and finished her club career in Massapequa while helping out from time to time in West Islip tournaments. Because she was involved with Long Island Junior Soccer League she was exposed to other kids from every town. When she played soccer for school she often knew someone from the other team. The exposure to people from other towns, doing other things, was really where she grew.

One of Brittney's dreams was to go to college. She was accepted to York College of Pennsylvania where she planned to study sports management, run track and play soccer. But her dream was cut short.

On June 24th, 2012 Brittney was killed by a drunk driver, just 2 days after her high school graduation. She was coming home from her summer job. Her loss shook the community island wide. It's amazing how a selfishness and such a senseless act could cause so much pain.

To tell you what kind of person Brittney was, her yearbook quote was ***"Be a Fruit Loop in a World of Cheerios"***.



## *Courtney Nelson*

Courtney Nelson is a 2019 graduate of Longwood High School and a member of Longwood High School Varsity Soccer team for 5 years. Courtney has been named All-Division, Team MVP, Team Captain and currently holds the record for most goals scored. She played for Stony Brook Barcelona.

Courtney's former soccer coach, Sarah Martinez, wrote: "Courtney is fearless, hardworking and skillful. She is constantly one of the hardest working players on the field and plays the game for all the right reasons. She loves the sport of soccer and as a former coach of hers, I could not be more proud to follow her academic and athletic career as she will continue her education and play soccer at Farmingdale State College. Courtney often drove an hour to training sessions and no matter the time of day or night, was always the first to arrive and stayed until the very end. She is dedicated not only for herself, but to make everyone around her better. Speaking from a character standpoint, I could not say enough good things to justify the type of person Courtney is. To put it simply, she makes everyone around her better and her personality is infectious."

Jamal Walcott, Assistant Principal, Longwood High School, stated, "A leader in the classroom, on the soccer and track team and in the building. She is an individual-strong and freethinking...Courtney leads by example. Her courage and uniqueness leave her peers in awe. She has overcome some of the harshest obstacles in life and continues to thrive."

In her essay Courtney wrote, "Some may say a student athlete has no time for anything else, I have made time for other things. I go to school and have straight A's, I was a varsity athlete for 5 years, played travel three times a week with a game each weekend, and managed to have a job. I wouldn't have it any other way either. It didn't only make me learn to prioritize, but it made me manage my time. To know that homework had to be done on the way to and from practice so I'd have time to sleep, or that today I can't work because I have a midterm I need to study for. It's all a life lesson, that's come into my life outside of soccer as well. "

Courtney is a recipient of the **Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship** will continue her education and soccer career at **SUNY Farmingdale**.

### **In Courtney's words:**

**"I am attending Farmingdale State College and will be in the Nursing program. I plan to go on to become an Orthopedic Surgeon. Over the summer I will assist in coaching the Longwood Varsity Soccer team in their summer ball season."**



## *Aidan James Lotrugio*

Aidan Lotrugio is a 2019 graduate of Manhasset High School, where he played Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer. He was Voted All-Conference Goalkeeper and named Team Defensive Most Valuable Player. Aidan has played for the Manhasset Rockers and the Port Washington Torpedoes. Aidan is the Class Vice-President, a member of the Social Studies Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and worked as a lifeguard at Manorhaven Pool in Port Washington.

Aidan's varsity coach, Mark Giardino, wrote, "Aidan's senior soccer season started with adversity. After tryouts were over I told Aidan he was going to be the backup goaltender. The news was crushing to Aidan because he worked so hard to get better and put himself in the best possible place to be the starting goalie. The day after I told him the news he came to speak with me in private with respect and confidence. He stated why he felt he should be the starter and expressed his frustration. I am not very old, but this generation is different than mine. Very few kids have the maturity and confidence to conduct this kind of face to face interaction. I did not agree with Aidan, but I was very proud of how he handled the situation. You would think that being the backup would have taken away Aidan's motivation and leadership skills, but it had the opposite effect. He worked harder than ever to improve his areas of weakness. Not only was his ambition at an all-time high, but also his ability to motivate and help the players around him."

"While being the backup he mentored the third string goalie, as well as the starter(who was younger and more inexperienced than he). He turned a negative situation into a positive without even knowing it. Our season got off to a great start, primarily because the starting goalie was playing extremely well. At halftime and at the games end you would find Aidan running out on the field to congratulate our starting goalie. Aidan is the epitome of a team player, always putting the team first. Our team hit a rough patch midway through the season and it was time to give Aidan a chance. There are moments as a coach that we will remember forever, and the end of Aidan's senior year is one of them. With our teams back against the wall, we needed three wins in our last four games to make the playoffs and Aidan was making his varsity debut in the toughest of situations. Not only did he respond, he flourished! He literally carried our team into the playoffs with his play, leadership and ambition."

Aidan is the recipient of a **Brittney Walsh Memorial Fund Scholarship** and will be attending **Washington and Lee University** majoring in business/finance.

### **In Aidan's words:**

**"I am a hardworking and loyal person that loves to play competitive sports. One of my new passions after soccer has ended is playing golf. I will be attending Washington and Lee University and will not be playing soccer but plan to play club."**

# *Modell's Scholarship*

Modell's Sporting Goods has been a sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League for more than 30 years. They are a major sponsor of the LIJSL sportsmanship program and supporting sponsors of the LIJSL Convention. Thousands of LIJSL players have proudly worn the sportsmanship patch on their uniforms over the years. Thanks to the generosity of Modell's, we are able to continue these programs that help to benefit our young athletes.



## *Julianna Gullo*

Julianna Gullo is a 2019 graduate of Eastport South Manor High School. She played for the Manorville Soccer League from 2007 till present. She also played for ESM school soccer from 2013 through 2018, serving as Captain both on the JV and Varsity teams.

At age 14 Julianna was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis. She spent a great deal of time seeing doctors and treating her disease. However, in her words: "I learned how strong I could be. Having this disease has been challenging, but it has matured me more than any other experience could've. It has taught me to be more capable than I ever imagined; not only do I balance school and sports but also my health."

Nicole Cuomo, Eastport-South Manor Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach, said "through the past six years, I have watched Julianna making great strides towards improving all the aspects of her life, on and off the field." She not only excelled on the field but maintained a GPA of 99.34. Julianna shows strong Character, discipline, organization and commitment necessary to become a successful student at any level.

Julianna's French teacher, Mrs. Georgia Tafone, told us that Julianne is a member of the National Honor Society and the French Honor Society. She states: "not only is she a member of both of these organizations but takes her membership responsibilities seriously but is an integral part of both organizations besides taking many AP courses."

Julianna is the recipient of the **Modell's Scholarship** and will be attending **Marist College** in the Fall of 2019 majoring in Fashion Merchandising.

### **In Julianna's words:**

**"In the future, I plan to graduate from Marist College and move onto working at a company as a Fashion Merchandiser. Also, I have been playing soccer since I was four years old and I plan to try to continue playing in college. Thank you for this chance.**

# *Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship*



The Miles for Matt Foundation was founded after Matt Scarpati, 19, who was cycling on the Wantagh State Bike Path, was struck and killed by a drunk, drugged and speeding motorcyclist, who left the Wantagh State Parkway at speeds estimated to be 100 miles per hour. Matt was killed that day, but our hope was that we would make recreation in the area safer. Through community efforts and those of elected officials, we were successful in having guardrails installed.

In addition, the bronze sculpture of a cyclist was placed in the park. This sculpture inspires conversations about many things, such as safety, cycling and life. Through donations and fundraising events, Miles for Matt Foundation supports scholarships, athletics, MADD and medical research.

***The Journey continues.....***



## *Justin Kohan*

Justin is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, a 4-year starting member of the Kennedy Bellmore Varsity Soccer Team, Captain in his senior year, Team Goal Scorer in the Fall of 2018, member of the Varsity Tennis Team and a member of the Wantagh-Seaford Lightening. In 2019 Justin was named All-Conference, received the Coach's Player Award and was a recipient of the Richard Daoust Scholarship He was a member of Athletes Helping Athletes, Italian National Honor Society, National Honor Society and has received the Seal of Biliteracy. Justin has been involved in peer tutoring, Toys for Kids Drive, mentoring at a local temple and donated time at the Kosher Pantry. Academically, Justin had an SAT of 1350 and a weighted GPA of 96.

Justin shared in his essay, " It was 4-4 in the quarter final penalty shootout for the varsity soccer season. If Garden City scored next, they would win, advance to the final four and play at Hofstra University, the dream that everyone on my team had. As the referee blew the whistle, I prayed. I asked God to make them miss this penalty. I asked forgiveness for any wrongs I committed, but it was too late. He scored. We were eliminated... When people face times like these, they can take two paths. They can be depressed...or they can put it behind them, take the positives and move on. We had tons of positives to look at...What really shows character is learning and taking something from that experience....Soccer is one of the most important things in my life because it connects me to people from all over the world...I traveled to Italy two summers in a row to work as an au pair... The grandpa of the family I stayed with is a huge soccer fan, so whenever I was with him, we'd always talk about players, matches and the history of the game...For me, the beauty of soccer is not only what happens on the field, but its ability to bring diverse people together."

Ann Donaldson, District Social Studies Chairperson, wrote, " As a student athlete, Justin has cultivated self-discipline and an ability to focus. These attributes were apparent in our classroom, evident in his dedication to the process of scholarship and his embrace of a spirit of inquiry that he employed to broaden his horizons...His thirst for knowledge would often present in his keen sense of humor. It was a sense of humor that helped others take the risk of looking at a topic from a different point of view...His willingness to see the many stories of history through different perspectives helped him build on his strong foundation and triumph as a student while at the same time becoming an unofficial mentor in the classroom."

Justin is the recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will be continuing his education at **Syracuse University**.

### **In Justin's words:**

**"Next school year, I will be studying engineering at Syracuse University. Also, my dad was born in Argentina, so I am fluent in Spanish, as well as Italian, which I have studied since 7th grade."**



## Aidan Padala

Aidan Padala is a 2019 graduate of Garden City High School and the Salutatorian, had an SAT score of 1550 and a weighted GPA of 100 and played Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer, a member of the GCHS LI Champions and NYS Semi-Finalists, receiving numerous awards. He has played for the Garden City Centennials United since 4th grade and is an Assistant Coach for the GCC CAPT program.

Natasha Khan, GCHS School Counselor, wrote, "Since freshman year, Aidan has been a shining star...One of the top students in his class, Aidan is also a Varsity Soccer and Track athlete...Aidan

was the high school student, as a freshman, to be chosen to join the Student Research Program at Northwell Health/Cohen Medical Center. Working with graduate and post graduate students, Aidan did all of his own research on the topic of limited use of safety equipment during sports. He was solely responsible for submitting his research to the Institutional Review Board. As a junior he was chosen to present his abstract at both national and international pediatric conferences. This fall, he will present his findings to researchers and physicians(again, as the only high school student), at the American Academy of Pediatrics Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida...This is a truly genuine man and one of a kind."

In his essay Aidan wrote, " When I first started playing travel soccer, I was far from a star. Let's just say my 4th grade C Team coach wouldn't sweat it if I couldn't make it to a game....However, soccer is played with the mind just as much as it is the feet, and can be mastered by anyone...I ended up escalating my level of play to the point where I became a starter on Garden City United, the A Team, by 6th grade. This, in part, was facilitated by some amazing coaches. One coach in particular, Paul LeSueur...helped me see what I could bring to the game. Rather than encouraging me to try to run past everyone and score, he taught me to play smart, communicate, see space, and pass back when necessary. He taught me to take advantage of my strengths-technical skill and dribbling-to create space for my teammates without being selfish."

Paul LeSueur, GCC Coach, wrote, "Aidan has 'given back' to his school by serving as Class Treasurer for the past 3 years and serving as President of Peer Educators, a selective program which deals with issues related to HIV-AIDs, substance abuse and suicide prevention...I see many of our young people as "good doers" who do work hard at achieving success. However, Aidan is more than that, he is a "doer of good". While a 7th grader he founded (with his brother) the "Linen Lift" charity...collecting linens, toiletries and tablecloths for THE INN... I can state without reservation Aidan is an EX-man-extraordinary, exceptional and exemplary."

Aidan is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** will be attending **University of Pennsylvania**, School of Engineering.

### **In Aidan's words:**

**"I am an outgoing person, who has a love for soccer, music, science, and cars. I'm very curious and spontaneous and I love learning about the world around me and making sure to live life to its fullest. I'm attending UPenn in the fall, where I am studying engineering (potentially aeronautics) and will be trying out for the club soccer team."**



## *Ryan Sisco*

Ryan is a graduate of St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, a 4-year member of the St. John's Varsity Soccer Team, receiving the Coaches Award in the Fall of 2018, and a member of the Bellmore Ice. Ryan's volunteer service included helping to pack bags for LI Cares, Last Hope Animal Shelter, St. Kilian Alter Service and baking Thanksgiving breads for local soup kitchens, as well as baking for Ronald McDonald House.

Ryan shared in his essay, " Soccer has taught me so many life lessons and blessed me with so many different people that I am very close with now... If one of my teammates makes a mistake and it results in a goal, I try my best...to make him take his mind off of it and let him know that we aren't mad at him because we will get it back. Also if the game is getting chippy and people start to get in each other's faces, I will try to defuse the situation and make everyone calm down...Coaches always say 'think 2-3 steps ahead' so I try to put that into my actions on and off the field. I try to consider my actions off the field whenever I am about to make a decision."

Bellmore Ice Coach, Matt McElwee, wrote, " It was after Father's Day (2014) and the season was completed, we were finishing our tryouts in Bellmore and Ryan and 4 of his teammates from HBC came looking for a team, because they were told that their team just folded after the last game of the Spring season...At that tryout, Ryan was a kid that stood out. It was impressive to see him on the field...not because he was the best player, but you could see that he had a work ethic and desire to learn...(2016) the age switch was occurring in the USSF, so it gave an opportunity for Ryan to play on a team closer to his home... His Farmingdale team aged out, so he was looking for a team and rejoined our team. The day he stepped on the field; it was like he never left. Same desire, same intensity, he just makes our team better. Ryan is a player that will do whatever it takes to win. He will play any position if needed..."

John Connors, Social Studies Department, wrote, " Ryan's individual success in the class contributed to the class' success as a whole. His charisma and self-confidence enabled him to wholly participate in in class discussions...With this, Ryan was a big contributor in facilitating a strong, interesting, effective classroom...As a member of the Athletic Department, I am proud to say that Ryan was a tremendous leader for our Soccer Program. Ryan has represented St. John's, his family, and himself, with 'Pride, Commitment, and Respect'."

Ryan is a recipient of a **Miles for Matt Foundation Scholarship** and will be continuing his education at **St. John's University**.



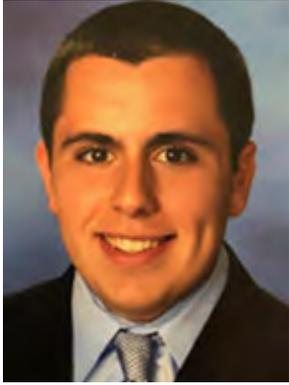
## *Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship*

Jerry was a member of the Levittown Soccer Club for over 35 years. After a short but hard battle with cancer, he passed away in July 2016. Up until that time, he was the President of the Club. In his years, he held many positions including Coach, Travel Director, Social Activities Director, and President. He was also very involved with LIJSL throughout the years serving as a Supervisor, Coordinator for the league and the LI Cup, Registration Committee, Games Committee, and was heavily involved in the Waldbaums Cup and Liberty Cup. In 2004, Jerry was inducted into the LIJSL Hall of Fame, an honor he was extremely proud and humbled by.

He maintained true fairness and caring for all players, coaches, and volunteers till the end and it is with great pleasure that we honor him with a scholarship in his name. We know that he is watching over all of our players including his grandchildren and want to wish everyone the best of luck as they enter a new phase of life.

***May you continue to always reach your "GOALS!"***

- Marinan Family



## *Frank Jemma*

Frank Jemma is a 2019 graduate of Plainview High School, where he played on the Junior Varsity and Varsity Boys Soccer Team. He played for the Plainedge Soccer Club.

In his essay, Frank stated: "My involvement in the Long Island Junior Soccer League's Player Development Program allowed me the opportunity to meet and interact with great players my age from other towns that I would have not met otherwise. Soccer has taught me that the community and my involvement in the community is just as important to me as a person as being a soccer player."

He has worked for his club as a member of the snack shack crew, assistant trainer in the little feet program as well as working on the Plainedge Tournament.

Joe Karam, the President of the Plainedge Soccer Club and Frank's coach from age five to present said: "Over the years, Frank has developed into a solid soccer player, a very good teammate and an excellent leader and role model on our team. Frank's Dad, Anthony volunteered as a coach in our club as well and later joined our board and remains an active board member today serving as Travel Coordinator. I guess the spirit of giving back rubbed off on Frank... There is no doubt that Frank has made a great and lasting impression on our young through his love for the game, his enthusiasm and his spirit of giving back to our club and the community."

Anthony Giovanelli, the Dean of Students at Plainedge High School stated: "Frank possesses all the character traits you would want in a son. I would be humbled if I could do such a great job with my son as his parents have done with him."

Frank is the recipient of the **Jerry Marinan Memorial Scholarship** will be attending **SUNY Farmingdale** in the Fall of 2019 as a Liberal Arts major.

### **In Frank's words:**

**"I will be attending SUNY Farmingdale in the fall where I will be studying Liberal Arts. I am thinking of a career involving cars and business. I want to continue playing soccer and potentially coach a team of my own. I am also planning to try out for the soccer team at my school."**

**Fun fact: I am also a bowler and was ranked number 1 in Nassau county 2 years in a row. Frankie bowled a 300 in his junior year.**

## *George Hoffman Top Soccer Special Children's Memorial Scholarship*

George Hoffman, a Long Island Junior Soccer League Hall of Fame member, served on the Long Island Junior Soccer League Board of Directors for decades before his untimely passing in 1997. George was much of the creative force behind the Long Island Junior Soccer League newspaper "Kick Off" and his Bits'n Pieces column could be controversial but it always made you think. George was active supporter of the TopSoccer Program and LIJSL sponsors two scholarships to youth volunteer coaches in his memory.



### *Jason Brigandi*

Jason Brigandi has been involved with Commack TopSoccer for the past 5 years. During that time, he has shown the coach that he is a kind, compassionate, giving and articulate boy who is looking to get involved for the right reasons. He has become a leader and before Commack's tournaments he seeks businesses to make donations. At the tournament he runs the large fields which host the older players. This involves confidence, organization and leadership.

Jason has become the lead coach instructing, supervising and training new volunteers. His easygoing personality makes him a magnet to new volunteers who want to emulate him. Last year he ran a fundraiser for his soccer team who in turn donated \$2000 to Commack TopSoccer who purchased uniforms for all. He also helped a boy who was being bullied in the cafeteria by getting a friend to sit with him during lunch.

Jason belonged to Leadership in the Business World (LBW) at Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He is Founder and President of the Finance Sector of Future Business Leaders of America. He is part of the Boys Scholar Athlete Leadership Club in which he assisted in various fundraisers and community events. Jason was Founder of Commack's Great Danes Soccer Fundraiser.

He was on Commack H.S. Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer, Great Danes travel soccer and Junior Varsity Winter Track. Jason is member of the National Honor Society, Business & Marketing Honor Society, as well as English, Italian, Math and Science Honor Societies. Also, he is in the National Society of High School Scholars.

Jason who has ADHD writes that whenever an opportunity arises to help kids who experience similar struggles, he cherishes it. TopSoccer helps him to alleviate some of the stresses high school brings upon him. He is constantly reminded not to take life for granted and chase his dreams because he could be one of the less fortunate. Jason is inspired by the player Andrew to create a social impact on the world because there are always people who struggle.

Jason has been accepted and will attend the **University of Michigan** at Ann Arbor this September. He plans on majoring in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science. Jason's presence will be a great loss for Commack TopSoccer.

## *George Hoffman Top Soccer Special Children's Memorial Scholarship*

George Hoffman, a Long Island Junior Soccer League Hall of Fame member, served on the Long Island Junior Soccer League Board of Directors for decades before his untimely passing in 1997. George was much of the creative force behind the Long Island Junior Soccer League newspaper "Kick Off" and his Bits'n Pieces column could be controversial but it always made you think. George was active supporter of the TopSoccer Program and LIJSL sponsors two scholarships to youth volunteer coaches in his memory.



### *Nicholas Valentine*

Nicholas Valentine spent five seasons as a volunteer in the New Hyde Park TopSoccer Program. He is a very compassionate and even tempered individual and this is seen in his ability to relate to the athletes. According to his coach he has excellent leadership skills and players respond to him with enthusiasm and joy. Nick has the ability to inspire all the athletes and responds to them on their terms. He is caring and kind to others and very confident.

Nick is a great volunteer at school events such as Latin School orientation, school Open House and VIP Tours, high school Speech and Debate, school Concerts, and setting up the graduation stage for graduating seniors. He worked at the Bookstore helping at the register and in stacking shelves; belongs to S.M.A.R.T which is an afterschool program where he tutored and assisted school kids at St. Martin's school and in SAINTS Program assisting sophomore retreats.

Nick also was on the Junior Retreat Staff to assist in freshman retreats. As a member of S.A.L.T. he helped to organize and clean up after school run events. He helped to run a roller hockey clinic with friends where they help younger kids/teens learn and develop their skills in hockey. He also tutored and helped neighbor kids with their after school work.

Nick is a member of the A1 program at Kellenberg Memorial H.S. and has been on the Honor Roll. He has earned an Honor Character Certificate in each of his three years for an exemplary disciplinary record. Also, he is a member of the National Honor Society.

Nick writes that with the help of one of the players, Petros, his attitude towards life changed greatly over the years. He inspired him to not let what other people think about you prohibit you from being yourself and helped him to realize how blessed he is to be able to impact lives at the program. As Nick continues through life, he inspires to help those who need help and never give up.

Nicholas will be attending **SUNY Farmingdale** State College, and majoring in Sports Management. Perhaps he might have time to help New Hyde Park TopSoccer.

## *Modell's Scholarship Top Soccer Special Children's Scholarship*

Modell's Sporting Goods has been a sponsor of the Long Island Junior Soccer League for more than 30 years. They are the major sponsor of the LIJSL sportsmanship program, TopSoccer and supporting sponsors of the LIJSL Convention.

Thousands of LIJSL players have proudly worn the sportsmanship patch on their uniforms over the years. Thanks to the generosity of Modell's, we are able to continue these programs that help to benefit our young athletes and award a scholarship to a TopSoccer youth volunteer coach.



### *Paulina Valentine*

Paulina Valentine has worked with New Hyde Park TopSoccer Program since 2015. She has served the athletes with compassion, talent and skill. The coach says that she has an overall ability to lead and to think outside the box with care and kindness to others. She encourages the athletes to understand and practice sportsmanship which she conveys with her positive reinforcement. Paulina uses her friendly demeanor and smile to communicate positive things to all the athletes especially the older ones.

Paulina has volunteered for Latin School orientation helping middle school adjust to school, assist attendance at Winter Concert with seating and programs, worked at bookstore ringing up sales, doing returns, folding clothes and taking stock of items. She volunteered at Speech and Debate competition as well as graduation set up at Hofstra. Lead retreats for sophomore class as member of Seniors Assisting in Nurturing the Sophomores (SAINTS) and belonged to Junior Retreat Staff and lead retreats, mass readings and teachings. Each morning she cleans the animals and their cages; feeds and cares for them in the Lab. Thru the SMART Program she tutored elementary school children after school to help them with homework, do arts and crafts, etc. Paulina volunteered as a Sacristan which helped teachers organize and set up school events such as Mardi Gras, prayer services, assemblies, concerts, etc. At Open House at the varsity soccer booth she spoke to parents and students who are interested in playing a sport in high school. She also showed parents of incoming students how to work the iPad basics.

Paulina is a member of the A1 program at Kellenberg Memorial H.S. She has earned a spot on the Honor Roll in each of her three years and is a member of the National Honor Society. Paulina also was on the Girls' Varsity Soccer team and her team won Nationals in Indiana in 2017. She received the Most Valuable Player Award for soccer in her sophomore and senior year.

Paulina states that one of the athletes she worked with named Sammy has proven to her that anything is possible if you have the right attitude. She looks up to her constant cheerfulness and wishes to have an attitude like Sammy's at all times. She has enjoyed seeing the players advance in play and friendship.

Paulina will be attending **St. Michael's** in Vermont. She plans on majoring in Biology. New Hyde Park will surely miss her.



## *Thank You*

To all the families that graciously donated to the scholarship program in memory of their loved ones.

To our sponsors for their generosity year in and year out.

To the scholarship committee who dedicate their time to review each and every application from so many wonderful student athletes.

To all our league volunteers for your dedication.

To each and everyone of you who believe in our youth and realize that they are the future.

We believe the recipients we honor today prove that the future is in good hands.

## *Go Ahead...*

Excellence is not achieved in the first step. Yet, that first step must be taken if excellence is to be created. Greatness is not attained in the initial effort. Yet, greatness comes only through making that first effort, and then many more.

Go ahead and begin. Get started. Take the first step toward your dreams. Make the first effort to work toward greatness. You will learn a lot as you go, and perfect your approach. The important thing now is to get started and keep going.

