

PRESS RELEASE

May 16, 2013

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL'S GABRIEL CANAUX, THE NJ "FENCER OF THE YEAR", AND HIS TEAMMATES ON THE STATE CHAMPION EPEE SQUAD

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, May 15, 2013, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the members of Montclair High School's State Champion Boy's Epee Squad, all 17-year old juniors: Gabriel Canaux, Lucas Della Bella and Matthew Schattner. Canaux was also honored for having won the Individual Epee State Championship and for being named the New Jersey "Fencer of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. The Board's commendations were sponsored and presented by Freeholder Brendan Gill of Montclair.



Freeholder Brendan Gill of Montclair (left) presented the Board's Commendations to Montclair High School's 2013 State Champion Epee Squad: (l. to r.) Gabriel Canaux, Lucas Della Bella and Matthew Schattner. Canaux also won the Epee Individual State Championship and was named the "Fencer of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. The presentation was made at the Freeholder Board's Wednesday, May 15th, meeting at the Hall of Records in Newark. (Photo by Glen Frieson)

"As a proud Montclair H. S. alumnus", said Freeholder Gill, "I am especially happy to honor the members of the State Championship Montclair Epee Squad... and considering that all three members are juniors, I'm certainly looking forward to doing this again next year!" Gill confessed that although he attends many Montclair High School athletic events, he has never attended a fencing match. "But I assure you", he said, "that I'll make it a priority to come watch you fence next year." He went on to say, "On behalf of the Board, congratulations on your great season, and please know that we are very proud of you, as is the entire community of Montclair."

The Montclair High School Epee Squad won the 2013 New Jersey Epee Squad State Championship at the NJSIAA Squad Fencing Championships held on February 24th, demonstrating once and for all that it was undisputedly the best high school epee squad in New Jersey this season, having won every major fencing championship available to it.

The Squad also won the prestigious statewide Cetrulo Tournament at Voorhees High School on January 12th and the NJSIAA District 3 championship at Livingston High School on January 27th, before the season-culminating State championship.

Squad Captain Lucas Della Bella compiled a 90% win record during regular season competition. He posted a 12-3 record in helping his squad win the Cetrulo Tournament title, an 8-3 record in his squad's District 3 championship run, and an 11-4 record in the squad's State Tournament championship effort. He works out 5 days a week at the Lilov Fencing Academy and competes at local and national competitions, including the USOC Junior Olympics and USFA National Championships. Lucas is the son of his proud parents, Peter and Jodi, and the brother of Rachel.

Matthew Schattner compiled a 60% win record during regular season competition. He also posted an 11-4 record in helping his squad win the Cetrulo Tournament title, a 10-1 record in his squad's District 3 championship run, and an 11-4 record in the squad's State Tournament championship effort. He maintains a regular workout schedule at Espada Fencing Club and competes at local competitions. Matthew is the son of his proud parents, Andrew and Helaine, and the brother of Lia and Danielle.

The third member of the squad, Gabriel Canaux, enjoyed an extraordinary season. Not only did he win every possible title as a member of the Epee Squad, but every individual title as well, which resulted in him being named to the 1st Team All-State and as the New Jersey boys "Fencer of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. As a member of the Epee Squad, he posted a 14-1 record at the Cetrulo Tournament, an undefeated 11-0 record in its District 3 championship run, and a 14-1 record in the squad's State Tournament championship effort. Individually, he captured the Cetrulo championship by compiling a dazzling 14-1 record, the District 3 championship in a 5-2 fence-off (after compiling a 6-1 record in pool play), and went 13-4 record in pool play before winning the Individual State championship in a dramatic 3-way fence-off on March 3rd at Montgomery High School in Skillman. Gabe works out 6 days per week at the New York Athletic Club, was named to the 2013 USA National Cadet Epee Squad on the USA National Cadet Fencing Team by the U.S. Fencing Association, is currently ranked 13th among Juniors and was ranked #3 among Cadets. He is the son of his proud parents, Kevin and Jacintha, and the brother of Ethan and Sebastian.

Squad Captain Lucas Della Bella spoke about how great it was to fence with Matthew and Gabe, "because just being with them kept me focused, allowed me not to worry about when I lost, to have fun and stay positive, while also understanding what we were doing wrong without getting upset about it."

Matt Schattner thanked Lucas for convincing him to switch from cross-country to fencing saying, "because that completely changed my life." He went on to say what an honor it was to fence with his teammates and to thank the entire fencing team, his club and high school coaches, "and most of all, my parents."

"It's a great honor to be here", said Gabe Canaux. "We fenced really well this season, and I just can't wait for next season because I believe we're going to do just as well as we did this time, and I just can't wait!"

The Montclair High School Epee Squad was coached by Head Coach Michael McTigue and Assistant Coaches Julie Carisen and David Wright.

Freeholder Brendan Gill is currently serving his first term as District 5 Freeholder, representing the five towns of Belleville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair and Nutley.

For Additional Information:
Gary Kroessig, Public Information
Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders
973-621-4452
Gkroessig@freeholders.essexcountynj.org