

Subject: A tournament to remember
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STREETSQUASH

HARLEM • NEWARK

INDIVIDUALS 2018: A TOURNAMENT TO REMEMBER



Last weekend, StreetSquash sent 83 students, 17 staff members, and four alumni to Amherst and Williams Colleges for the 16th Annual Urban Individual

Nationals. Hosted by the Squash and Education Alliance (SEA), StreetSquash joined 17 squash and education programs and over 400 student-athletes from across the country for the annual tournament.

"It's so great to see all our students, young and old, coming together, working hard, being supportive of one another, and being exemplary competitors," said Founder & Executive Director George Polsky. "I saw not one instance of poor behavior on court, but rather displays of great sportsmanship, even during very heated play."

With support from friends, family, alumni, and staff, our StreetSquashers felt at home in the whirlwind of competition. Each year, the Individual Nationals event grows in numbers and empowers our students to make new friends, explore educational opportunities, and act as ambassadors of the SEA family.

StreetSquash owes a great deal of gratitude to SEA for a fantastic weekend, and to our community of supporters for making this event possible for our students.

Threepat!



Zeinab '19 celebrates her third UIN title with Executive Director George Polsky.

Throughout the entire tournament, Zeinab dropped only two games to win her third A division title from UIN. In the finals of the annual championship, Zeinab faced Jocelyn of SquashHaven. With a cool demeanor and steady strategy, Zeinab was able to control the match in a close three games.

Making Strides in the SEA Art Achievement Contest



Ebonie '18 is recognized by SEA for winning the U19 Creative Art Contest. Seen here, the StreetSquash Newark Senior is honored by SEA keynote speaker Rafiatou Ouro-Aguy, Hamilton College '18, SquashHaven '14.

To compete at UIN, every student is required to respond to a prompt from SEA in either written or visual art form. StreetSquash Newark's Ebonie '18 earned the U19 Art Achievement Award, SEA's highest honor for this contest.

Ebonie's work detailed an illustration of a lioness in response to the 2018 prompt "What is one thing about yourself that you hope never changes? Why?" Ebonie's art piece was complemented by her description in which she explained:

"My strength gave me confidence in who I am and who I want to be as a person, squash player, and leader. This artwork represents me. It represents my strength and the beauty it has brought out of me. I wouldn't want to change this part of myself for any reason now or ever."

Seniors' Last Hurrah



StreetSquash Harlem Seniors, Leslie, Fatou, Ismaila, and Shirley sport their college colors with their fellow Senior, Jesus from Impact 360 Denver.

For our seniors, attending Individuals is one of the highest privileges in finishing out their final year as an after-school participant. This year, the seniors held their own with a strong showing in the draw. Notably, Ismaila '18 (center above) beat out the #2 seed, Mageraga of CitySquash, in an incredibly competitive five games. Ismaila went on to become the BU19 B Division national finalist, losing in a tough four games to the #1 seed, SquashHaven's Edwardo.

Another senior, Kianna '18, made StreetSquash proud when she traded competitive games throughout a five-game thriller with the #1 seed, MetroSquash's Teri, earning her the third-place trophy in her GU19 B Division.

Amidst the excitement on court, all SEA seniors were treated to a social event in order to celebrate their hard work and network with other college-bound students.

UIN 2018 Champions, Finalists and Plate Winners

A DRAW

Zeinab '19 - GU17 Champion

Conner '21 - BU15 Finalist

Habibatou '22 - GU15 Classic Plate Winner

Matthew '22 - Classic Plate Winner

Luke '18 - BU19 Consolation Winner

Geraldo '19 - BU19 Consolation Finalist

Naheem '20 - BU17 Consolation Finalist

B DRAW

Ismaila '18 BU19 - Finalist

Kianna '18 - GU19 3rd Place

Mariam '22 - GU17 Finalist

Raya '20 - GU17 3rd Place

Kaiya ' 20 - GU17 Classic Plate Winner

Syfee '19 - BU19 Consolation Winner

Inaijah '20 - GU17 Consolation Winner

Javon '19 - BU17 Consolation Finalist

Jessica '21 - GU17 Consolation Finalist

Highlights Around the Courts



StreetSquash Founder and Executive Director George Polsky coaches Samantha Gonzalez '19 through an epic five-game thriller in which Samantha prevailed over her SquashBusters Lawrence competitor.



StreetSquash Harlem Senior, Luke '18 celebrates his 5th-place finish in the BU19 A division. In a rare sequence of events, Luke rebounded from a first-round loss to teammate Geraldo '19, to rewrite the record facing Geraldo again in the Consolation Finals, securing the trophy in a four-game win.



StreetSquash Newark Seniors, Kiara, Ebonie, Enaysia, and Na'Dree soak in their final tournament before heading to college this fall. Newark's first-ever Senior class found themselves in supportive company among the SEA network on and off the court.



Senior Director of College Access, Success, and Alumni Support Assumpta is surrounded by StreetSquash Harlem U13 competitors Kervens '24, Sienna '24, Justin '23, and Harlem '23 to comemorate the tournament with a selfie.



StreetSquash Newark Junior, Quinlan '19 dives into the competition of his first Individuals in the BU19 division. Throughout the weekend, many StreetSquash Newark students had the chance to support and compete alongside their StreetSquash Harlem family.



StreetSquash alumna, Kamali Williamson '15 with our current StreetSquashers, Jessica '21, Raya '21, Kaiya '20, and Mariam '22. Kamali worked among SEA staff to assist the Amherst College tournament directors but still found time to reconnect with StreetSquash students and staff throughout the weekend.



UIN 2018 PHOTOS

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