

STREET SQUASH NEWS

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Summer 05

STREETSQUASH BREAKS GROUND on Permanent Facility in Harlem



Stephen L. Green donates \$1.5 million to StreetSquash! StreetSquash raises \$6.6 million of \$9 million goal

What was once a long-shot dream for a small non-profit is quickly turning into reality: 2 months ago StreetSquash broke ground on what is to be an 18,700 square foot community center that will serve over 1,000 Harlem public school children every year. As of July 2006, StreetSquash's Capital Committee has raised over \$6.6 million of the \$9 million goal, and Stephen L. Green, a long-time supporter and Board member, has led the charge with a \$1.5 million gift.

"Steve has always stepped up for the kids," says Jeffrey Laikind, StreetSquash's Chairman of the Board, "but this gift is truly remarkable. Steve

continues to make a tangible and meaningful difference in the lives of New York City public school children, and he has long recognized the need for everyone to get involved to ensure the highest quality of education possible for these students. What sets Steve apart is that he acts and does something, and his gift makes a center like this a reality, rather than a dream. Thousands of children, for years to come, will benefit from Steve's incredible generosity"

The center will be located on 115th street between 5th and Lenox avenues, and will have 4 classrooms, a library, 8 international squash courts, locker

rooms and administrative offices. These spaces within the facility will allow the program to continue offering all of its present programs – academic tutoring, college prep, squash instruction – but now StreetSquash will be able to serve a much larger segment of the population. In addition, the facility will be owned completely by StreetSquash, so that it can be used 24/7 to further the mission of the organization. One particularly exciting new initiative will be the Physical Education for Public Schools Program which will serve over 500 children annually through daytime squash instruction gym programs.

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Credits:

Written by:

James Zug

Design:

desantis graphic design

StreetSquash

420 Lexington Avenue / Suite 246

New York, New York 10170

Voice/Fax: **212.949.4030**

Web: **www.StreetSquash.org**

Courtesy of Dayna Kirk.

StreetSquashers are National Champs!



StreetSquash seniors celebrate victory at the 2nd Annual Urban Squash Individual Nationals to conclude their six years in the program.

StreetSquash rounded out another very successful team season by capturing two National Championships at the 2nd Annual Urban Team Nationals in Boston in April and 2 titles at the 2nd Annual Urban Squash Individual Nationals at Groton, Mass. in June.

The Badger and Rosen Squashbusters Center on the campus of Northeastern University hosted the team event. It consisted of thirty-six 5-man teams and over one hundred and seventy-five students from the four major U.S. youth enrichment squash programs; Squashbusters in Boston, SquashSmarts in Philadelphia, CitySquash in the Bronx and StreetSquash. All nine of the StreetSquash teams showed squash skill, enthusiasm and prowess. The StreetSquash Boys Under 19 A team of Davian Suckoo, Lonnie Gibbs, Justin Martin, Xavier Harrison and Ramon Potter had an impressive tournament and proved too experienced as they rolled over the Squashbusters A team by a 4-1 margin in the final. Likewise, the StreetSquash Girls Under 15 A team of Sheena Suckoo, Gabrielle Robinson-Harris, Samantha Matos, Princess Hardwell and Brandy Robinson avenged a heart-breaking loss to CitySquash in the 2004 finals by gutting out a 3-2 victory against their New York City rivals to win StreetSquash's second national title. Other StreetSquash successes included the Girls Under 19 B team finishing as the runner-up in their division and a third place result for the Boys Under 15 A team. The younger teams all gained invaluable match play experience that will serve them well for years to come.

Two months later over one hundred eighty six students from the four major programs, as well as KidzSquash in Poughkeepsie, came to Groton to play in the national individual event. Although it serves as a time to renew friendships with players from other teams, the weekend is still a serious and spirited event. The first annual Urban Squash Poetry Slam, held on Saturday night, added an aca-

demic component to the event. StreetSquash had several winning poets including Latasha Bailey and Lavonda Howe. On the squash side match play began on Friday night due to the vast number of entrants. Some draws had over 50 entrants, and the level of play is getting better and better every year. For the first time this year, a significant number of the children had national rankings, and the players who made it to the

later rounds are undoubtedly future stars on the American squash circuit. StreetSquash students were nonetheless up for the challenge. Davian Suckoo, Lonnie Gibbs and Justin Martin finished first, second and third in the Boys Under 19 division. David Nash won the Boys Under 15 division without dropping a game despite entering the game as the number 3 seed. The Girls Under 15 division was the most up-for-grabs, as

there were over 50 entrants and the top players had all beat up on each other throughout the year in dual matches. No StreetSquash girls won that draw, but they showed their depth placing 6 children in the final 16 and 3 students in the final 8. Most importantly, team members demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship throughout the weekend and put out 100% effort on the court at all times. ●

StreetSquash Graduates First Class

June 24th, 2005 marked an historic day for StreetSquash: the original group of StreetSquash students graduated from high school and prepared to head off to college. On what has been a long, 6-year journey, these seniors can boast of being the first class to graduate from the StreetSquash program. George Polsky, Executive Director, comments, "This is truly a bitter-sweet moment for me, as I have gotten to know these children and their families so well. It is very hard to say goodbye, but I do so knowing that their futures are bright, and that we, as an organization, have done everything we could do to ensure their success." 50% of these children will be the first in their families to go to college.

StreetSquash is also aware of the high percentage of college students who do not graduate (the national average 4-year graduation rate is 29%), often because they lack the support and funds to get their degree. Mindful of this reality, the College Prep Program staff, parents and students did lots of work on securing financial aid to make sure that they would be able to afford a college education. In perhaps the greatest statement of the program's support for these children and recognition of all their hard work, StreetSquash awarded \$38,000 worth of college scholarships to its first graduating class. We wish them well!

Cequidra Davis – *Monroe College, New Rochelle, NY*

Tajon Rice – *University at Albany, Albany NY*

Sonia Gaona – *University at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY*

Albatina Harris – *Monroe College, New Rochelle, NY*

Allagha Padilla – *Mohawk Valley Community College, Mohawk Valley, NY*

Lonnie Gibbs – *Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT*

Davian Suckoo – *University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY*

Taralyn Gonzalez – *University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Baltimore, MD*

Justin Martin – *Old Westbury, Long Island, NY*

Christian Knight – *Monroe College, New Rochelle, NY*

Latasha Bailey – *Monroe College, New Rochelle, NY*

Raymond Flowers – *Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL*

Xavier Harrison – *Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH*

Bianca Record – *Cheyney University, Cheyney, PA*

Alaysha Williams – *Alaysha is working full time, and plans to matriculate in the September, 2006.* ●



"Fifteen StreetSquashers graduated as members of the Thurgood Marshall Academy Class of 2005. Pictured are: (From left to right) Justin Martin, Xavier Harrison, Alaysha Williams, Lonnie Gibbs, Taralyn Gonzalez, and Allagha Padilla (with his sister)"

cover Story (continued)

The StreetSquash family – students, schools, parents, staff, Board – has long recognized the need to build a facility in the same community where the students live and go to school. Over the past 6 years, the program has had to rely on the generosity and physical space of several partners – the Harvard Club of New York, Columbia University and the West Side YMCA – to run its programs. While these places have helped StreetSquash and its students accomplish so much, it has always been clear that so many more children and schools wanted and deserved more help. This facility will allow the program to serve almost 10 times the number of students currently active, and most importantly, the children and their families will have a place to call their own.

While Steve Green's support has been critical to the campaign's success to this date, there are many others who are doing their part to make this building a reality. To date, 37 entities have donated to the campaign, including

100% of the Board and many other foundations, corporations and individuals. StreetSquash's goal is to have at least 175 entities support the project, and the focus over the next year will be on mass participation.

To build and design this state-of-the-art facility, StreetSquash has enlisted the services of the architecture firm Richard Dattner & Partners. After months of reviewing proposals from a variety of qualified firms, StreetSquash settled on Dattner, which has done countless civic education and sports projects in New York City. Over the past 12 months, StreetSquash staff and Board members have met with Dattner architect John Woelfling to help design a space that would meet all programmatic needs.

With Green's leadership, StreetSquash is now primed to build upon the successes of the past six years. The program began in September 1999 with twenty-eight 6th and 7th graders from two Harlem schools, two full-time staff members and twenty volunteers. The

basic structure of the program was set in place: two after-school practices during the week from 3:30 to 6:00pm and a Saturday morning practice. Half of each practice was devoted to squash; the other half to academics. Many of the Saturday practices involved squash tournaments and matches, community service projects and cultural outings.

In the second year, StreetSquash added a director of academics to ensure a greater focus in the classroom. In the third year, StreetSquash introduced two new components: the Literary Program which added a fourth meeting each week to concentrate on reading and writing skills; and a Summer Discovery & Youth Employment Program that both introduced 4th and 5th graders to StreetSquash and provided StreetSquashers with the opportunity to work as camp counselors. In addition, StreetSquash started to send its members to summer squash camps all around the U.S. and even over to England. By the end of the third year,



Getting down to work. StreetSquash volunteer Ken Wun and Team 2 StreetSquasher Cody Levy at an after-school study session.



Team 2 StreetSquasher Tyquan Jones and volunteer Quinn Auerbach at the Harvard Club.

StreetSquash was a thriving, year-round program that maximized its impact on its team members.

In September 2002 StreetSquash had a strong enough base to expand for the first time in four years. The program doubled in size, to 60 kids, and with the expansion of the Summer Discovery & Youth Employment Program, now served one hundred and twenty Harlem boys and girls. StreetSquash added two more full-time staffers and brought in numerous new tutors and volunteers. As a result, StreetSquash was able to grow without sacrificing the high quality of the program.

In the fifth year, StreetSquash hired a staff member to coordinate volunteers and summer programming and a staff member to direct the College Prep Program, a new and vital component.

In the sixth year, now just completed, StreetSquash expanded again. With the founding group of team members now

on the verge of graduation, the program brought in a new group of seventeen 7th graders, a new staff member and a new initiative, the Fast Track College Prep Program, to begin the college process early. The new group of 7th graders, dubbed Team Three, have made a very strong commitment to the program. They went on a snowy field trip to northern New England to go ice skating and sledding and visit the incomparable campus of Dartmouth College. Their squash skills have skyrocketed. And they have merged very smoothly into the StreetSquash program. In fact, one of the gratifying things about Team Three was revealed at the Urban Team Nationals in April. The 9th graders, who are a part of Team Two, were once the youngest members of StreetSquash; now they took the 7th graders under their wing and guided them through the athletic and social aspects of the big weekend.

The totals today: eighty StreetSquashers; a further sixty in our summer camp program; eight full-time staff members; four part-time academic tutors; and one hundred and twenty volunteers. In the past six years, StreetSquash has participated in over sixty community service projects and played in over one hundred and forty squash competitions.

While the organization is poised for substantial growth over the next few years, it will always remain true to its goal: to make meaningful change in our students' lives through intensive, long-term work. The future continues to be bright for StreetSquash and its children, and we look forward to the next few years as the walls go up on our new home. ●



Janelle Maloney and volunteer Richard Scott on the court at Columbia.



StreetSquash volunteer tutors are an integral part of our students' academic successes. Volunteer Cara Furman with Team 2 StreetSquasher Kevin Espino.

Parent Interview



Gonzalez-Hardwell siblings make StreetSquash a family tradition.

Pictured are: Princess Hardwell (Team 2), Taralyn Gonzalez (Team 1), Elijah Hardwell (Team 3), and grandmother Queen Strayhorn.

Queen Strayhorn is the grandmother of Taralyn Gonzalez, Princess Hardwell, and Elijah Hardwell and a steadfast supporter of StreetSquash.

StreetSquash: When did you first hear about StreetSquash? What were your first impressions?

Queen: I first heard about it when Taralyn was in the 7th grade. She joined the program and then dropped it. When she picked it up again, it kept her busy and focused and motivated. What impressed me most about the program is that the students had a higher school attendance than their classmates.

SS: You've had a child in StreetSquash since the program started six years ago. Would you have thought then that you'd have all three of your children in StreetSquash at this point?

Queen: No! (laughs) I thought Princess just wanted to be there because of Taralyn, but she gets so much out of it on her own. The same for Elijah too.

SS: What do you think StreetSquash means to Taralyn? Princess? Elijah?

Queen: They have made lifetime friendships with people they can rely on and talk to. For Taralyn it was important as well to have grown ups she couldn't talk with me about. Early on Joy [Rivera, StreetSquash's first Director of Squash and Community Service] was someone she really felt close with, and she still calls her if she really needs to. For Princess being a part of StreetSquash taught her a lot of discipline that she may not have gotten at school alone. It gets her to think about her actions, and the consequences. She loves playing squash. For Elijah too, I thought he might just be joining because of his sisters, but he does it for his own reasons. He really wants the academics and the fun of it as well.

SS: What does it mean for you to have three children in StreetSquash?

Queen: I work and I'm a single grandmother. I know they're safe, and where they are and I can always keep in touch. It means a lot to me, and gives me a sense of security. Lots of children don't stick with after-school programs, and I am proud that my children have done that.

SS: What kinds of goals do your children have for the future?

Queen: I would like to see them all graduate from high school as Taralyn is doing this year. None of my own children finished college, and I'm looking forward to seeing them go on and do that. I have no immediate family who've made it through college, so this is the first time for me. Through StreetSquash's College Prep Program they have an opportunity to better their chances too. It was great for these kids to go on college campuses and get a feel for life at college.

SS: What is it like to be raising three grandchildren?

Queen: It's a joy. I feel like God has given me a second chance. I can correct some of the mistakes I feel I made with my own children, and I'm a better mother the second time around. It's such a joy though the children really keep me going and keep me on my toes. I know I can't just sit around because I have these children to take care of. I'm pretty busy. I haven't gotten a chance to see Elijah play yet, but I'm going to get out there the first chance I get. It's hard keeping track of three grandchildren sometimes, with work being so busy too.

SS: Were sports a part of your life growing up?

Queen: I played basketball some. But you know, I grew up in the South and girls didn't get too involved in sports. There were sports I always wanted to do like swimming and track, and roller skating. I never did get a chance to learn how to roller skate, so I get joy from seeing my grandchildren enjoy these things that I never got a chance to do.

SS: Taralyn went to Ecuador last summer. What do you think that meant for her? And for you? And how about Princess going to Belize this summer?

Queen: I'm a person who likes to travel, and raising the children I don't get that much of a chance to travel. I was able to travel down to

the Caribbean, once to Brazil, and one time to Africa. Ecuador was great for Taralyn. She got to see a different culture, where people didn't care about things like the name brand sneakers or jeans. Those things weren't as important for her when she got back. It's also going to be great for Princess. I'm a little nervous, but I feel good about her going to Belize.

SS: Is there anything you'd like to add about StreetSquash?

Queen: I just hope it continues on for other children as well. And it's a great experience for everyone involved and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow. ●

Parent Board

This past year the StreetSquash parents showed increased participation in the program. With the launch of the StreetSquash Parent Board, they have assumed team representative positions, contacted other parents and encouraged their participation at meetings, community service events and as chaperones at tournaments. In an effort to teach responsibility to the children and foster a sense of ownership for equipment, the Parent Board enthusiastically hosted a team fundraiser where students raised funds to purchase their team jackets.



Eileen Gibson 7th, Shirley Cain 12th, Ilva Keith 9th, Altargacia Valerio 11th, Kim Carter 7th, Pamela Young Robinson 9th, Eunice Leslie 7th, Carmen Walsh 11th, Wynessia Levy 8th, Monique Andino 11th, Deborah Jenkins 12th

On the board, there was had great representation from parents, grandparents and guardians of all three teams. Parents found the meetings to be valuable opportunities to share their children's experiences, they

were able to discuss the ways in which StreetSquash has helped their children socially, emotionally and academically. ●

Community Service and cultural outings

October 2004

- Breast Cancer Walkathon: StreetSquash children raised over \$1,500.
- Museum of Natural History: Scavenger Hunt.

November 2004

- Riverside Park: Fall Cleanup.

January 2005

- Martin Luther King High School: wrote letters, birthday cards, and made art for the elderly and soldiers.
- Yorkville Common Pantry: distributed food to the homeless.
- Yoga: participated in class at OM Yoga Studio.
- Hanover, NH: Field Trip included sledding, ice skating, bowling and tour of beautiful Dartmouth College.

March 2005

- Yoga: participated in class at OM Yoga Studio.
- Lancaster, PA: Field Trip included squash match against Lancaster Country Day, visit to a dairy farm, and tour of Franklin and Marshall University.

- Princeton, NJ: Field Trip included tour of Princeton University, trip to chocolate store, and squash match against the Princeton Junior Squash Program.
- Yorkville Common Pantry: distributed food to the homeless.

April 2005

- Boston Museum of Science: explored famous science museum.

May 2005

- Burden Center For the Aging: Delivered Meals on Wheels to the elderly.
- Crunch Fitness: Participated in Hip-Hop Dance Class.
- CrossRoads Food Pantry: Distributed food to the homeless.
- AIDS Walk: StreetSquash members raised over \$1,000.

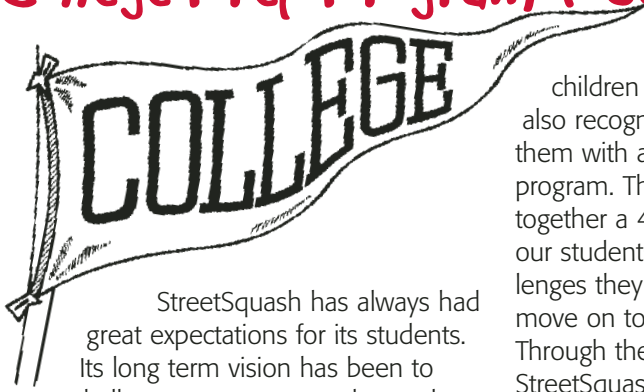
June 2005

- Jenny Benitez Community Garden: Weeded and planted in neighborhood garden.



StreetSquashers in Central Park walk to raise money for AIDS research.

College Prep Program Focuses on The Future



StreetSquash has always had great expectations for its students. Its long term vision has been to challenge, encourage and propel our children beyond high school graduation towards a college career. While the work done in the after school tutoring sessions is vital towards helping these

children improve their grades, we also recognize the need to provide them with a formal college preparation program. The StreetSquash staff has put together a 4-year curriculum to assist our students in the wide variety of challenges they will face as they prepare to move on to secondary education. Through the College Prep Program, each StreetSquash student receives: intensive SAT training, assistance with college essay writing and applications, information on financial aid, exposure to various colleges and universities, and workshops

with guest speakers with expertise in the college application process. All parents are also intimately involved, as they too play a crucial role in the college application process.

The key to successful high school graduation rates, strong S.A.T. scores and acceptance into competitive colleges is early preparation. Our current graduating class is a testimony to the benefits of early intervention. We look forward to the future accomplishments of our current high schoolers. ●

All students who received StreetSquash's S.A.T. preparation improved their scores by 60 points, with many children making an impressive 120 point jump.

Staff Evolution

Lindsay Sullivan is stepping down as Program Director after five years with the organization. A stalwart for StreetSquash since joining the program in 2000, she did more than anyone else to manage the growth of the program and keep it focused on its mission. She is leaving to pursue a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. Lindsay will be in close contact with StreetSquash and will happily house the StreetSquash team on their excursions to Philadelphia next year.

Mary Cipollone, the Academic Director and Director of Literacy and Volunteer Recruitment, is leaving after a very successful two years with StreetSquash. Following her heart, Mary is moving to Quito, Ecuador with her boyfriend to pursue her work with street children.

Jonny Smith is leaving his position as StreetSquash's High School Director of Squash and Community Service after two years to pursue private squash coaching. He will still be in New York City and we look forward to his continued involvement in the program. Filling

these shoes will not be easy, but StreetSquash, through internal promotion and new hiring is committed to making this years staff as strong our strongest to date.

Sage Ramadge will step into Lindsay's role as Program Director. With three years experience as Academic Director, Sage is ready to take on the new challenges of managing staff and overseeing all programs at StreetSquash. He is very popular with the kids and StreetSquash is very glad to promote him to his new position.

Peter Karlen, who has just completed his third year with StreetSquash, will return in the Fall as Director of Development. We look for Pete to continue to do amazing work generating support for the capital campaign and the program.●



Sage Ramadge has been promoted to Program Director, and has committed himself to two more years at StreetSquash.

Lonnie Gibbs



A successful partnership. Lonnie Gibbs, Wesleyan University bound and Thurgood Marshall Academy Class of 2005 Valedictorian, with his StreetSquash College Mentor Ron Singer.

Lonnie Gibbs, a senior at Thurgood Marshall Academy and five-year member of StreetSquash, had an unforgettable final season. Wesleyan University in Connecticut accepted him into its class of 2009. Everyone at StreetSquash was justifiably proud of this stunning achievement. In addition, Wesleyan offered a sizable financial aid package that helps take the some of the burden off of his mother, Thelma Whitley.

Soon afterwards, Lonnie found out that he was the recipient of the Catalog for Giving's Urban Hero Award. This award was given out to only ten students across the nation. It recognized Lonnie's hard work and academic and athletic achievement on the StreetSquash team. As Valedictorian at Thurgood Marshall, Lonnie improved his GPA from 84 before he joined StreetSquash to 91.

Within StreetSquash Lonnie has been one of the most honored team members. This season he received the 2005 StreetSquasher of the Year Award and the 2005 Academic Achievement Award in recognition of

all his fine work on and off the court. Previously, Lonnie had won the 2002 Jim Keresey Award for Outstanding Overall Performance, the 2003 Leadership Award and the 2004 Squash Achievement Award. Lonnie took advantage of all the parts of StreetSquash. He worked in July 2004 as an intern at Health Jam, a New York health and nutrition outreach program. Squash was a huge part of Lonnie's high school years. He attended the CompleteSquash Camp at Harvard in the summer of 2001, ????? in the summer of ????? and in the summer of 2004 received a Catherine Chirls Scholarship to attend Bryan Patterson's squash camp in England. Moreover, Manhattan squash pro Roland LaFontant gave Lonnie private lessons each winter. The extra attention paid off and Lonnie was ranked number two on the StreetSquash ladder his senior year and earned a top-seventy national ranking.

"Of course, I am very, very proud of what Lonnie Gibbs has achieved," said Ron Singer, Lonnie's College Prep Mentor. "In fact, I would like to take complete credit for his many achievements, but this would not be completely fair. In addition to his mom, Thelma Whitley, and his teachers, including Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wang, the

person who really deserves the credit is Lonnie. The kind of person he is—conscientious, focused, friendly, kind and moral—and the kind of student he is—quick and eager to learn—account for both his outstanding success and my enjoyment working with him. My only regret is that I do not expect to be able ever again to win a single game of squash against Lonnie."

After Wesleyan, Lonnie wants to become a doctor, specifically a neurosurgeon. His role model is Dr. Ben Carson, an African American who came from a broken home in inner city Detroit and rose to become one of the nation's top brain surgeons. Lonnie sees a little of Dr. Carson in himself and believes that he can achieve his dream with determination and a strong support system, both of which he already possesses. Whatever Lonnie ultimately chooses as his career, we know that he will be successful because he has already shown he possesses intellectual curiosity, perseverance and a strong work ethic. ●

outstanding Volunteer Richard Scott

Richard Scott, a law student at Columbia University, has worked with StreetSquash as a volunteer for the past three seasons and has been one of the many outstanding contributors to the program. He is taking the bar exam this summer and then heading to Philadelphia to clerk for a federal judge for a year.

StreetSquash: What are your favorite aspects of the program?

Richard Scott: I really love being on the court with the kids. I think that StreetSquash provides a fun environment for kids to learn both on the court and off. I very much enjoy the fact that the kids take their squash seriously but never seem to lose track of the fact that it is a game. The longer I volunteered with the program the more I was able to achieve as far as teaching racquetwork or shot selection—both because I was getting better at teaching the game and because I had gotten to know each of the kids and knew what would be helpful to them and what would not, what they would listen to and what might fall upon deaf ears, etc.

It was also nice to see the kids get ready for big tournaments and then the following week hear their stories about the weekend's matches and other activities on the trip. Tournaments like the Urban Nationals are wonderful in helping the kids set goals and improve their games.

SS: What do you feel that you have received from the program?

RS: As a student I was able to have control of my schedule and that allowed me to volunteer at the same time every week with the same group of kids. It was very rewarding to see the kids develop as squash players, see them improve from week to week (and year to year) and to see my suggestions from earlier practices implemented in drills and games

SS: What is your favorite memory of StreetSquash?

RS: This past spring I came over to Columbia to play squash with a friend from law school. As it turned out we got our date and time mixed up, and I didn't have a partner to play with. I was trying to get in shape for the U.S. nationals and wanted to get a workout. The high

school group from StreetSquash was practicing that afternoon and Jonny was nice enough to let me jump on the court with two or three of the boys to do some drills and play some points. Forty-five minutes later I was completely drained and had had a great time with the guys. It was great fun and felt like a college practice to me.

I think it is a testament to Pete, George, Pat and Jonny (and all of the others who work with the program) that these high schoolers were playing at such a high level so soon after picking up the game. They were friendly and sportsmanlike, and while I suppose I took this for granted in working with the younger kids every week, it was extremely gratifying to see what kind of young adults emerge at the end of the day from a program like StreetSquash. ●



Team 2 StreetSquashers at Columbia University with Outstanding Volunteer Richard Scott.

Pictured are: (From left to right) Mohamed Barro, Samantha Matos, Richard Scott, Ramon Potter, Stephanie Williams, and Janelle Maloney.

Mentoring



Harvard Club Squash Director, StreetSquash Board Member, and StreetSquash Mentor Richard Chin with his mentee, Team 2 StreetSquasher David Nash.

An important part of StreetSquash is the mentoring component, in which a mentor has the potential to make a dramatic impact on a young child's life. With a new group of 7th graders joining StreetSquash this past fall, it was important to start these relationships early. Eleven StreetSquashers were paired up with a mentor from the New York community including Brussels Mercado and Barbara Boynton, Guytaul Bennett and Ben Stewart, Shelby Bozeman and

Nicolle Austin and Anaeze Offedile and Raheem Logan. The total number of mentoring relationships in StreetSquash stands at twenty-one.

Many StreetSquash group mentoring activities took place this season. On a Saturday afternoon after practice in September mentees and mentors got together in Riverside Park near Columbia University to have wheelbarrow and one-legged races and play capture the flag. After

StreetSquash's Christmas Party where mid-year awards and prizes were given out, the mentoring program ice-skated in Alaska Rink in Central Park. Mentors and mentees alike tested their bowling skills to the fullest when they went bowling at the Port Authority in February. In May they went to the Stadium to cheer on the New York Yankees in a game against the Detroit Tigers; for all the Mets fans in the program, we went in the early summer to Shea Stadium to see the other Gotham baseball team.

One example of a successful mentoring pair is Richard Chin and David Nash. Besides being one of America's most recognizable squash names, Chin, the Harvard Club squash professional, devotes much of his free time to ensure that David Nash develops both on and off the court. The two have been together now for three years, and in his spare time David, a 9th grader, can often be found at his "home away from home" at the Harvard Club on Friday and Saturday afternoons studying math and perfecting his backhand volley. This past winter, Richard took David to the CRC Junior Squash Classic in Cincinnati, where he finished 4th, and Richard plans to take David to more tournaments this fall. David's grades have improved from high 60s to the low 80s since their relationship began, and David capped off this season with a top forty national squash ranking in the Boys under 15 junior division.

If anyone is interested in becoming a StreetSquash mentor, please contact Pat Cosquer at pat@streetsquash.org or Peter Karlen at peter@streetsquash.org. 212.949.4030 •

National Individual Rankings

Eight StreetSquash players were ranked in the U.S. this past season.

Under 15 year old Boys:

David Nash—40
Ramon Potter—114
Tyquan Jones—126

Under 15 Girls

Sheena Suckoo—69
Samantha Matos—94

Under 17 Boys

Daequan Andino—145

Under 19 Boys

Davian Suckoo—66
Lonnie Gibbs—69

Summer Programs

StreetSquash has a deep commitment to provide new and challenging opportunities for its students throughout the summer months. In addition to the StreetSquash Summer Discovery Program in July, students will attend a variety of exciting summer camps. We are still working with most of last year's programs and have also developed a few new partnerships with well-established programs that will enable our students to have enriching, absorbing summers.

Four students will be participating in international community service trips this summer: Sheena Suckoo will be doing environmental work in Puerto Rico through Windsor Mountain, the forty-five year-old summer camp program based in rural New Hampshire; Princess Hardwell will be assisting rural communities in Belize through Global Routes, a two-decade old program; and Asia Navarette and Gabrielle Robinson will be traveling to Panama with AFS Intercultural Programs, the ninety-year-old exchange organization.

Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp, founded in 1942 and located in rural Connecticut, has generously provided over \$15,000 in scholarships

for Javen Williams, Paige Babilonia, Shelby Bozeman and Brussels Mercado to spend a month developing their artistic talents. Buck's Rock offers workshops in everything from glass blowing and leather working to set design and modern dance. The camp's philosophy allows the students the freedom to design their own schedules in order to give them a taste of independent decision making and to nurture their artistic impulses.

Nine students will benefit from a summer at Camp Dudley, a century-old boys' sports camp on Lake Champlain in upstate New York. Camp Dudley generously sponsors all of these students on full scholarships to the camp. We have already seen how a summer of practicing Camp Dudley's motto, "the other fellow first," has helped previous attendees become more generous and mature.

Ar-Rianna Glover and Keddie Valerio will be receiving Catherine Chirls Scholarships to attend Bryan Patterson's Universal Squash camp in Chichester, England this summer.

Samantha Matos will return to Exploration for another month of academic enrichment at Wellesley College and this year she will be joined by StreetSquasher Lavonda Howe.

Talise Hall and Diosmiry Rodriguez will be experiencing the beauty of the New Hampshire outdoors with Windsor Mountain.

Brandy Robinson will spend a month on Longacre Leadership's farm. Longacre focuses on creating a warm community to nurture the student's intellectual and emotional growth.

Rakey Drammeh will be going rock climbing and canoeing in Washington with Outward Bound. One of the country's oldest outdoors education programs, Outward Bound strives to challenge its students to stretch their limits in an environment that encourages self discovery.

Over twenty students will be attending the following squash camps for a week of intensive training: Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Trinity, Talbott, Chatham, Williams and Bowdoin. ●



Team 2 StreetSquashers Tyquan Jones and Lamar Saunders.



Team 2 StreetSquasher Sheena Suckoo with volunteer Mark Weinstein.

StreetSquash on The Court

Team 1:

- October 2** Match Versus Vassar College, NY
- October 29-31** Berwyn Future Stars, PA
- November 13** Match Versus Apawamis Club, NY
- December 10** Match Versus Greenwich Academy, CT

- December 10-12** Westchester Future Stars, NY
- December 15** Match Versus Breatly School, NY
- January 21-23** Westchester Junior Open, NY
- January 28-30** New York State High School Team Championships, NY

- February 8** Match Versus Breatly, NY
- February 9** Match Versus Portledge, NY
- February 11-13** National High School Team Tournament, CT
- March 13** Match Versus SquashBusters, CT
- April 8-10** Future Star Nationals, CT
- April 15-17** Urban Team National Championships, MA
- April 23** Match Versus Vassar College, NY
- May 15-June 11** StreetSquash "SMASH" Tournament, NY
- June 17-19** Urban Individual Nationals, MA



Team 3 StreetSquasher Charisse Strong



StreetSquashers at Columbia University. StreetSquash programs run at Columbia 5 days a week from September through July.

Team 2:

- October 2-4** Chatham Future Stars, NJ
- October 29-31** Berwyn Future Stars, PA
- November 13** Match Versus CitySquash A, NY
Match Versus Apawamis Club, NY
- November 20** Match Versus CitySquash B, NY
- December 3** Match Versus Greenwich Academy, CT
- December 4** Match Versus Westminster, CT
- December 10-12** Westchester Future Stars, NY
- January 8** Match Versus Pingry, NJ
Match Versus Delbarton, NJ
- January 15** Match Versus CitySquash A, CT
- January 21-23** Westchester Junior Open, NY
- February 4-6** Hartford Future Stars, CT
- February 12** Match Versus CitySquash B, NY
- March 5** Match Versus SquashSmarts, NJ
- March 19** Match Versus Lancaster Country Day School, PA
- April 8-10** Future Star Nationals, CT
- April 15-17** Urban Team National Championships, MA
- May 15-June 11** StreetSquash "SMASH" Tournament, NY
- June 17-19** Urban Individual Nationals, MA

Team 3:

- November 13** Match Versus CitySquash C, NY
Match Versus Apawamis Club, NY
- December 4** Match Versus Westminster, CT,
Match Versus New York Sports Club, NY
- December 11** Match Versus CitySquash C, NY
- January 22** Clinic with Dartmouth Team, NH
- February 5** Match Versus SquashBusters, CT
- April 9** Match Versus CitySquash C, NY
- April 15-17** Urban Team National Championships, MA
- May 7** Match Versus Brooklyn Montessori School, NY
- May 15-June 11** StreetSquash "SMASH" Tournament, NY
- June 17-19** Urban Individual Nationals, MA



StreetSquashers from Team 2 just completed Year 3 of StreetSquash. Pictured are: (From left to right) Samantha Matos, Janelle Maloney, Lavonda Howe, Kevin Espino, Carlos Soler, and David Nash.



*Raheem Logan,
Team 3 StreetSquasher*



*Shelby Bozeman,
Team 3 StreetSquasher*

MISSION

Founded in September 1999, StreetSquash is an after-school youth enrichment program that combines academic tutoring, squash instruction, college prep, literacy, community service, and one-on-one mentoring. Working with 140 boys and girls, ages 7 – 18 from Harlem, for a six-year period, the program's goals are: to improve academic performance; to develop an ethic of hard work and commitment; to boost self-confidence; to ensure that all StreetSquash children graduate from high school, enter into post-secondary education, and move on to become active, productive and involved citizens. StreetSquash is a 501(c)3 organization.



An Urban Youth
Enrichment Program

420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 246
New York, New York 10170
Phone/Fax: 212.949.4030
Web: www.streetsquash.org

