

## PRESS RELEASE

July 20, 2012

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR LIVINGSTON'S THOMAS CAPUTO ESSEX COUNTY'S BOYS TENNIS "PLAYER OF THE YEAR"**



Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold of Livingston (right) presented the Board's Commendation to 2012 Livingston High School graduate Thomas Caputo, congratulating him for his outstanding high school tennis career and for being named the Essex County Boys Tennis "Player of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – During its Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at Livingston Town Hall, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored 2012 Livingston High School graduate Thomas Caputo for his outstanding high school career and for having been named the Essex County Boys Tennis "Player of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. The Board's congratulatory Commendation was presented to Thomas by Freeholder Vice President Patricia Sebold of Livingston as Thomas's mother, Donna, high school coach, Elliot Lovi, and Livingston Mayor Steve Santola looked on.

In naming Thomas Caputo as the Essex County Boys Tennis "Player of the Year" for 2012, *The Star-Ledger* expressly acknowledged him for his outstanding four-year high school career, which it characterized as "one of the finest in state history".

Thomas attended Newark Academy as a freshman and then Livingston High School for his sophomore, junior and senior years. At both schools, known for their outstanding tennis programs, he played an integral role in leading them not only to state championships, but to Tournament of Champions titles as well - Newark Academy in 2009 and Livingston High School in 2011 – distinguishing him as the only high school tennis player in New Jersey to have won state championships with two different high schools.

During his extraordinary 4-year high school career, Thomas Caputo amassed a career record of 120-10 as a singles player, including a record of 101-9 at first singles, one of only 11 players in state history to surpass 100 first singles victories. He posted a record of 25-3 at Newark Academy in 2009 (19-1 in second singles and 6-2 in first singles), and then records of 32-1, 29-5 and 34-1 in first singles for Livingston High School from 2010 through 2012.

Thomas reached the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals of the New Jersey State Singles Tournament and won the Essex County Tournament Singles Championship in 2010 and 2012. He was twice named to the First Team All-State Singles (once as a sophomore and again this year as a senior), and this year, as Captain of the Livingston High School Tennis Team, he was also named to the First Team Group IV Singles, Second Team All-State By Position First Singles, First Team All-Essex County Singles; and First Team Super Essex All-Conference Tennis Team (American Division).

Thomas was also awarded the “Outstanding Athletic Achievement Award” for Boys Tennis by The Men of Essex in 2011 and 2012, and the 2012 Livingston High School “George Bacso Memorial Senior Tennis Award”. Most recently, he was named to the 2012 U. S. Junior Davis Cup Team, and was one of only 32 high school tennis players to be named a “National High School Tennis All-American 2012” by the National High School Tennis All-American Foundation in recognition of his having attained the highest standards of “prep tennis excellence”.

In addition to his outstanding achievements as a member of his high school tennis teams, Thomas has enjoyed great success and acclaim in United States Tennis Association (USTA) Eastern Section and National competitions since the age of 12. He has been ranked in the Top 3 for the Eastern Section (NY, NJ, CT) in all four age groups (boys 12’s, 14’s, 16’s and 18’s), and currently enjoys the #1 ranking in the 18’s age group; in USTA National rankings, he is currently ranked #34 in the 18’s age group, and was ranked as high as #25 in the 16’s age group. He won the National Doubles Championship three times and the Eastern Sectional Championship eight times; he won the National Singles Championship and reached the National Finals on a second occasion, and is a 5-time Eastern Sectional Singles Champion. As a 16-year old, he also competed in the Nike Junior Tour Championships when he won the Eastern Sectional Championship and then went on to compete in the National Championships at Stanford University where he finished in third place and was awarded a sponsorship from Nike.

Thomas Caputo is the son of his proud parents, Joseph and Donna, and the brother of Anthony, and has been awarded an athletic scholarship to attend Michigan State University in the fall, where he will continue his tennis career and pursue a degree in business.

In his remarks, Thomas thanked his parents for all their sacrifices in allowing him to follow his dreams because, “Tennis has been more than a sport for me... it’s been a way of life, and I love it more than anything.” He also expressed his appreciation to the Livingston community for all their support, and his high school coach, Elliot Lovi, for “...being more than a coach... more like a second father to me.” He also commented on how special being part of a team, especially the Livingston High School Tennis Team, had been for him, saying, “What I loved so much about this high school experience was that I could lose *my* match, but my team could lift me up and bring on the win, and that’s something I really don’t get to experience when traveling around (competing individually in the U. S. T. A.)”.

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