

Eastern NY Soccer Update

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Written by Michael Lewis/Edited by Lonny Unger

Seven Elected into ENY Soccer Hall of Fame

Glen Mernone, George Snizek, Nino DePasquali, Boris Lazari, Ben Boehm, Barry Salter and Cesar Maniccia have been elected into the Eastern New York Soccer Hall of Fame.

The seven inductees (in alphabetical order):

- **Ben Boehm** -- Well known in youth circles, Boehm has been the driving force for B.W. Gottschee's success in the Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer League. The Gottschee boys teams captured an unprecedented five State Cup titles this June.
- **Nino DePasquali** -- A major proponent of the women's game, DePasquali is coach of the New York Magic (W-League) and has played an instrumental role at the club and league level of the New York Metropolitan Women's Soccer
- **Boris Lazari** -- A former national referee, Lazari is well respected and the State Referee Administrator.
- **Cesare Maniccia** -- An icon in the Capital District and Albany area, Maniccia is a founding father of the Capital District Youth Soccer League (serving as president and director of coaching for the Select program) and the founder of the Rotterdam Youth S.C. (president for more than 20 years. Maniccia, who also was a referee and coach, taught mathematics at Albany University.
- **Glen Mernone** -- A life member of ENY amateur, Mernone also is fourth vice president with the organization and first vice president with the Long Island Soccer Football League. He has been heavily involved with the N.Y. Hota/Bavarians for years.

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It is Almost State Cup Time...Dates to Remember

These are some important State Cup dates to remember concerning registration/rosters and dates of competition:

Registration and roster dates: February 9 (tentative) -- Spring State Cup draw announced (U-12 through U-18); March 10 -- Spring State Cup rosters due (U-12 through U-18); March 17 -- All State Cup rosters frozen (except U-19); March 24 -- U-19 applications due; April 7 (tentative) -- U-19 Cup draw announced; May 5 -- U-19 rosters due; May 12 -- U-19 rosters frozen.

Competition dates are: March 25-26 -- Spring State Cup first round; April 8-9 -- Second round; April 22-23 -- Third round; April 29 -30 -- Extra round for any division with more than 32 teams; May 6-7 -- Quarterfinals (four North, four South; May 20, 2006 (tentative) -- U-19 Cup starts; May 20 -- Semifinals (May 21 rain date); **June 3 -4 -- Open Cup finals (US Youth Soccer Eastern NY State Championships), Gavin Park in Saratoga; June 10 -- ENYSA Challenge Cup finals and U-19 finals (June 11 rain-date), at Peter Collins Park in Plainview; June 29--July 4 -- Region 1 Championships**

Seven Inducted in ENY Soccer Hall of Fame

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- Barry Salter -- Salter, who has the most seniority of any ENY youth vice president, is former president of the Westchester Youth Soccer League. For ENYYSA. He has served on a number of committees, and he's served as the Rules Chair and as head of the Premier Committee. In that latter role, he created and has run the Eastern NY Premier League and is now involved in ensure the improvement of the Northeast Premier League and Region 1 Premier League. Previously, he was also an officer with the New Rochelle soccer club.
- George Snizek -- A long-time Long Island Soccer Football League officer -- he is now a life member -- Snizek is well known at the amateur level. He was one of the mainstays of the Lynbrook club for years and is an official with the Long Island Ladies Soccer League, among other many responsibilities in the game.

ENY Treasurer Finnegan Named Region I Male Volunteer Of The Year

Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association treasurer Mike Finnegan was named Region I male volunteer of the year at the organization's recent meeting in Rhode Island.

Finnegan was honored for his outstanding service to the region. He is serving as Region I budget chair and is a member of the regional Boys ODP committee and is the Boys ODP camp administrator at Rider University.

"I was very surprised," Finnegan said. "It was a very pleasant surprise. It was a special honor."

Finnegan has served and been associated with youth soccer for 30 years. Besides his regional responsibilities, he has been ENY treasurer for 19 years. Finnegan began coaching in the Rockville Centre Soccer Club 30 years ago and guided girls teams through the Under-23 age group. He was an active member of the club and served as president for two years. He also has been a member of the U.S. Youth soccer budget committee for four years.

ENYYSA President Masotto Honored By Region I

Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association president Peter Masotto was honored by Region I for his outstanding service as an administrator and a coach by the organization at its fall meeting in Rhode Island.

Masotto, who has been president of ENYYSA for 20 years, has been involved in youth soccer for more than 30 years. "It's been an accomplishment to be president for 20 years," he said. "There is nothing else in U.S. Soccer that comes close to it. That in itself is a difficult task -- to please everybody." "It's quite an accomplishment to cooperate with leagues and clubs. If you can do that, you will accomplish something."

"I was shocked because they never tell me anything," Masotto said. "I was honored and was proud to receive it." Masotto received a plaque and an adidas watch.

In addition to being a long-time administrator, Masotto has coached 18 teams to State Cup championships, three to Region I titles and one to the U.S. Youth Soccer crown -- the 1986 Massapequa Falcons, who were the Under-19 champions. He was named National USYSA Coach of the Year in 1996.

15 ENYSA Boys Participate At ODP Interregionals

Fifteen boys from Eastern New York have participated in the U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program Boys Thanksgiving Interregional in Austin, Texas.

Two players -- midfielder Alex Bramall (Newburgh) and William Heuser (Hicksville) -- were called up to the U.S. Boys Under-14 National Team to compete.

Thirteen boys performed on one of three Region I teams -- 1989, 1991 and 1992.

The boys who were selected:

- 1989 -- Andreas Chronis, Steven Morales, Lucas Swertloff, John Tardy.
- 1991 -- Kadeem Dacres, Brendan Lafferty, James Mulligan, Dominick Parrelli, Marby Velsquez.
- 1992 -- Gregory Davis, Justin Orden, Joseph Pinto, Eden Spinks

21 ENY Girls Take Part In ODP Interregionals

Twenty-three girls from Eastern New York participated in the U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program Boys Thanksgiving Interregional at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla.

The girls performed on one of several Region I teams -- 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 -- and the 1989 U.S. Women's National Team.

The girls who were selected:

- 1988 -- Gina DiMartino, Akilah Duggan, Kelly Eagan, Kelly Henderson, Ashley Moore.
- 1989 -- Samantha Hermann, Jessica Herrmann, Brooke Knowlton, Lauren Singer, Amy Speck, Tiffany Yovino.
- 1990 -- Alaina Beyar, Brianna Garcia, Jenna McKeon, Katy Nagy, Alyssa Pember, Mariella Roman.
- 1991 -- Patrice Casimir, Victoria DiMartino.
- 1989 U.S. Women's National Team -- Hannah Cerrone, C.J. Ludemann.

ENYSA's Yatsuhashi Named Junior College Northeast Coach Of The Year

Kenichi Yatsuhashi, Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association's associate director of coaching education, has been named Junior College Division III Northeast coach of the year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Yatsuhashi, who guided the Borough of Manhattan Community College into the national Final Four in November, is up for the national honor, which was to be announced at the NSCAA convention in Philadelphia, Pa. on Jan. 20.

Top 10 Stories of 2005...Teams and People Who Made An Impact

Whether it was the Girls ODP South Under-16 winning the national title or B.W. Gottschee grabbing an unprecedented five State Cup crowns, there certainly was no shortage of stories in Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association in 2005.

Here's a short synopsis of the top 10 stories around the state:

1. There's a first time for everything

Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association's Girls South Under-16 team defeated Washington, 1-0, to capture the U.S. Youth Soccer ODP 1989 championship in Plano, Texas on March 13. It is the first time an ENYSSA team won an ODP national title. "It was a really good team effort playing for each other," coach Ian Stone said. "They were just so committed to the cause. "The lasting memory of this tournament was that they found a way to win. They're such fierce competitors." C.J. Ludemann, (Holtsville) converted a penalty kick in the 25th minute after Nicole Cavallaro (New Hyde Park) was taken down in the box by a defender after she took a pass from Rebecca Kaplan (Oyster Bay) and beat Washington players.

2. Give 'em a high five

A year after getting five teams to the State Cup finals, B.W. Gottschee did itself three better as eight teams won its semifinal Open Cup encounters. Not every team could walk away with a state title, but a record five teams did. Now, that will be a hard act to follow in 2006.

3. Saturday in the park

It's not every day you get a park -- or anything else for that matter -- named after you and you're still around to enjoy it. But Peter Collins and his family certainly did enjoy what transpired at the former Long Island Soccer Park on Sept. 10. The park was officially dedicated and renamed in his honor. Unless you have been living under a rock for the past generation or so, Collins was the Long Island Junior Soccer League president for 27 years, stepping down in 2004.

4. A second chance

Given a second chance under a new coach (Greg Ryan) with the U.S. Women's National Team, Massapequa Park, L.I. Christie Welsh certainly did not let any grass grow under her feet. Not only did she become a regular, she led the team in scoring with seven goals as the Americans finished unbeaten. Yes, the 2007 Women's World Cup in China is a long, long way away. But if Welsh continues her production and keeps impressing Ryan, she'll book a spot

5. Goodbye John, Goodbye Mary

John Varas and his wife Mary passed away within only eight months of each. John, the former Massapequa Park, L.I. resident, died after a long bout with cancer at the age of 69 in Winter Park, Fla. in March. Varas was an advocate of women's and girls soccer. He played the sport when he was younger, but decided to become a coach because he knew he could give more back to the game. He coached at all youth levels -- boys and girls. He eventually became a referee and eventually was named a national level assessor. John's wife Mary, died in early December. She was diagnosed with Inclusion Body Myositis three months ago. It is a very rare disease.

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Teams and People Who Made an Impact in 2005

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6. Good Showing

Again, Eastern New York enjoyed an impressive showing at the Region I and national ODP levels as 91 players were identified. Forty-two boys were ID'ed as regional players, including 25 players who were selected to be a part of the national pool in their respective age groups. "The program has come a long way," Boys State administrator Jack Cohen said. A total of 49 girls were identified as Region 1 players, including 16 players who were selected to be a part of the national pool in their respective age groups. "We were very successful in having our players identified to the Regional pool and invited to national camp," said Girls State ODP Administrator Richie Christiano.

7. From theory to practicality

Not only could they teach coaches and produce some talented players at the youth level, but ENYSA Boys South ODP head coach Cesar Markovic and Kenichi Yatsuhashi, the associate director of coaching education, put their theories into practice on the field at the college level. Markovic, the Stony Brook men's coach who was called one of the game's rising young coaches by Connecticut coach Ray Reid, guided the Seawolves into their first NCAA Division I tournament before losing to the Huskies. Yatsuhashi guided the Borough of Manhattan Community College men to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III semifinals before losing.

8. A fitting send-off

JoAnne Russell, the founder of the Hofstra women's soccer program in 1992, could not have asked for a better send-off. For the first time ever, the Pride qualified for the NCAA Division I tournament, winning the Colonial Athletic Association title in the process, barely a week after Russell announced her retirement. Hofstra was eliminated by West Virginia, 3-0, in the tournament, but the loss hardly took away the sheen and excitement of reaching college soccer's big dance. The Hofstra men also reached the NCAA's, which is believed to be the first time men's and women's sides from an ENY-based school qualified their respective tournaments.

9. The classy class of '05

The Eastern New York Soccer Hall of Fame inducted seven new members. Glen Mernone, George Snizek, Nino DePasquali, Boris Lazari, Ben Boehm, Barry Salter and Cesar Maniccia were elected into the hall and were inducted at the Christmas party of Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association and Eastern New York State Amateur Soccer Association in Franklin Square, L.I. in December.

10. Another classy class

A pair of former Long Islanders found themselves elected to and inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame -- Levittown, L.I. native Hank Steinbrecher, former general secretary and executive director of U.S. Soccer, and former New York Arrows and United midfielder Fernando Clavijo. They were inducted at the Hall's annual ceremonies in Oneonta, N.Y. on Aug. 29

Reid's Advice To Stony Brook: Don't Let Markovic Get Away

University of Connecticut coach Ray Reid has a message for the Stony Brook athletic department: Don't let Cesar Markovic get away.

Markovic, who transformed the Seawolves into an NCAA tournament side in only two years since taking over the coaching reins, has impressed many college observers and coaches. That included Reid, a Brentwood, L.I. native who guided UConn to the NCAA Division I crown in 2000.

In fact, before he spoke about his team at the post-game press conference after UConn's 2-0 victory in November, Reid talked about Markovic.

"First of all, I want to comment on the job Cesar Markovic has done at Stony Brook," Reid said. "To say that program was in disarray when he got there would be an understatement. He's done great. We did not want a piece of him.

"I think you're going to see that team in the next two-three years perennially be a top 20 team. I really mean it. To beat Yale and to have us in a one-goal game until the 89th minute, he's done a great job."

Markovic, who also is the director of coaching for Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association, joined Stony Brook in 2004 after a successful stint at Saint Peter's College. The Seawolves, who finished at 4-13-1 and had only one season above .500 the previous decade, improved to 11-6-3 in 2004 before completing this season with the most wins in school history and a 13-5-4 record.

When asked about Stony Brook's strategy a little later on, Reid praised the 37-year-old Markovic again. "Stony Brook better look at his contract because he ain't going to be there too much longer, the kind of work that guy does," he said. "I'm not just saying it. I mean it sincerely. This guy is one of the top young coaches in the country."

As good and as promising Stony Brook was this season, Reid expected the team to improve as Markovic continues to recruit his own players into the program. "Wait until he gets three or four recruiting cycles," he said.

Of course, Reid just might be a bit biased. "He's a New York guy and I like New York guys," he said with a smile.

Arena: It's Wait And See On Armas Leipzig, Germany

U.S. coach Bruce Arena is taking a wait-and-see attitude about whether Chicago Fire defensive midfielder Chris Armas can rehabilitate his knee in time for next June's World Cup.

Armas, a Brentwood, L.I. native and Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association graduate, suffered an ACL tear to his left knee. Armas, who suffered the injury in the Fire's first game against D.C. United in the Eastern Conference semifinals of the MLS playoffs in late October, figured he would get back to training and playing by March or April.

That won't give him much time to come back and rediscover his playing form since Arena plans to name his roster in May.

"Every player is different coming back from injuries," Arena said at the World Cup draw. "You just don't know.

"He's going to do everything he can do to come back."

DiMartino Sisters (Massapequa Park, L.I.) Invited To National Camps

In what could be a first, sisters have been invited to U.S. National Team camp -- the DiMartino sisters of Massapequa Park, L.I.

Forward Christina DiMartino (Girls Under-15) and midfielder Christina DiMartino (Women's U-20) attended training camp at The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. The U-20 camp ran from Jan. 2-9, while the U-15 session was to be held on Jan. 22-28.

Also on the U-20 team are defender Brittany Taylor of Campbell Hall, N.Y., and midfielder Allie Long of Northport, L.I.

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The only official website for Eastern New York Youth Soccer is <http://www.enysoccer.com>. All info concerning ENY YSA will be posted on this website.

Any other website is unofficial and may contain information that is outdated or inaccurate.

The website contains the following information: latest news, latest accurate information on the State Cup, the latest information on the state's Olympic Development Program and the latest updates on the Eastern NY Premier League and the Northeast Premier League. The website is also the place to go for on-line Permission to Travel forms and information on how to contact officers of the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association.