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## Registration Underway For Soccer Tournament



Friday, 04 March 2011 00:00

### *Honors Matthew Logan Scarpati, Former Massapequa Soccer Club Star*

The Matthew Logan Scarpati Memorial Soccer Tournament has been set to return for a second year at Scarpati's high school alma mater, Half Hollow Hills HS East on Saturday, June 11.

The Matthew Logan Scarpati Memorial Soccer Tournament was created in the honor and memory of Matt Scarpati, a 19-year-old University of Buffalo freshman who was tragically struck and killed by a drunken motorcyclist who veered off the road while Scarpati was changing a flat bicycle tire on the Wantagh Bike Path, which runs adjacent to the Wantagh Parkway.

Scarpati, an avid soccer player, lacrosse player, and cyclist, left such a positive impact on everyone he came across. Following the accident, his family established the Miles for Matt Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to making charitable contributions to various initiatives in his name. So far, it has pledged \$25,000 to Sunrise Day Camp, America's only day camp for kids with cancer.

Matt had previously been a member of the Massapequa Soccer Club, and the Massapequa Soccer Shop was one of the many generous donors the tournament had the pleasure of working with.

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In 2010, both the soccer tournament and the “Miles for Matt Bike Tour” helped raise money for the foundation. The “Miles for Matt Bike Tour” took place on the Wantagh Parkway, where numerous state politicians, including then-New York Governor David Paterson, came to speak and witness the unveiling of a new guide rail that aims to protect riders of the Wantagh Bike Path from the vehicles on the parkway.

The 1st Annual Matthew Logan Scarpati Memorial Soccer Tournament was a great success, featuring 16 teams comprised of over 150 high school varsity and college players, many of whom were former teammates or classmates of Scarpati’s. The tournament received roughly

\$12,000 in contributions in the form of sponsorship, individual cash donations, tournament day sales, and item donations for raffle.

The 2011 tournament aims to expand the field to a minimum of 24 teams, including a separate division for Long Island Junior Soccer League club teams.

In late 2010, the Miles for Matt Foundation pledged \$25,000 of fundraised money to Sunrise Day Camp, America’s only dedicated day camp for children with cancer. The camp will be naming a soccer field in Scarpati’s honor in summer 2011.

The tournament is continually seeking sponsorship, and encourages anyone who wishes to play to register a team to play in the open age non-club division. For more information, visit [www.mlstourney.com](http://www.mlstourney.com).

Registration for the tournament opens March 1, and anyone who is interested in registering a team is encouraged to contact tournament director Dan Silver at [dansilver@mlstourney.com](mailto:dansilver@mlstourney.com) or 631-365-2320.

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