Wolfington Family NJTL East Coast Leadership Tour

Academic-Athletic Leadership Award Winners 2008



- A child who came from the ranch life, Mani had an incredible work ethic, but less exposure to the big city and large groups. Through his 3 years time with the Foundation, he has been a tremendous asset, a significant part of our work program, and an assistant to the coaches. He also found his passion in video production and computers, which we supported by making him in charge of all such matters. Mani is now in charge of making a highlight video of this trip. When asked what is his favorite lifetime memory, Mani said, "Meeting the Señors in the Foundation." These relationships have helped Mani come out of his shell and thrive as a great open tennis player worthy of a college scholarship and as a friend, son, and individual. Mani received the prestigious "Rudy Award," the year's highest honor, and the USTA Sportsmanship Award.



JULIA BALTAS - Raised by her dad, Julia started tennis at age 7, and as a result of the Foundation increased her GPA from a 3.0 to all A's for the last 3 years. She has also won numerous national tournaments, and reached top 20 in the United States and #1 in the State of Nevada. Julia won the USTA Sportsmanship Award and the Mike Agassi NO QUIT Award. She is going into her senior year, and already has countless scholarship offers, including letters from Penn, Dartmouth, Brown, and full-ride offers from Syracuse and Colorado.



JEFF VONGMAN - Learning to play tennis in the parks of Las Vegas by his father, Jeff became #1 in Nevada at a young age. Unable to afford playing national events, the Andre Agassi Foundation helped with his training and travel, resulting in Jeff becoming #5 in the United States. Since the tutoring program, Jeff went from C's and D's to all A's. Jeff is the winner of the USTA Most Promising Award, and the State of Nevada #1 ranking. He has always shown an extraordinary desire to be great at everything he does, and a willingness to do whatever it takes to be the best. His coaches and friends call him "Tsunami."



KRISTOPHER YEE - Kristofer is not only an accomplished tennis player, but also a great artist, painter, and intellect. With straight A's he is extraordinary on the court and the canvas. His newfound dedication to the sport of tennis this year has resulted in his winning two major national tournaments and becoming ranked #7 in the United States. His college scholarship or maybe even professional tennis prospects look very bright, as does his future in art. The Foundation just recently commissioned two paintings from Kristopher and got him an internship at the Bellagio Art Gallery in Las Vegas.



OMAR GARCIA - Entering the United States in asylum, to avoid danger from his home town in Mexico, Omar found tennis at a Cinco de Mayo parade and since has become part of our group. He has gone from partying to training, from chasing girls to chasing a career, and has shown interest in becoming a tennis teaching professional. His improvement has been so drastic as to warrent a spot on this year's trip.



ED URETA - Ed, getting into tennis late, has gone full force to catch up. Entering the tutoring program, he secured his first ever 4.0 average, done in part so he could qualify for this year's East Coast trip. Ed has learned the importance of honesty, patience, earning one's way, and developing a strong work ethic.



SARAH LUCAS - Sarah is a latecomer to tennis, but through her #1 best attitude among all the children, she has improved drastically and has just received straight A's for the second year in a row. She is a leader on the team and in two years has become the top player on her high school team. Sarah is on the right track to a college scholarship.



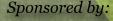
ZACH BELLON - Zach has long had all A's in school, and has been among the best players in the State of Nevada. His six-state regional ranking has been as high as #15. He is also a State High School Champion. Zach's training regimen is second to none, with 4 hours a day in tennis, almost as much studying, and he is on his way to a full honor's diploma and possibly a scholarship for athletics and academics.



the nation and six state region. Through this trip, he has gotten straight A's for the first time in his life and has begun to see the importance of being excellent on and off the court. Dillon has been designated as a college scholarship player, and he expects many offers going into his junior year.



tennis player, but not of the national caliber of the other children. She does not even live in Las Vegas. But the letter she wrote, begging to go on this trip and why she so desperately wanted to go, was so impressive that the committee was persuaded to make her a part of the trip. Brittany has held two jobs, has a top GPA, and been an active volunteer. She has helped her mother, who is a single parent, and done all she can to strive for her dream of becoming Secretary of State of the United States.





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Marty Hennessy
Junior Tennis Foundation

