

CitySquash Visits Taft

New York Squash Program a Hit with Taft Squash Teams

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The intercity New York squash program called "City Squash" is providing a great service both to its involved youth but also for prep schools. The program takes underprivileged youth from New York City and places them in the realm of athletics. Although squash may have the air of elitism to some, City Squash is taking those who normally would have no exposure to the sport and teaching them how to be skillful artists on the court. City Squash's youths are recruited to some of the best Prep Schools in the Northeast. The support given to the fortunate and driven few that manage to navigate the demands in courts and in the classrooms of City Squash are given an education and life that otherwise would have been a mere dream.

Taft is benefiting from one worthy graduate of City Squash. Andrew Cadienhead '13 is in his first year at Taft and has already made a splash in the squash circuit. On a team that just recently placed 5th at the 2010 Squash Team Nationals at Yale, Cadienhead has held the #5 or #6 spot on the talented team. Most importantly, Andrew is working hard both in the gym and in the classroom - a testament to the program that introduced him to Taft.

On February 15th, Taft hosted the City Squash program. "As a school, it was great to give something back to a program that has given so many kids unbelievable opportunities," said Boys' Varsity Squash Coach WT Miller. Both the Girls' and Boys' programs played with visiting City Squash players. The squash portion of the visit culminated with Taft's #1 boy and girl, Zeyad Elshorfy '12 and Sachika Balvani '12, taking on Tim Wyant, the Executive Director of City Squash, in matches. Afterward, the two Taft teams escorted the New York youngsters to the newly renovated dining facilities. City Squash's visit to Taft was capped with an overnight next to the squash courts. "City Squash is such a great program. It was really nice to have them at Taft and see the smiles on their faces," said junior Boys' team captain Andy Cannon. "It was a special afternoon for us."