

PRESS RELEASE

June 13, 2013

ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE MILLBURN H. S. BOYS TENNIS TEAM, NEW JERSEY'S #1 TEAM, AND STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONS ANDREW NOLFF & EVAN IMEGWU

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, June 12, 2013, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Millburn H. S. Boys Tennis Team for winning not only the 2013 Group 4 State Championship, but also the Tournament of Champions for the second consecutive year, and for confirming its status as New Jersey's #1 boys tennis team. The Board also honored the Doubles Team of Andrew Nolff and Evan Imegwu, who won the State Doubles Championship. The Board's Commendations were sponsored and presented by District 4 Freeholder Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell.



Essex County Freeholders Leonard Luciano of West Caldwell and Carol Clark of East Orange (center) celebrate with the members of the Millburn H. S. Boys Tennis Team, who captured the New Jersey Tournament of Champions for the second consecutive year. They were also joined by Head Coach Bill Wickenheisser (front row, far left), and Athletic Director Dr. Ted D'Alessio (back row, far right). The presentation was made to the team during the Freeholder Board's Wednesday, June 12th, meeting at the Hall of Records in Newark. (Photo by Glen Frieson)

Freeholder Luciano began the program by evoking the "immortal" words of Yogi Berra by saying, "it's like 'déjà vu all over again', because the team was here *last* year after winning the Group 3 State Championship and Tournament of Champions... extraordinary accomplishments that they have managed to repeat in 2013!" He went on to congratulate coaches Bill Wickenheisser and Lee Robinson for "clearly having the winning formula", and concluded the presentation by saying, "it is truly amazing that Millburn H. S. continues to win year after year after year... and not just *win*, but win *state championships!* It's an incredible record of success for the program.... and a fantastic accomplishment for every member of this year's team."

Millburn H. S. Athletic Director Dr. Theodore D'Alessio commented that it's become a habit for the tennis team to be honored by the Freeholder Board, "but it's a trip I really look forward to at the end of every season." He also said that he often tells his teams that champions come and go, but that champions with class will be remembered forever, "...and this is one group that will always be remembered."

Coach Wickenheisser thanked the Board, Dr. D'Alessio, Dr. Miron and Dr. Crisfield, commended the team and remarked on what a classy bunch of individuals they are, saying, "They really do a great job and achieve at such a high level of success, both on and off the court."

Senior captains Dean Koman and Teddy Moskovitz also spoke on behalf of the team. Koman thanked the Board saying, "we are really honored and privileged to be here today", and Moskovitz, who also thanked the Board, Dr. D'Alessio and Coach "Wick", thanked his teammates for a great year.

The Team, which this year competed as a Group 4 team, first defeated Perth Amboy, Watchung Hills, Westfield and Ridge high schools to win the North 2, Group 4 Sectional Championship, before going on to defeat Livingston and then Montgomery to capture its 2nd straight Group Championship, which propelled the Team into the Tournament of Champions (TOC). In the TOC, Millburn first defeated Moorestown (4-1) in the semi-finals and then Holmdel (4-1) to capture its 2nd straight TOC championship.

The Millers finished their outstanding season with an amazing record of 29-1, and continued the program's unparalleled record of success that has seen 28 consecutive Sectional Championships (38 overall), 5 consecutive Group Championships (22 overall), and 6 Tournament of Champions titles.

The team also won the Millburn Tennis Challenge, the Newark Academy Invitational Tennis Tournament, and the American Division of the Super Essex Conference.



The State Champion Doubles Team of Evan Imegwu (center left) and Andrew Nolff (center right) are pictured above with Coach Bill Wickenheisser (left) and Freeholder Leonard Luciano (right). Imegwu and Nolff captured their state championship on June 6th at Mercer County Park in West Windsor, becoming only the second doubles team from Millburn to win the state title. (Photo by Glen Frieson)

Freeholder Luciano also congratulated the Doubles Team of Andrew Nolff, a senior, and Evan Imegwu, a junior, for winning the New Jersey State Doubles Championship on June 6th, and who became only the second doubles team from Millburn H. S. to ever win a state championship.

Evan Imegwu spoke about how their perseverance led them to the goals they wanted to accomplish saying, “we knew we had to keep our mental focus at its highest point, and it finally paid off in the finals when we were down a set... but we just kept it together and persevered”. Nolff spoke about how their demotion to 2nd Doubles earlier in the season had motivated them “to work harder, train harder, to qualify for the Meet of Champions, and to win the title.”

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