

STREET SQUASH news

Celebrating Ten Years Summer 2010



StreetSquash middle school players rally before facing Squash Haven at The SL Green StreetSquash Center.

StreetSquash is ten years old. The original "Team 1" has graduated from college. The program, once relegated to the hallways of the Columbia gymnasium and the basement of the West Side YMCA, now boasts the biggest squash facility in New York City on 115th Street and Lenox Avenue. 140 children currently participate in the after school program, with relatives, alumni, physical education students, staff, donors, Young Leadership Committee members, and innumerable volunteers swelling the StreetSquash family much further still. This is a look back at the 2009-2010 program year - a summary of all facets of programming: **academics, squash, community service, college prep, alumni, special events** and **mentoring**. On a more fundamental level: this is a look at how StreetSquash changes the lives of children in Harlem.



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Summer Discovery 2009.



Elhadji (right) with Tymel from Squash Haven.



I have played Squash Haven at least four times. Usually, I play #4 or 5 for our team. I don't think we've won any. They are the same age, but they must practice at least seven times a week! They run for every ball. My favorite part of the matches is the adrenaline rush before hand. I think that it is better than other matches we play, because it will give me a great sense of accomplishment when we finally do win. Now, I am too upset afterward to do anything more than shake their hands. -Elhadji, 8th grade

What is NUSEA???

Greg Zaff from SquashBusters, Tim Wyant from CitySquash, and George Polsky from StreetSquash formed the National Urban Squash and Education Association in 2005 to help stimulate the growth of community-based youth-enrichment programs that include squash as part of their curriculum. NUSEA organizes tournaments and launches programs in new cities. With the addition of a program in Detroit, there will be 10 programs throughout the country.

For StreetSquash children, NUSEA may be synonymous with the Squash Haven or SquashBusters match; it might also mean summer vacation. This past summer, StreetSquash high school students served as counselors in Chicago, Denver, and Baltimore. It was the first year for the "NUSEA Exchange Program." Look for the program to evolve and grow along with NUSEA as a whole. There will be two week-long camps this summer at which players from several programs will get together. One week of camp is at SquashSmarts, and the other at StreetSquash. For the StreetSquash week, parents very generously host players from other cities.

Participating Programs:

StreetSquash (Harlem)

SquashBusters (Boston)

CitySquash (Bronx)

SquashSmarts (Philly)

Squash Haven (New Haven)

Surf City Squash (San Diego)

Mile High Squash (Denver)

METROsquash (Chicago)

SquashWise (Baltimore)

The Boys U19 A Team
(l to r) Arthur, Odell, Julian,
Ernesto, Terrance, and Coach Tony.



The 2010 Urban Team Nationals was as much celebration as competition. Nine programs flocked to Boston over Martin Luther King Day weekend, so that two venues were required for all of the matches. 70 StreetSquash children participated, selected based on attendance and grades. Urban Teams, along with Urban Individuals, are the two most important squash weekends of the year. An epically early departure from Harlem could do nothing to stem the excitement. To add to the energy entering the tournament, every game won by a StreetSquash player would mean a dollar for Haiti relief donated by the StreetSquash staff. When it was all said and done, our teams would combine to raise \$281, which was then given to Partners in Health.

At the SquashBusters Center at Northeastern, older veteran players from the various programs competed. The rivalries well established, the StreetSquash teams needed no extra motivation. The boys Under 19 A Team faced off against the SquashSmarts A team in the semifinals. Undermanned due to players being academically ineligible, the StreetSquash team fought valiantly. Odell Lee lost a 3-2 heartbreaker to decide it 3-2 in favor of the lads from Philly. On the girls side, the Under 19 A Team had a title to defend. They had a lot of work to do against the team from San Diego. In the finals, the Surf City girls were too strong. Despite being a newer program, their discipline and good technique won them their second title of the day.

It was the first urban squash tournament for many of the children playing at Harvard. With bigger draws, teams had more matches. Unfazed by the grueling schedule, the StreetSquash Boys Under 15 A Team won the consolation draw. By playing so many matches, the U15 A Team also earned Haiti the most money.

The tournament was also a celebration of academic accomplishments. Students from every age group from every program competed in an essay contest, the theme of which was "adversity." Winning essays were read aloud to a rapt audience at the SquashBusters Center on MLK Day. Congratulations to Che'Zelle Bennett, Daniel Ramirez, and Nasir Ellis for winning our respective nominations for each age group! Thank you Sarah Lederman and Sam Brookfield for judging the contest! Read Che'zelle's essay on the next page.

Che'Zelle Bennett on overcoming adversity

According to Webster's Dictionary, an "adversity" is a condition or experience that has serious or continued misfortune and hardship. I define adversity as a problem in life. If your problem is solved or overcome, there is opportunity for success or a better and more prosperous life. I also feel that adversity can become a life learned lesson and an experience that may help with future dilemmas in life.

I have encountered adversity numerous amounts of times in my life. Although I have many problems, the most important one is helping my mother care for my younger brother and my younger sister. As a twelve year old girl, this is a hardship because my mother works two jobs and my seventeen year old brother and I have to baby sit our siblings the days that our mother is unavailable.

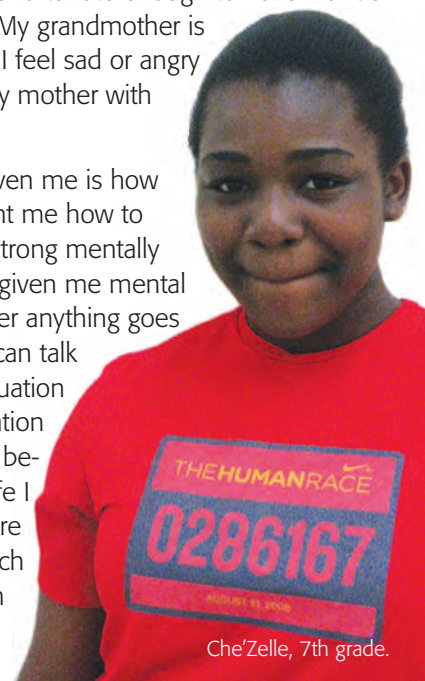
This is also a hardship because although I have homework of my own and other work to do, I also have to check the work of my sister and brother and assure my mother that they completed their homework correctly. I have problems with this situation because I am always tired in school from staying awake, waiting for my brother and sister to fall asleep silently.

Living with a mother with two jobs is a misfortune because although we receive everything we need and more, there are times my mother may not be able to attend my school performances and other events. At times I feel hurt and sad but I know that as a single parent, my mother has many responsibilities. Another reason this is a misfortune is because my sister and I go to a Catholic school and sometimes my

mother has to use her entire paycheck to keep up with tuition.

I have overcome my problem by trying to look at the good things that this has brought me. Although my mother is not with me most weekends because of her work, I always have some money to go out with my friends or hang out with my father. Another thing that makes me feel better is that sometimes when my mother has extra money my brothers, my sister and I are fortunate enough to have wonderful Christmases and birthdays. My grandmother is always there to help me when I feel sad or angry because I don't always have my mother with me.

The experience that this has given me is how to be strong. This has not taught me how to be physically strong but to be strong mentally and spiritually. I feel that it has given me mental strength because now whenever anything goes wrong in my life I know who I can talk to and how to deal with the situation and its consequences. My situation has given me spiritual strength because now for the rest of my life I have the ability to listen and care for other people's problems such as my own. I was awarded with understanding, a rare gift that I will always treasure.



StreetSquash YLC Update

Initially formed in February 2008, the StreetSquash Young Leadership Committee ("YLC") is comprised of several motivated young professionals, many of whom competed at the college squash level. YLC members come from a variety of educational backgrounds and represent a diverse base of industries in the New York City region. The YLC seeks to increase the exposure of StreetSquash, supports fundraising efforts, and provides internship and professional development opportunities for StreetSquash alumni.

Earlier this month, several YLC members participated in the 2nd Annual StreetSquash Cup. YLC participation was significant as members played and fundraised for 5 of the 11 teams. The event exceeded the fundraising target and raised nearly \$300,000 for StreetSquash. As the YLC expands its network across New York City, we expect continued success at events like the StreetSquash Cup and further awareness of the program. -Rob Weller, YLC

Sachin Obaid, Richard Polsky, Doug Mayne, and Rob Weller.



CURRENT YLC MEMBERS

Parker Blackiston
Abby Bowen
Jason Brown
Mary Childs
Raghav Chopra
Douglas Mayne
Adam Edwards
Yasser El Halaby
Ashley Eyre
Mike Fensterstock
Aaron Gibraltar
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Susie Kurkowski
Tyler Kyle
Samantha Nathan
Molly Ness Hill
Elizabeth O'Neil
Sachin Obaid
Ryan Olavarria
Laura Rizzo
Matthew Sharnoff
Alex Sussman
Evan Teiger
Sarah Thorndike
Rob Weller
Gene Ziegler

Friday Program

Our 7th and 8th graders were superstars this year during the revamped Literacy Project on Friday afternoons.

7th grade students strengthened their skills in English language arts, math, social studies, and science and had a blast doing it. The Mathletes used sports math to test their pre-algebra skills and went head-to-head against each other in the Mathletes Competition. The Mythology Group journeyed through history, learning about the significance of mythology in societies throughout the world and created their own mythological characters to deal with today's social issues. The Canteen Magazine Group has been working tirelessly all year to churn out original creative writing pieces, some of which the students were able to share at Barnes and Noble. Students from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education came in to teach the students about the importance of health and wellness, while slipping in some science to boot!

8th graders have been Skyping with Jamaal, a California undergraduate who is traveling abroad in the United Kingdom for a semester. They have also been following his online journal and learning all about culture in the U.K.! Nachum Turetzky, father of StreetSquasher Ron Turetzky, has been running male empowerment workshops with our 8th grade boys, who have been learning new and wonderful things about themselves each week. We've been so busy and having so much fun that we never even realized how much we were learning in the process!

Friday Feature: Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education

Sophie Davis is a program at City College that strives to bring underrepresented populations into the medical profession so they can go on to work in underserved areas. These students both obtain a Bachelor's of Science and complete the first two years of medical school over their five years in the program. Many of their students have helped this year with programs at StreetSquash:

* National Girls and Women in Sports Day: Volunteers from Sophie Davis ran a workshop on the importance of getting enough calcium in one's diet and made smoothies for the participants.

* Global Youth Service Day: Sophie Davis ran a table at our first ever Health Fair to teach students about healthy snacking.

* Literacy Project: Every Friday, students from Sophie Davis helped to facilitate Planet Health, an interdisciplinary health and fitness curriculum.

Thank you Sophie Davis! Your students are great role models for the StreetSquash children. Congratulations for making it through another year at City College!



Sophie Davis students with 8th grade StreetSquashers.



10/27/09: Canteen Magazine organized a StreetSquash reading for 8th graders at Barnes & Noble in Lincoln Triangle. Selections ranged from poetry to fantasy to presidential acceptance speeches. Each student took the stage confidently and enthusiastically to proudly share original pieces with the audience.

Orange by Kamali Williamson, 7th grade

Orange like the hot blazin' sun on a sunny day.

Or orange like the mango flavor when you want something sweet.

Or orange when you want an orange to help you stay healthy.

Orange like orange juice that goes with your breakfast in the morning.

Or orange like the leaves on a fall day.

Community Service



Community Service Weekend

StreetSquash participated in the Million Trees NYC Planting Day one Saturday in October, then woke up on Sunday and did the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Poor weather didn't prevent StreetSquash from getting outside and contributing. The Breast Cancer Walk is a StreetSquash tradition. This year, parents and children rallied to raise \$2,100 and then walked five miles. Kudos to all of the parents who were so helpful with the community service weekend!

Community service outings are an invaluable component of the program for several reasons. Venturing out into the city for a service outing is the best form of team bonding. Service outings break up the routine of "squash/study squash/study." Most importantly, they are an opportunity to help other people in New York City.

Jade Elias has parlayed her experience working with City Year into a community service curriculum that breaks down the year into units. Each unit features a workshop that precedes the outing so that the children understand the significance of service experience. -Tony Maruca, Squash Director



Brandy (Left, 8th grade) and Djeneba (6th grade) show off the dog blanket they made.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Through March, the teams at StreetSquash were busy learning about Animal Cruelty and Care. In scenes that played out much like something out of *Law and Order*, the students studied real animal cruelty case files in order to prosecute, defend or judge these cases in mock trials. The discussions were heated and helped the Squashers prepare for their April visit to the NYC Animal Care and Control facility in East Harlem during which they deliver blankets they had made for the animals.

Once there, the students learned about the reality behind some of their case files. Many animals were in the facility because their owners could no longer care for them. Others had been badly hurt.

Many of the students came away with a clearer understanding of the enormous responsibility that comes along with caring for an animal and pledged to only adopt an animal once they were ready to make a long-term commitment.

An educator then came to StreetSquash on two separate occasions to speak to students about proper animal care and the difficulties faced by shelters in New York City.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

On April 24, StreetSquashers, community members, local businesses and other organizations came together to celebrate young people and their involvement in community service as part of Global Youth Service Day. The SL Green StreetSquash Center's eight courts were transformed to accommodate the bustling Health Fair organized by the students, who led over 250 of their peers and community members in hands-on activities around health, nutrition and physical activity.

The day's energy was palpable. Among other activities, participants learned about popular beverages that are inaccurately marketed as healthy, played an active game of four square, and practiced yoga poses. MC Tariq Holland kept spirits high throughout the day, and Councilwoman Inez Dickens' (pictured at right in the orange jacket) keynote address provided inspiration while acknowledging all the hard work that the young people had poured into the event. Roger Hayes, Deputy Director of Harlem's District Public Health Office, helped close out the day by raffling off great prizes.

The fair participants walked away with new knowledge about the small things they can do in order to improve their overall health, and the youth leaders about their ability to inspire.

"I was scared of speaking but not anymore! Keep me in mind for the next event." -Tariq, 9th grade, after serving as MC at GYSD (below)



Danny and Steve pose during 7th grade squash practice.



SERVICE @ STREETSQUASH

StreetSquash 11th graders at Thurgood Marshall Academy have done their mandatory community service with us before, helping with homework tutoring and also squash. This year some of the 10th grade students volunteered their time without prompting. The help of Terrance Rose, Sion Sennon, and Danny Cabrera have made middle school practices more lively as well as more organized. This responsibility has made the 10th graders more focused and disciplined during their own practices.

Since I ran my first practice with the 7th graders, I've tried to be a role model, not just on the court but off as well. I have pushed myself harder in school not just for me, but for them too. I did not want them to look up to somebody who was not doing well in school. I did not want to say, "Hi, you have to do all of your school work and make sure you try your hardest in school," when I wasn't even doing that. Now I am on top of all my schoolwork and ask them everyday on court, "How are your grades?" or just tell them to try at everything they do. I know many adults in their lives tell them to do well in school, but it is different when someone you see everyday in the hall at squash tells you to get your grades up. It has been amazing to see how much they have grown as squash players over the past few months. I think the best moment for me was when Steve told Ryan, "I want to be like Danny." I am not the best player, but it was cool to know they looked up to me. -Danny Cabrera, 10th grade



Yushishia, Raven, and Kevin (all 9th grade) read original work to students in the Sisulu after school program.

Ten Meets Ten: Teaming up with Sisulu Walker

In the 2009-2010 school year, two great educational organizations celebrated their ten year anniversaries - StreetSquash and Sisulu Walker Charter School - the first squash program and the first charter school in Harlem, respectively. This year, Sisulu and StreetSquash forged a partnership to improve their service to the children of Harlem by combining their efforts.

Through the Squash in Public Schools Program, Sisulu took advantage of the opportunity to have two of their grades play fitness games, perform squash drills and enjoy other fun, physically rigorous activities on the StreetSquash courts. Given proper equipment and ample space to run freely, the students have responded positively to the program.

As a community service project, StreetSquash students from all grades wrote and illustrated original children's books that they then read to students in the after school program at Sisulu.

This is only the start of this great partnership. StreetSquash has also offered Sisulu the opportunity to participate in the Summer Discovery program, which is free to its participants.



back row (l to r): Diosmiry, Paige, Shelby, Rahey, Rosmery, Elizabeth. Front row: Guytaul, Arthur, Ernesto, Kenneth.

We are excited to announce that all 12 StreetSquash seniors will be enrolling in college in the fall.

Arthur Garfield – SUNY Delhi

Diosmiry Rodriguez – Bates College

Elijah Hardwell – Herkimer Community College

Elizabeth Gatling – Franklin & Marshall College

Ernesto Jordan – Bronx Community College

Guytaul Bennett – SUNY Delhi

Kenneth Blassingame - Herkimer College

Paige Babilonia – Rutgers University

Rahey Drammeh – Bates College

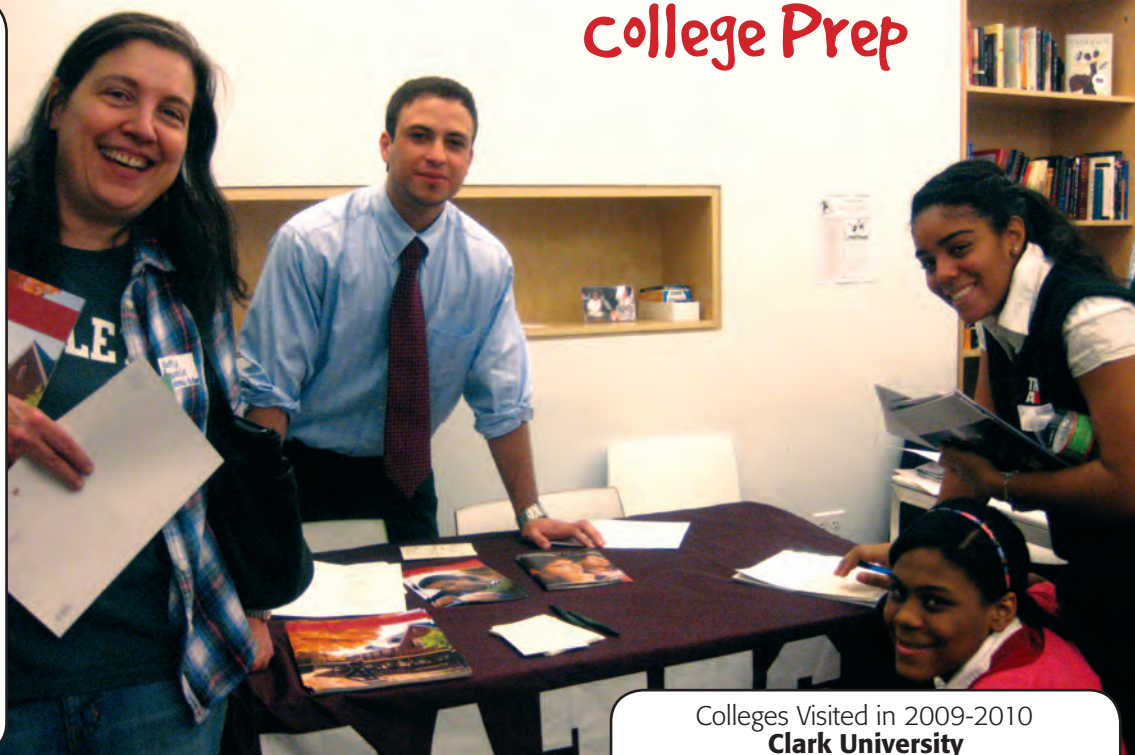
Rosmery Hidalgo – Connecticut College

Shelby Bozeman - University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Samantha Matos – Bates College

COLLEGE FAIR 2010

About 30 college representatives participated in StreetSquash's 2nd Annual College Fair on Friday, April 30th. The colleges commented that they were impressed by the StreetSquashers' enthusiasm and thoughtful questions. At the fair, students learned more about college admissions standards and came away excited about the new colleges they discovered. Pictured here (left to right) are Kathy Franklin, January volunteer of the month; Luis Martinez, Bates representative; Dachele Parker, 11th grade; and Sugeiry Betances, 11th grade. Two current 12th graders are attending Bates next year, as is Samantha Matos who left StreetSquash three years ago to attend Westover School. They will be coached at Bates by Pat Cosquer, StreetSquash coach emeritus.



College Prep Trip to D.C.

by Nasir Ellis, 11th grade

My experience in Washington, D.C. this spring was absolutely the best college prep trip I have attended. What made this experience so amazing for me was that I was finally getting the chance to visit the number one school on my college list, George Washington University. GW had been my favorite school for a long time even though I had never seen it in person. I knew that visiting this school would be the deal breaker for me and would determine whether I applied early decision or not. Although I was most excited about visiting George Washington, I also enjoyed visiting Georgetown, American, Howard, and Morgan State University. Also, this would be my first time staying with a host family on a college prep trip or any trip for that matter and so I was a little nervous. However, that feeling quickly vanished because once I met my hosts I immediately knew that I would enjoy their company and feel right at home.

After visiting Howard, Georgetown, and American University, the anticipation to see George Washington was killing me. Later on that day we went to have a group dinner at Tony's house with his parents and family friends. It was there that I feel in love with the sport ping-pong. I would have never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be a reigning champ in ping-pong, but it happened. Going back to my host home that night, I hoped and prayed that when we went on our tour to George Washington the next day that the weather would be perfect, the tour guides

would be knowledgeable, and that I would get a chance to speak with the squash coach. It turned out that all my wishes had come true because everything was perfect, all my questions were answered, and I was reassured that George Washington was the school for me.

On our way home that day, I reflected on all we had experienced and was glad that I made the best of my last college prep trip, seeing as I'm a junior. Overall I had the time of my life and will be ready to apply early decision to George Washington University in the upcoming fall.



college Prep

Colleges Visited in 2009-2010

Clark University
Amherst College
Harvard University
Hampshire College
Connecticut College
SUNY Purchase
Yale University
Manhattanville College
SUNY Albany
SUNY Delhi
Northeastern University
Williams College
Sarah Lawrence College
Syracuse University
Le Moyne College
SUNY Institute of Technology
SUNY Cortland
Howard University
George Washington University
American University
Georgetown University
Morgan State University
Hunter College
Columbia University



Brooklyn Bridge Park

The first mentoring outing of the new school year saw mentors and mentees gather in Brooklyn Bridge Park. After mingling for awhile and skipping stones on the river, everyone walked across the bridge and enjoyed the lovely fall weather. Once the group reached the other shore, some mentors chose to spend additional time with their mentees at various destinations in lower Manhattan.



Brooklyn Botanic Gardens: 4/18/2010

On Sunday, April 18, StreetSquash's Mentoring Program held its second outing of the year. A group of 28 people (made up of mentors, mentees, and StreetSquash staff members) traveled to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to take in the spring flowers, the beautiful weather, and the brief seasonal appearance of the much-anticipated cherry blossoms. Especially popular were the Japanese Garden (featuring koi and sunbathing turtles), the greenhouses (home to a variety of different controlled-climates and their given vegetation), and, of course, the Cherry Esplanade. During the event's wrap-up, mentee Divine Wing shared his new knowledge of photography (as instructed by participating mentor Jill Simon), while mentee Ronnie Green explained what he and mentor Doug Mayne had learned about cacti while exploring the Desert exhibit. Overall, it was a wonderful outing in which mentees and mentors were able to learn about the environment in which they live - and also to learn about each other!



The Mentoring Program has grown in 2009-2010 to include over 30 active relationships! Mentors are in contact with their mentees at least every two weeks, and participate in activities at least once each month. This year, mentors and mentees have walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, played squash, visited the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, toured museums, eaten at restaurants, spectated at the Tournament of Champions, attended NFL games, completed math homework, and much, much more! We are happy to have welcomed nine new mentors into our program this year, and are constantly expanding as increasing numbers of StreetSquash students enthusiastically request mentors of their own! -Katie Siegel, Mentoring Director

clockwise from top: Theo and Taim, 7th grade; Reign and Marcus, 8th grade; Terrance, 10th grade, and Mike; Divine, 8th grade, Jil, and Tosin, 8th grade.

Featured Get-Away: Terhune Orchards



Apples, berries, goats, sheep, and all varieties of squash (the vegetable) are just some of the produce and wildlife to be discovered at Terhune Orchards in New Jersey. Over the past eight years, StreetSquashers of all ages have discovered farm life during weekend trips to Princeton. A visit to Terhune's is a chance to explore a working apple orchard, feed goats and sheep, and to get lost in the corn maze. Ten minutes outside of Princeton, Terhune has become an eagerly anticipated destination during our visits with Princeton Junior Squash (PJS).

PJS is a community squash program run by Richard Hankinson, Gail Ramsay, and Dede Webster at Princeton University that has been running squash programs for local juniors for over 20 years. StreetSquash has a lasting connection to PJS, where StreetSquash staff member Sage Ramadge grew up playing the game.

This year, members from StreetSquash's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teams connected with PJS squash players, their families, and their coaches, building lasting friendships with the Princeton Juniors and visiting Terhune's for an afternoon. The 9th grade team even made a point to stop by Terhune's on their way back from a weekend trip to Philadelphia, they missed the farm so much!

In April, StreetSquash hosted the PJS program for squash matches at the StreetSquash Center in Harlem for the second year. We're already looking ahead to more great visits to Princeton in the fall, which all of the StreetSquashers now know will be apple season at Terhune Orchards. If you're ever in the Princeton area, stop by for a visit to Terhune's; you'll leave with a smile on your face and will look forward to the next time you get to visit - just like the StreetSquashers!

..... Academic Tutoring * Literacy Enrichment * Squash Instruction * Community Service * Mentoring

Get Involved!

Volunteering with StreetSquash is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a difference in the lives of New York City's youth. We are looking for academic tutors, squash instructors and mentors to join the StreetSquash family. If interested please fill out the volunteer application on our website.

<http://www.streetsquash.org/get-involved/volunteer/>





Malcolm Willstrop, a world-class squash coach based in England and famous for his eccentricities, has opened his heart to StreetSquash. The relationship began at the 2010 Tournament of Champions at Grand Central Terminal, where many of the StreetSquash high school players volunteered as ushers and ball boys and girls. Impressed with their genuine, uninhibited love of the game (something he saw far too little of with young American players), he offered to run a clinic at the StreetSquash facility. The high school players gamely went through an extremely demanding session, unique because of how many players were drilling at the same time on one court. The breadth of Malcolm's experience permits him to bring professionalism to any scenario, regardless of age, ability, or court constraints.

Meanwhile, Malcolm's son James was tearing through the bracket at the Tournament of Champions en route to his first title. The day after his victory in the finals, he showed up at StreetSquash to talk about his experiences on the pro tour and to sign autographs. Malcolm ran another clinic. Hopefully Malcolm's eccentricities include being superstitious - it would be great to have him training our players again when James returns to the city to defend his title.

This summer, StreetSquash will host Malcolm and James again, this time for an entire week. Along with touring WISPA pro Vanessa Atkinson, they will bring their expertise to both the middle school and high school program, ensuring that StreetSquash players will be busy this summer even though the after school program will not be in session.



Girls goof on court at NGWSD.



Diamond, 11th grade, and Linda Elriani.

NGWSD

StreetSquash held its Second Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day Celebration on February 6, 2010. The day boasted a squash clinic run by nine former female collegiate squash players, workshops focused on Strength and Flexibility for Squash Players, Nutrition (with a focus on calcium intake), and Playing Squash in College. Former WISPA player and head pro at the Heights Casino in Brooklyn, Linda Elriani, participated in an interview by StreetSquash's own Diamond Martin during lunch time, and she shared with the girls her lifetime of experiences involving squash. The day concluded with an exhibition match between two former Princeton Women's Squash members, after which the StreetSquash girls eagerly jumped on court for about an hour of open squash. Special thanks to our volunteer coaches, our representatives from the Women's MSRA league, the YLC, the Sophie Davis School, and Linda Elriani for helping to make this day such a great success!

Princeton Women Visit StreetSquash

The Princeton Women's Team made the StreetSquash Center a stop on their route to trying to retain their title as national champions. The skilled women drilled with StreetSquash and CitySquash children. Coach Gail Ramsay orchestrated the practice with impressive professionalism. At the end, the children got to play points with the defending champs, with coach Ramsay prudently resting the numerous injured student-athletes on her team. Thank you, Princeton Squash! Special thanks to Richard Hankinson, who helped with this visit and the many StreetSquash team trips to Princeton throughout the school year.

StreetSquash entertains college teams at the StreetSquash center to raise the profile of the program and to expose our students to the many talented student-athletes.



Lizandro plays #1 against Poly Prep.



Gow-StreetSquash Cup

For the third straight year, the Gow School Squash Team made the long journey from New South Wales, NY (just outside Buffalo) to Harlem to participate in the Gow-StreetSquash Cup. StreetSquash won the inaugural match in 2008, but the Gow School took home the hardware in a hard-fought match last year. This year, the two teams played 30 individual matches over the course of two days. In the end, StreetSquash claimed a strong 24-6 victory, but the final score did not reflect the closeness of the match. More important, both teams displayed impressive sportsmanship throughout the contest and even developed off-court friendships. StreetSquashers are already looking forward to next year's rematch!



Raymond shakes hands with his Gow opponent.

Princeton women pose with StreetSquash and CitySquash.

Poly Prep

On Saturday December 5th, the StreetSquash Boys Varsity Team had the privilege of playing Poly Prep High School. It gave us the opportunity to have friendly matches with players of the same age and ability level. Our Varsity Team proudly gained a victory over Poly Prep's Junior Varsity Team, but Poly Prep's Varsity Team proved to be more challenging. Nevertheless, our loss to their Varsity squad gave us insight on the different levels of squash players and motivated us to focus on playing better in future matches. Poly Prep had wonderful players whose sportsmanship was reflected on and off the court. -Arthur Garfield, 12th grade

28th Precinct Community Affairs

Central Park East High School

Urban Assembly Institute of New Tech.

Sisulu Walker Charter School

Thurgood Marshall Academy

Academy of Social Action

Frederick Douglas Academy II

**StreetSquash thanks
our community
Partners for another
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Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education

Expanding Squash Horizons in 2009-2010



Rye and StreetSquash before one of their three matches.

Play but Don't Pay: An Update on Public School Squash

by Susan Whelan, Rye High School Coach

Public school squash has finally come into its own! This past season, three StreetSquash high school girls teams participated in a newly-formed public school squash league. The league, the Fairwest Public School Squash Association, was formed in 2008 by a few public school teams from Westchester County, New York and Fairfield County, Connecticut. The teams simply wanted to enable public school students in middle and high school to play squash in a competitive interscholastic environment. The concept quickly took off and the league now includes teams from Rye High School, Bronxville High School and Scarsdale High School from New York, and Darien High School, New Canaan High School, Greenwich High School, Staples High School (Westport), Fairfield-Ludlowe High School and Madison High School from Connecticut. This year, in its second season, the public school league has expanded even further to include schools in New York City, and StreetSquash teams (representing Thurgood Marshall Academy) have joined the fun.

The mission of the Fairwest Public School Squash Association is to create opportunities to bring new players to the sport of squash by providing an active team format for public school students. The goal of the league is to include more public school students in the area and, in the long-term, to grow the conference to include public schools throughout the northeast region. Most important, the league is sanctioned by U.S. Squash Association, the sport's governing body. This means that records of all teams, players and matches are kept by U.S. Squash and appear on its website. Ultimately, all teams and players will be profiled by U.S. Squash, including team and individual rankings based on match performance. Team appearances will go a long way towards enhancing the accuracy of junior squash information and results as many students find it difficult to participate in sanctioned weekend tournaments for individual players.

Although Fairwest has both Boys and Girls divisions, in this first year, StreetSquash/TMA participated on a limited basis playing four teams from Rye High School (three teams of girls and one of boys) and a coed team from Darien High School. All of the matches took place at the StreetSquash facility.

MSRA League Play

The Metropolitan Squash Racquets Association runs tournaments in New York City, as well as winter league play based on skill level. Over 70 teams participated in 2009-2010. For the first time, StreetSquash teams entered the fray. Staff members, volunteers, and YLC members combined to form a 5.0-skill level team while senior and junior boys played on a 3.5 team. Each team had one match a week. Generally, these matches were at home, but sometimes they were at clubs around the city.

The 5.0 team enjoyed some success, finishing the regular season ranked #1 in the league before falling in the league semi-finals to a team fielded by the Printing House Club.

The high school boys each won several individual matches in the 3.5 league but few matches overall. However, they gave the Harmonie Club, which eventually won the league, all that they could handle on two separate occasions.

Playing adults exposes our players to a wide variety of playing styles, ultimately making them much better match players. The MSRA leagues also provide the children with a comfortable social setting in which to meet adults from around the city.

Next year, hopefully, we will enter a 3.5 team for both boys and girls. Most of the league teams play in the men's divisions, so a women's team would immediately have a strong presence on the landscape of New York City squash.

Thank you, MSRA, for allowing us to play most of our matches at home. We could not participate without your assistance.



Arthur and Guytaul played in almost every 3.5 match.



StreetSquash cup 2010

It is great to be involved in a sport where people give so generously. Know that you have helped to create a new generation of young men and women who will not only have a college education but who will also have a real life-long appreciation of the game of squash.

This was an awesome effort by everyone involved. -Brett Erasmus, The Common Good



The Champions from Racquet & Tennis.

TEAMS FOR THE CUP

The Common Good

Pro: Jacques Swanepoel

1. Brett Erasmus
2. Chris Gerra
3. Richard Von Hirschberg
4. Andrew Scott

StreetSquasher: Daequan Leslie

Harlem Squash Trotters

Pro: Ned Edwards

1. Jon Edwards
2. Eric Semler
3. David Sachs
4. Charlie Taben

StreetSquasher: Lonnie Gibbs

Princeton Alums

Pro: Yasser El Halaby

1. Kimlee Wong
2. Peter Kelly
3. Eddie Fishman
4. Margaret Higgins

StreetSquasher: Terrance Rose

Williams Alums

Pro: Bernardo Samper

1. Tony Maruca
2. Tyler Kyle
3. Cam Henry
4. Nick Phillips

StreetSquasher: Julian Hackney

The Union Club

Pro: Bradley Ball

1. Ben Edmands
2. Javier Rodriguez
3. Mark Butler
4. Whitney Quillen

StreetSquasher: Ernesto Jordan

Racquet & Tennis

Pro: James Stout

1. Coly Smith
2. Pat Haynes
3. Mitch Truitt
4. Jon Pratt

StreetSquasher: Lizandro Rodriguez

St. Lawrence Alums

Pro: Phil Barker

1. Ricky Weisskopf
2. Dan McElvaine
3. James McAvity
4. Alex Dodge

StreetSquasher: Guytaul Bennett

The University Club

Pro: Carl Baglio

1. Hamed Anvari
2. Will Osnato
3. Michael Fensterstock
4. Bill Cline

StreetSquasher: Davian Suckoo

Women All-Stars

Pro: Natalie Grainger

1. Amanda Siebert
2. Sarah Odell
3. Olivia Tandon
4. Leslie Kimerling

StreetSquasher: Rakey Drammeh

YLC Team

Pro: Richard Chin

1. Nick Monogenis
2. Rob Weller
3. Sachin Obaid
4. Doug Mayne

StreetSquasher: Arthur Garfield

The StreetSquash Cup is gaining momentum! The event was much bigger than it was in its inaugural year. This time 10 teams participated, with each again pledging to raise \$25,000. The funds will endow the college scholarship fund, a necessity with the increasing number of StreetSquash kids in college. The 2010 teams raised a total of \$290,000.

The all-day event featured two brackets of five teams. Within each bracket, each of the teams faced off against all of the others. The Williams Alumni and the Racquet & Tennis teams won their respective brackets, but not without some serious drama. Julian Hackney and Bernardo Samper had two big up-sets apiece to help push Williams past Princeton and into the final by one game. In the final, the teams tied 3-3 with the top five matches all extremely close. It was the dominating performance of Lizandro Rodriguez that broke the tie and propelled Racquet and Tennis to victory.

On the fundraising side, no one came close to the Harlem Squash Trotters, led by David Sachs. His team of squash veterans was headlined by Ned Edwards, a patriarch of the game. Anchoring his team was Lonnie Gibbs, a StreetSquash alum who is graduating this year from Wesleyan University.

Perhaps aided by the southern cooking of Blue Smoke Barbeque, the competitive atmosphere was tempered by the congeniality of those participating. We can only hope to have as great a time next year.



The Harlem Squash Trotters.



**An Urban Youth
Enrichment Program**

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MISSION

Founded in September 1999, StreetSquash is an after-school youth enrichment program that combines academic tutoring with squash instruction, community service, and one-on-one mentoring.

StreetSquash's mission is to provide consistent, long-term and reliable support to the children, families and schools in Harlem. By exposing these children to a broad range of experiences and by maintaining the highest standards, StreetSquash aims to help each child realize his or her academic and personal potential.