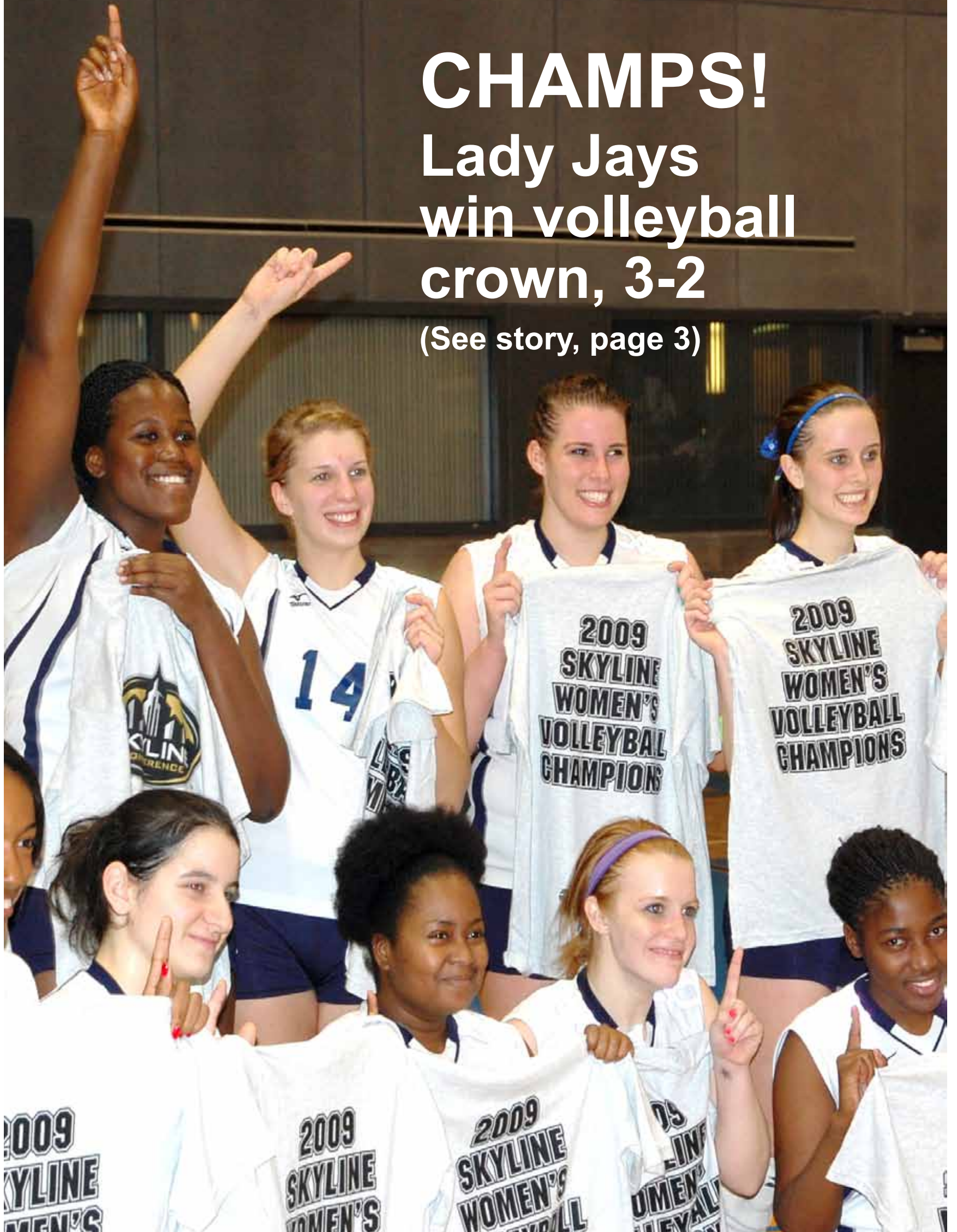


## CHAMPS! Lady Jays win volleyball crown, 3-2

(See story, page 3)



## Editorial

### Congratulations to the Women's Volleyball Team —First Poly Team Ever in an NCAA Tournament

With our very own women's volleyball team heading to the NCAA tournament—the first time this feat has been accomplished by a Poly team—we must first understand the victory's significance. Let's look at it like this: We have 16 athletic teams in this college. Not one of our teams has even made it to an NCAA tournament until now. What's more, none even qualified for the ECAC (a secondary postseason tournament).

In basketball, the closest we came to qualify for one of these events was in the 2003-04 season; the record of the men's basketball team was then 13 wins and 13 losses. Even after finishing first in the conference standings by winning the regular season and then the Hudson Valley Conference Championship, the team did not qualify, making the achievement of the women's volleyball team that much more impressive.

Being in the gym all day Saturday, listening to the passion of the NYU-Poly fans cheering on their Lady Blue Jays to victory, made this editor swell with pride.

The overall experience of that day was great. When you actually witness history in the making, it's something that holds extra meaning.

With the fall athletic teams having one of their most successful seasons ever, you can't wait to see how the future will shape up, thanks to the publicity that will accrue from it and, as a result, the incoming recruits this success may attract.

Yes—the accomplishments of the women's volleyball team give every player and every coach on every team on this campus something to shoot for, something to work hard to emulate.

### A Few Words About The Men's Soccer Team

Women's volleyball isn't the only team to cheer about this fall. Have you been following our men's soccer team? Well, if not, take note: They have had a historic season themselves.

The team made it to the semifinals in the Skyline Championships, losing Saturday to St. Joseph's (LI). We salute our

strikers, too, for making us all feel a sense of pride in being Poly students and alumni.

For now, we wish our Lady Jays the best of luck in the big event that lies ahead: the NCAA Championship round. It's the equivalent of March madness, but in volleyball.

-WM

## Corrections

In the Oct. 12 issue, the word "bleak," in the "Inside" box, was misspelled. Also in that issue, the blurb under the headline "Graduate Center Roundtable" should have read, "Here's a look at the new policies now in place at the Graduate Center and the upgraded benefits available to grad students" (not "benefits and grad students," as it incorrectly was written).

Finally, on the last page of that issue, a continuation line should have appeared at the bottom of the page to indicate that the article headed "Women's Volleyball Team Leaps to Top of Skyline Conference" continued at the top of page 26, just below the headline "At a Glance."

The Reporter regrets the errors.

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## Skyline Conference Volleyball Championship Women Defeat Sage in Final-Game Thriller; Meredith Shipman Voted Tourney MVP; Now It's on to the NCAA Regionals

By KISHAN CHANCHALL



*Melissa Pona (l.) and Corey Loupee defend the net against Sage's Sarah Peacock.*



*Marisa Mauerhan goes for the kill.*



*Meredith Shipman (l.) and Jacqueline Johnson are all smiles in light of their victory.*



*The new champs gather for a group shot with their hard-won trophy.*

The Polytechnic women's volleyball team made history Saturday, becoming the first Poly team to win a Skyline Conference championship and enter an NCAA tournament.

The Lady Jays defeated Sage College in the final in a squeaker, 3-2. Poly lost the first set, won the second, lost the third, and, with Sage leading 2 games to 1, Poly went on a roll, winning the last two games to capture the crown.

The women are headed to the NCAA Division III Volleyball Tournament, which starts this coming Thursday.

In the last set of the final game, Sage took a commanding 12-9 lead and needed only three points for victory. But the Blue Jays fought back, feeding off the energy of the crowd, and managed to close within one point of the Sage Gators, 14-13. With the crowd chanting, "Let's go, Poly!" the

women responded by achieving one of the greatest comebacks in Polytechnic sports history, ending the game with a stunning 17-15 overtime win.

Meredith Shipman, Poly's star outside hitter and co-captain, was voted tournament MVP. She had 35 kills against Sage and 14 against Mount Saint Mary in the semifinal. Also contributing mightily to the team's victory was Victoria Kalvert, who made 5 straight consecutive aces in the second set, and co-captain Jacqueline Johnson, who made 43 assists in the final match.

In the semifinal, played earlier in the day, the women routed Mount Saint Mary, 3-0. The Blue Jays took the first set, 25-14, and the next two sets by the same score of 25-17.

Shipman had 14 kills, setter Johnson had 33 assists, and middle blockers Kalvert

and Corey Loupee had 10 and 7 kills, respectively.

The NYU-Poly women finished the season undefeated in the Skyline Conference, winning 9 games. Their overall record was 25-9, making them the number one seed in the tournament.

Obviously delighted with the women's outstanding achievement this season, Coach Marc Solandz said, "The girls worked really hard and they certainly deserve this. It has been 25 years in the making."

Solandz completed his second season as the Poly coach.

### Final-Match Recap

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5
Poly	16	25	18	25	17
Sage	25	14	25	10	15

*More game photos on pages 4 and 5*



*Close teamwork sparked this victory.*



*Corey Loupee (r.) is all concentration.*



*Fans turned out in droves to cheer on and help energize the Blue Jays.*



*Nicole Breitbart reaches deep for a save.*



*Meredith Shipman, tournament MVP, readies a kill as Victoria Kalvert (l.) and Jacqueline Johnson prepare for a possible return volley.*



*The athletes show their team spirit before the next play.*

## NASA Glenn Research Center: A Great Place to Work—Here's Why

By TIFFANY LEE



*Attendees listen intently, as NASA representatives from the space agency's Glenn Research Center describe research and career opportunities.*



*Distinguished NASA panelists engaged in a lively question-and-answer session.*

NYU-Poly's budding young engineers, scientists, and researchers were invited to attend on Oct. 13 an information session hosted by representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Students filed into the Regna Lounge to hear about career and internship possibilities at NASA's Glenn Research Center.

Only U.S. citizens were admitted, and those who attended did not leave until the very end. Andrew Tse, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, came to the session with a hopeful attitude.

"It was very exciting," he said. "NASA representatives hadn't visited Poly in a long time."

Glenn's associate director, Vernon W. Wessel, who flew to New York City from Glenn's headquarters in Cleveland, delivered the talk and discussed with students research projects that are currently under way at the center's facilities. At the conclusion of the session, Wessel mingled and shook hands with students.

The center plays a pivotal role in NASA's contributions to science and research, as evidenced by the recognition Glenn has garnered over the years, including awards in the fields of aer propulsion systems, in-space propulsion systems,

aerospace communications, and power and energy conversion. Glenn has even won an Emmy for its contributions to communications.

Wessel noted that Glenn also has the distinction of having won more Turning Goals Into Reality (TGIR) awards than any other NASA agency.

The TGIR celebrates achievements made by NASA employees in the pursuit of NASA's aerospace goals and objectives.

The center works to develop hypersonic aircraft, subsonic fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, and supersonic aircraft. In step with today's environmental concerns, Glenn also is in the process of developing green aircraft, which will consume less fuel and produce less noise and fewer gas emissions.

Not content with facilitating air travel, Glenn designs technology for space exploration. Its Fluids and Combustion Facility was launched in November 2008 to the International Space Station, and its Ares, Orion, and Altair spacecraft are linchpins in NASA's Constellation program.

The program seeks to return American astronauts to the Moon by 2020.

Job opportunities? Wessel said Glenn offers paid summer co-op positions that give participants a chance to combine

their academic studies with career-related work experience. Students are assigned to a series of tasks and work under the guidance of qualified personnel, he said. Assignments are directly related to a student's academic and professional interests.

Taking part in the co-op program is a prerequisite to attaining full-time employment at Glenn, although participation does not guarantee a job upon graduation.

The question-and-answer period following Wessel's presentation covered a wide range of topics. The Glenn panel included Dr. Bhim Singh, division chief for the space processes and experiments division, research and technology directorate; Therese Griebel, chief of manufacturing; and Eduardo A. Santos, coordinator of the co-op program.

To qualify for Glenn's co-op program, students must have a G.P.A. of at least 3.0.

## THEATER REVIEW

## 'Wicked'

By LONNA GORDON

It may be an oxymoron, but "Wicked" is good. That isn't news; it's been on Broadway forever for a reason. But if "Wicked" wasn't on your must-see list before, put it there. Because it's *that* good.

"Wicked" is based on the movie "The Wizard of Oz," so see that first if you haven't already. The play uses audience knowledge of the "Oz" movie to pepper the plot with dramatic irony both funny and nerve-racking. You get to see why the lion is cowardly (and why he can speak), how the "woodman" became tin, and why there's a live scarecrow. "Wicked" plays a bit loosely with these elements, and if you think too hard, the premise of the action can seem thin. But you don't, because "Wicked" is good enough that you don't mind.

What's so good? Well, first, the plot. I hate being able to figure out the ending to a story. But every time I thought I saw a clear path to the end of "Wicked," a new twist would pop up and obscure the view. It never gets dull.

I wouldn't give a full score for characterization; sometimes it seemed as though the characters were inconsistent for the sake of dramatics. But they worked. Elpheba is an aggressive loner who greets an unfriendly world with preemptive resentment. You can't blame her. It isn't easy being green, and Elpheba was born with the wrong skin tone.

Elpheba's roommate at school is Glinda: ditzy, superficial, popular, and, in Elpheba's disgusted summary, "blond." Despite apparently running on empty between the ears, Glinda is brilliant at manipulating people and advancing herself. She also harbors a soft heart that redeems

her shallow personality.

These two play off against each other constantly, creating tension, irony, and laughs. They even fight over a boy.

The eligible bachelor in the story is Fiyero, who appears to be a male counterpart to Glinda. His mantra: "life is more painless for the brainless." Fiyero has learned to avoid being hurt by not caring. At least until he arrives at school, where he meets a green- and thick-skinned girl whose fierce integrity he admires.

So what is "Wicked" about? You can explain it on many levels. It casts "The Wizard of Oz" in a new light and answers some questions: What made the Wicked Witch of the West wicked? (She wasn't; her reputation was a result of a calumnious campaign launched by the Wizard's press secretary.) And why did she wear that pointed hat (now a staple of witchy wardrobes)? (The hat was a practical joke by Glinda.) And what's with the flying monkeys? (The Wizard tricked her into making them.)

The familiar story of Dorothy and Toto never appears on stage. This is the behind-the-scenes view of events, where Glinda, after calling to an offstage Dorothy, "Just follow the yellow brick road!" worries, "I hope she doesn't get lost; I'm so bad at giving directions."

"Wicked" could be social commentary on herd mentality, the abuses of government, and the objectivity of the outsider. Or it could be about the superficiality of our culture. We roll our eyes at Glinda when she sings, "It's not about aptitude/It's the way you're viewed." But, ultimately, the uncompromising Elpheba

fails while Glinda succeeds.

It could be about friendship, love, and family. You could look for and find all kinds of meaning. A plethora of intricacies and richness of layers makes it the kind of play you can watch over and over and enjoy each time.

You could not think about it at all and just enjoy a masterful musical score. There are fun songs like "Popular," in which Glinda describes her view on life, or the cheerful "What is this Feeling," which will run around in your head all week if you let it ("What is this feeling BBC" will get you a decent video on Youtube). There is the poignant "I'm Not That Girl," which captures the sadness of seeing a hope slip away. And there is the audience favorite, "Defying Gravity," an exhilarating anthem of defiance, also all over Youtube, and for good reason.

One last point to commend "Wicked": it's clever. The humor isn't sophomoric or frivolous. Snappy one-liners, double entendres, cultural references, and ample use of irony keep it entertaining. There are also some great special effects that complement the action and add an extra layer of enjoyment.

The ending is bittersweet but inevitable. My only comment about it is that, predictably, the writers couldn't permit a mismatched couple.

But I'm not going to ruin it for you. Find out for yourself. You can get tickets to "Wicked" for around \$100 on ticketzoom.com, or petition Student Development to offer us discount rates again next semester. To paraphrase the Wizard of Oz, "Everyone deserves a chance to watch."



## SPORTS

## NYU-Poly Soccer Team Bows to St. Joe's Strong Attack

By WILLIAM MODESTE JR.



*Joe Gabor kicked the winning goal in the quarter-final game.*

The NYU-Polytechnic men's soccer team suffered a disappointing 6-1 defeat in the semifinals of the Skyline Conference Championship on Friday, Nov. 6, at Coram, N.Y.

The Blue Jays were outmatched by St. Joseph's (LI) attack with 19 shots to Poly's 5 shots. For Poly, the lone goal was by Adam Lakawicz.

To reach the final game, Poly eked out a double-overtime 1-0 victory over SUNY Maritime on Wednesday, Nov. 4, on a penalty kick by captain Joe Gabor.

The golden goal win came in the 105th minute of play in the quarterfinal

round and enabled the fifth-seeded Blue Jays to move on to the semifinals. The victory marked the first postseason playoff win for a Polytechnic soccer team.

NYU-Poly keeper Rob Petri had seven saves en route to his fourth shutout of the season.

The victory was NYU-Poly's 10th of the season against 9 losses and a tie. Despite the postseason loss to St. Joe's, the Blue Jays still ended the season with a favorable record of 10 wins, 10 losses, and a tie.

The game was played on Reinhart Field, Throgs Neck, N.Y.

## The Champions Are...



Nicole Breitbart  
Freshman



Colette Corrica  
Senior



Judith Ford  
Sophomore



Jacqueline Johnson  
Senior



Victoria Kalvert  
Sophomore



Corey Loupee  
Freshman



Marisa Mauerhan  
Sophomore



Melissa Pona  
Sophomore



Meredith Shipman  
Junior



Alexis Walker  
Sophomore

*Next issue: men's and women's basketball preview*