

SCC NEWS

Official Newsletter of the
Southern Connecticut Conference



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From the Commissioner's Desk

It's a great time of the year! The weather is getting warmer and the end of the school is almost here, but there are many things to report on. As you all know, it was a very busy winter in the SCC with lots of things going on. That's why I am very happy to report the SCC had many successes by its students, teams, and schools during this time.

In this issue of SCC NEWS...

- SportingNewsCT.com Partnership a Success!
- Fourth Annual Arts Exhibition is April 24-29
- 12th Annual Scholar Leader Banquet Held
- Recapping the Winter Sports Season - 8 more state titles!
- 12th Annual Football Banquet Recap
- SCC Notebook and "Kudos"

Next issue in June: *The next issue of SCC News will be out in late June to wrap up the spring!*

Questions, Comments, Ideas...

If anyone has questions, comments, or suggestions about the SCC, our website, this newsletter, etc., please don't hesitate to contact me via email:

commissioner@southernconnecticutconference.org

Best wishes for a safe rest of the school year!
Al Carbone

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

To continue to offer top-notch programs and events, the Southern Connecticut Conference relies on financial support from the local business community.

The SCC has several sponsors for the 2005-06 academic year, including the NewAlliance Foundation, The United Illuminating Company, New Haven Register, Velocity Sports Performance, and the International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 478.

Their support is well-appreciated!



On the Web SCC-SportingNewsCT.com Partnership A Success

Last fall, the Southern Connecticut Conference and **SportingNewsCT.com** reached an agreement to broadcast league athletic contests and events.

As the conference enters the third and final season of the academic year, the student-athletes and teams of the SCC as well as the numerous fans and stakeholders of the conference have benefitted from this partnership.

In addition to the live - and archived - coverage of just over 85 SCC regular-season and postseason athletic contests, SportingNewsCT.com has also broadcasted from events such as the



SCC Captains Council luncheons and Football Banquet.

"I have been very pleased with this relationship," said Commissioner Al Carbone. "Don Boyle and his staff at SportingNewsCT.com have done a tremendous job not only covering our athletic teams and contests, but more importantly, embracing our league, our events and our member schools."

For more information about the website and the schedule of live and archived broadcasts, go to www.SportingNewsCT.com.

12th Annual SCC Scholar-Leader Banquet Held *46 Students Honored for Scholarship and Leadership*

The 12th Annual Scholar Leader Banquet was held on March 27 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. 46 students representing the 23 SCC member schools were recognized for their outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school communities.

Shelton High School principal Donald Ramia and Notre Dame-West Haven principal Ralph Proto were co-chairs of the event. UHY Advisors LLP was the participating event sponsor for the second straight year. UHY is part of the nation's 14th largest business consulting and accounting firm, and also an active partner in the New Haven community.



2005-06 SCC Scholar Leader Recipients:

Amity Regional
Kari Hulley, Siddarth Nadkarni

Mercy
Tricia Brown, Jennifer Thompson

Mark T. Sheehan
Indira Dhandapani, Kathryn Schwink

Branford
Kirsten Fuchs, Chris Giordano

North Haven
Melanie Russo, Jonathan Rose

Shelton
Sean Ghassem-Zadeh, Samantha Lipscomb

Career Magnet
Angela Daye, Jason Schinis

Notre Dame
Joe Parise, Luke Montegudo

West Haven
Shannan Heaney, Colleen Conroy

Cheshire
Chelsea Cipriano, Cyrus Gentry

Sacred Heart Academy
Megan Ryan, Chrystina Cappello

Xavier
Phillip Braun, Christopher Zablocki

Wilbur Cross
Samantha Reaves, Timothy Flanagan

Derby
Justin Joel, Joanna Wasilowski

East Haven
Kristina Serio, Matthew Kapinos

Fairfield Prep
John Fabbri, Kevin Lincoln

Foran
Lucy Lin, Sean Kelly

Guilford
Lucy Zhou, Michael Weston-Murphy

Daniel Hand
Amy Detmer, Eric Cantey

Hamden
Marah Paley, William O'Connor

Hillhouse
Jermaine Thomas, Tiffany Bromfield

Jonathan Law
Kelly Sielert, Vlad Georgescu

Lyman Hall
Margaret Girard, Peter Karl

SCC ARTS EXPO IS APRIL 24-29 *Grand Opening Show is April 25*

The fourth annual SCC Student Arts Exhibition will be held the week of April 24-29 at the Creative Arts Workshop on Audubon Street in New Haven.

A grand opening of the show with refreshments, sponsor recognition, and award presentations will be held on Tuesday, April 25 starting at 5:00 p.m.

The exhibition will feature a 60+ selection of outstanding student-originated visual arts in a variety of media, produced by students in grades 9-12.

Each SCC member school has the opportunity to submit up to three works. Prizes will be awarded by a jury of professional artists and arts administrators coordinated through CAW Executive Director Susan Smith. The chair of the event is Amity principal Dr. Ed Goldstone.

For the third straight year, the **Specialized Packaging Group, Inc.** will be the event sponsor. For more information on SPG, go to www.spgroup-inc.com.

"Many thanks to Susan Smith and her staff at the Creative Arts Workshop for hosting the SCC Arts Expo once again," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone commented. "New Haven is indeed the 'creative arts capitol' of Connecticut," so it's an honor to have such a first-class venue to show off our students' great work."

For more information and directions to the Creative Arts Workshop, go to <http://www.creativeartsworkshop.org/>.



Recapping the Winter Sports Season

SCC Teams Capture Eight State Championships; 16 So Far in 2005-06

It was another successful winter season as SCC member-schools fared extremely well in league and state-wide competition. **All told, SCC teams captured eight state championships which brings the total to 16 for the 2005-06 academic year.** Six additional teams earned runner-up status in CIAC state competition during the winter campaign. Since the league's inception in 1994, SCC schools have now won 235 state championships.

2005-06 SCC State Champions

Fall (8)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Girls Cross Country	MM	Guilford
Boys Cross Country	MM	Guilford
Boys Cross Country	LL	Amity
Girls Soccer	LL	Cheshire (co-champs)
Field Hockey	M	Branford
Football	M	Hand
Football	MM	Branford
Football	LL	Xavier

Winter (8)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Boys Basketball	I	Hillhouse
Boys Swimming	L	Cheshire
Boys Indoor Track	LL	Amity
Boys Indoor track	Open	Amity
Girls Indoor Track	L	Hillhouse
Gymnastics	M	Hand
Ice Hockey	II	Hand
Ice Hockey	III	Cheshire

2005-06 SCC State Runner-Ups

Fall (9)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Boys Cross Country	Open	Amity
Football	M	Hillhouse
Field Hockey	L	Cheshire
Field Hockey	M	Hand
Girls Cross Country	L	Mercy
Girls Swimming	Open	Cheshire
Girls Swimming	LL	Cheshire
Girls Swimming	M	Branford
Girls Volleyball	LL	Shelton

Winter (6)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Girls Basketball	LL	Mercy
Ice Hockey	I	Hamden
Boys Swimming	LL	Fairfield Prep
Boys Swimming	L	Xavier
Girls Indoor Track	Open	Hillhouse
Girls Indoor Track	LL	Amity

Winter Divisional & Playoff Champions

Listed below are the sport-by-sport divisional and playoff champions for the eight winter sports.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hammonasset: Hillhouse (7-1)

Housatonic: Cheshire (6-2)

Oronoque: Career (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Mercy (6-0)

SCC Playoffs: Career defeated Hillhouse, 64-51

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hammonasset: Hillhouse (8-0)

Housatonic: Shelton/Sheehan (5-3)

Oronoque: Wilbur Cross (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Xavier/West Haven (7-1)

SCC Playoffs: Hillhouse defeated Hand, 76-47

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hillhouse

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Mercy

SCC Championship: Amity; runner-up was Hillhouse

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hand

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: North Haven

Quinnipiac: Xavier

SCC Championship: Amity; runner-up was Hamden

ICE HOCKEY

Division I: Fairfield Prep (7-1)

Division II: Amity (5-1)

GYMNASTICS

SCC Championships: Hand; runner-up was Law

BOYS SWIMMING

Regular Season: Fairfield Prep

SCC Championship: Fairfield Prep; runner-up was Cheshire

WRESTLING

Regular-Season: Hand (8-0)

SCC Championship: Hand; runner-up was Amity

MORE GOOD STUFF...

In addition, 44 SCC teams (out of 57 eligible teams) qualified for CIAC winter sport playoff competition in girls basketball (16-of-20), boys basketball (14-of-21), and ice hockey (14-of-16).

Eleven SCC teams reached the semifinal round in their respective competitions.

Former Shelton Standout Dan Orlovsky is Guest Speaker at 12th Annual SCC Football Banquet

All-Conference players and divisional champions also recognized



Former Shelton and current Detroit Lions quarterback Dan Orlovsky was the guest speaker at the 12th Annual SCC Football Banquet.

The 12th Annual Southern Connecticut Conference All-Conference Awards Banquet was held on Monday, January 9 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

SCC Commissioner Al Carbone served as master of ceremonies and recapped another successful year - *if not the most successful in the 12 years of the SCC* - on the gridiron.

In 2005, a record three SCC teams captured state championships (Xavier, Branford and Hand), while an additional two (West Haven and Hillhouse) earned CIAC state playoff

berths. At the conclusion of the season, Xavier was recognized as the number-one team in all three state polls.

In addition to honoring the 60 all-conference football players, the four divisional champions (Xavier, West Haven, Hillhouse, and Derby/Sheehan) were recognized.

The guest speaker for the event was Dan Orlovsky, a 2000 graduate of Shelton High School (and former two-time All-SCC football standout) and former starting quarterback for the 2004 Motor City Bowl-champion University of Connecticut Huskies. Dan is currently a member of the Detroit Lions.

There were three event sponsors - **New Haven Gridiron Club**, **Gene Casey Chapter of the National Football Foundation**, and the **Walter Camp Football Foundation**. All three organizations had representatives at the banquet, and their financial generosity allowed the league to purchase long-sleeve t-shirts for each of the All-Conference recipients.

For a complete list of All-Conference player bios and pictures from the event, go to the Football page on the SCC website at www.southernconnecticutconference.org/sports/football_banquet05.php

First SCC Cheerleading Competition A Success!

The Southern Connecticut Conference hosted its first-ever Cheerleading Competition on Saturday, February 4, at Shelton High School. Fourteen SCC schools participated in the competition in three different categories – 14-under squad size, 15-over squad size, and co-ed.

"It was a great event all around," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone said. "From the organization and set-up, to the crowd and the enthusiasm and performance of the participating teams, it was a very positive experience for our league. I look forward to the 2007 competition."

2006 Final Results

15-over division

Champion - Shelton (89.5 pts)

1st runner-up - North Haven (82.5)

2nd runner-up - West Haven (74.5)

Others: Cheshire (71), Sacred Heart Academy (71), Foran (70.5), Jonathan Law (63.5), East Haven (62.5)

14-under Division

Champion - Hamden (88 pts)

1st runner-up - Amity (73)

Others: Guilford (72), Derby (72), Daniel Hand (70.5)



Hamden won the 14-under division with 88 points.

Co-ed Division

Champion - Branford (73.5 pts)

SCC Spirit Award - Foran High School

*Special thanks to the Shelton High School **Cheer Parents** group for their outstanding hosting/coordination of the the first-ever SCC Cheerleading Competition!*

SCC Notebook

Xavier High School Honored by Walter Camp

Xavier, which was ranked No. 1 in the *New Haven Register*, *New London Day*, and *Hartford Courant* season-ending football polls, was the Walter Camp Football Foundation's choice to receive the Joseph W. Kelly Trophy as Connecticut's top high school team... Xavier captured the SCC Division I West title on its way to a perfect 12-0 record and the Class LL state championship... It marked the sixth time since 1994 that a SCC school has earned the Kelly Trophy (Cheshire 1994 and 1995; Hand 1997 and 2004; West Haven 2002).

I Repeat... Is the SCC the Best?

If you review the final rankings in the sports of girls & boys basketball and ice hockey, you can, **once again**, make an argument for the overall strength of the SCC.

The "House" is Back!

In the final state boys' basketball polls, the SCC and Division I champion Hillhouse (27-0) was the **consensus** choice as the top team in the state... Fellow SCC members Xavier (18-7), Wilbur Cross (20-4) also made the top ten and West Haven (18-5) also received some votes in the final polls.

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!

In the final girls' basketball state polls, three SCC teams (Mercy, SCC champion Career, and Hillhouse) ranked in the top ten in various polls... Mercy (23-3) earned a spot in the Class LL title game before losing to New Britain.

2 More SCC "Puck" Titles!

The CIAC decided to go to three ice hockey divisions in 2005-06... so, the SCC saw its schools in all three championship games and came away with **two more state titles** (Hand and Cheshire)... In the final state rankings, Hamden (the Division I runner-up) ranked second, while Fairfield Prep, Notre Dame, Xavier and Hand (the Division II winner) all ranked in the top ten... Cheshire (the Division III champ) and North Haven also received votes.

Good Sportsmanship...

Cheshire added to its Division III ice hockey state title by being named the "Ray Crew Sportsmanship Award," which is given to the SCC Division II team in honor of the former Sheehan ice hockey coach... Xavier earned the first-ever "Dick Gagliardi Sportsmanship Award," which is given to the Division I team in honor of the former Hamden coach and SCC ice hockey chairperson.

More Good Sportsmanship...

The Central Connecticut Board #6 of Approved Basketball Officials presented the Xavier boys basketball team with the 2006 Walter D. Akerley Sportsmanship Award.

SCC and the Michaels Cup ...

Four SCC member schools - Amity (Class L), Hand (Class MM), Branford (Class MM) and Mercy (Class SS) - are being recognized as finalists for the Michaels Cup, which is presented to the state high schools which overall athletic excellence.... Hamden was also recognized as being one of the top city schools in the state.

"KUDOS" DEPARTMENT

- Branford co-athletic directors **Jake Palluzzi** and **Sav Synodi** received the "Merit Award" for service from the CIAC Boys Basketball Committee.
- Fairfield Prep athletic director **Bob Harris** was recognized with the "Distinguished Service Award" by the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) during their recent conference in March.
- The SCC will be well represented at the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance's 65th annual "Gold Key" Dinner on April 23... Hand football coach **Steve Filippone** is being awarded the Doc McInerney High School Coach of the Year honor, while former North Haven High School girls soccer standout (and current three-time collegiate All-American at Penn State) **Tiffany Weimer** is the "Female Athlete of the Year."
- **Matthew Ehalt**, a senior at Shelton, is the 2006 winner of the "Bo" Kolinsky Memorial Scholarship given by the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance... The award provides \$1,000 for the student's first year of college and is renewable annually... Ehalt will enroll in Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications this fall... A high-honor student with a 3.99 GPA, Ehalt is sports editor of the student newspaper, Gael Winds... He also is a varsity wrestler who compiled a 34-10 record this past winter and finished fourth in the 140-pound class at the state Class LL meet.
- Amity athletic director **Paul Mengold** was named the "Athletic Director of the Year" by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association... Six SCC coaches were named as their respective sport's "Coach of the Year" - **Mary Duran** (Cheshire, field hockey), **Jim Ford** (Guilford, girls cross country), **Robert Ford** (Fairfield Prep, boys cross country), **Pat McCahill** (Hand, girls lacrosse), **Joe Morrell** (West Haven, ice hockey), and **Paul Thees** (Amity, girls volleyball) will also be recognized at the CHSCA's banquet on May 18 at the Aqua Turf in Southington.
- Three SCC students - **David Clyde** (Hand), **Irene Jia** (Lyman Hall) and **Jeanne Snow** (Sacred Heart Academy) were among the 30 students selected as 2006 Governor's Scholars... The trio will be honored at a luncheon at The Aqua Turf Club in Southington on May 25.
- West Haven High School hosted a one-day Unified Sports™ bowling event in February at the Woodlawn Bowling Alley. Over 100 people participated in the event. Congratulations to Coach **Bill McDermott** and Athletic Director **Jon Capone** for hosting the event. Two other SCC schools - Branford and Amity - also hosted Unified Sports™ basketball events in the month of March... For more information on Unified Sports™ go to the CIAC website - www.casciac.org.