

Subject: Specter Center Hosts 422 Students for SEA's 18th Team Nationals

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**SQUASH +
EDUCATION
ALLIANCE**

Cincinnati Squash Academy, StreetSquash, and CitySquash Prevail at Team Nationals in Philadelphia



Students take a mid-day break in play to hear from alumni speaker Sakora Miller and recognize winners of SEA's seasonal academic contest. (Photos courtesy of Rob White Photography.)

SEA brought together 422 middle and high school students from 17 U.S. cities earlier this month for Team Nationals, a three-day tournament for participants across our network of member organizations. Originally

scheduled to take place in January, this was SEA's first national tournament in two years and the 18th national team tournament in our network's history. With 80 five-player teams competing, the marquee event took place at the extraordinary Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center in Philadelphia. In addition to the more than 715 matches played, the weekend featured an academic awards ceremony, visits from college representatives, and remarks from an SEA alumnus.

Split into three divisions, the weekend's big winners in the A Division were CitySquash Bronx, which captured the High School Girls' and Middle School Boys' titles, Harlem's StreetSquash, which took home the High School Boys' trophy, and, Cincinnati Squash Academy, which earned its first national team victory in the Middle School Girls' draw.

SEA is grateful to all who made the memorable weekend possible, especially U.S. Squash and the Specter Center, Sakora Miller, Julia Thompson, and Kim Clearkin, our tournament assistants and staff, and all the programs that traveled to participate.

"After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, I'm so glad we could host Team Nationals this year," says SEA Director of Squash Edgardo Gonzalez. "It was amazing to bring the SEA network back together again, to watch our players compete on the court, and build everlasting relationships off the court. The Specter Center was the perfect host venue, and we can't wait to return in a few months for SEA Individual Nationals."

Tournament Photos

A Division Champions

High School Girls - CitySquash Bronx
High School Boys - StreetSquash
Middle School Girls - Cincinnati Squash Academy
Middle School Boys - CitySquash Bronx

B Division Champions

High School Girls - SquashBusters Boston
High School Boys - SquashWise
Middle School Girls - SquashSmarts

C Division Champions

High School Girls - SquashBusters Lawrence
High School Boys - SquashBusters Boston

[Check out the list of historical Team Champions on the SEA website.](#)



Ariana, Kimberly, Giselle, Lizbeth, and Brianna of CitySquash's Bronx site were the high school girls champions, winning a 3-2 final against Hartford's Capitol Squash.



After first and second round victories against Squash Haven and CitySquash, Thomas, Kelvin, Matthew A., Matthew D., and Osiris of StreetSquash faced off with SquashBusters Boston in the high school boys' championship. The Harlem squad came out on top, with all five players winning their matches 3-0.



In the first major team win for the Ohio program, Cincinnati Squash Academy's Rona, Leah, Laell, Ruth, and Diane won the middle school girls' championship in a 3-2 victory over CitySquash.



CitySquash's Joannes, Rodrigo, James, Michael, and Sergio won the middle school boys' trophy after defeating SquashSmarts and SquashBusters Lawrence.



Students from SquashBusters' three sites in Boston, Lawrence, and Providence competed in the tournament. Here players huddle up with coach and program alumnus Ben Osajie.



Adam of Rally Portland and Elijah of Urban Squash Cleveland compete in a semifinal match in the high school boys' B division.



"The way you conduct yourself in your matches and after your matches, when you're shaking hands, when you're showing sportsmanship...these are the characteristics that are going to carry you from now all throughout your life," says Sakora Miller, SquashSmarts alumnus and Senior Manager of Community Squash Programming at the Specter Center.



Admissions representatives from Cabrini University, Mount Holyoke College, Saint Joseph's University, Temple University, and Trinity College paid a visit to the Specter Center to meet with SEA students and discuss post-secondary opportunities.



SquashWise's high school boys' team, pictured above during team introductions, won the B division.



Charleston's Kids on Point was among the programs that traveled the furthest for the tournament.



Team Nationals would not have been possible without the hard work of the tournament staff, including Christopher Lucero, Gil Viveros, Mawa Ballo, Edgardo Gonzalez, Yunior Santos, Ranson Gaymon, Monisha Das, Manuela Perez, and DuBois Stewart.



Students from Racquet Up Detroit explore the nearby Drexel University campus.



Forty students from Connecticut's Squash Haven competed in Team Nationals. Above, Coach Pam Saunders checks in with a player in between points.



Players from Philadelphia's SquashSmarts pose on their home turf.



Students from Minneapolis-St. Paul's Beyond Walls catch up with alumnus Gil, who served as a Tournament Assistant.



Buffalo's 716 Squash brought two high school teams to the tournament.



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