

**For Immediate Release**

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### **RTA Presents 2011 Junior Awards**

**RICHMOND, VA – December 18, 2011** – The best gifts aren't always wrapped, and several local junior players will likely attest to that as they gathered tonight for the presentation of their awards from the Richmond Tennis Association (RTA). The organization held an informal awards reception for the players who had been informed of their selection just before Thanksgiving. Presented annually, the RTA Junior Player Awards recognize outstanding Richmond-area junior players. The 2011 award winners are as follows:

*Sam B. Woods Award for Most Improved Boy* - **Liam Sullivan**

*Ellen Smith Maloney Award for Most Improved Girl* - **Connor Brewer**

*Richard Passloff Award for Boy Sportsmanship* - **Harris Blair**

*Sue Cain Award for Girl Sportsmanship* - **Jacqueline Dillon**

*Greg Semon Award for Enthusiasm for the Game* - **Justin Cerny**

*Dorothy Chewning Award for Enthusiasm for the Game* - **Allie Straus**

Sullivan, a junior at Trinity High School, was the only local player in the U.S. Tennis Association National Open Boys' 16s held Thanksgiving weekend at Raintree Swim and Racquet Club. The Sam B. Woods Award is in honor of Woods who promoted tennis through his free junior programs at Byrd Park and was the highly-regarded boys' coach at Thomas Jefferson High School before his death in 1963.

Brewer, a junior at Collegiate, helped the Cougars win the League of Independent Schools title earlier this month. The Ellen Smith Maloney Award recognizes Ellen and her husband, Frank, who were both very active in the RTA, particularly with the junior programs.

Blair plays No. 1 singles and doubles for St. Christopher's. The Richard Passloff Award was established shortly after Passloff's death in 1972 to honor boys demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship. Also very active in the RTA, he was heavily involved in junior programs and the inception of the men's pro tournament.

Dillon plays for Mills Godwin High School and, as a freshman this past spring, helped advance the Eagles to the Central Region title. Dillon also won the Davenport & Company Richmond City Championships' Girls 16s title this year. The Sue Cain Award is in memory of Cain, who passed away in 2010. A former women's city champion, she was also one of the leading female tennis officials in the world. This award recognizes girls exhibiting the highest levels of good sportsmanship.

Cerny is a sophomore and plays for Trinity. The Greg Semon Award is in honor of Semon, a fun-loving junior active in RTA programs as a teen before his death in his early 20s.

Straus is a player for Collegiate. The Dorothy Chewning Award commemorates Chewning who was also very active in RTA work and instrumental in bringing the women's pro tour to Richmond in the early 1970s.

One of the oldest and most successful community tennis organizations in the United States, the RTA is a Section 501(c) (3) public charity that organizes and supports a variety of tennis programs and events throughout the year for tennis players of all ages and abilities in the metro area. For more information on the RTA, please visit [richmondtennis.org](http://richmondtennis.org).

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