

Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference

## From the Commissioner's Desk

Happy Spring! The SCC is having another excellent year as we conclude the academic year and approach our 20th anniversary.

The league and its member schools have fared extremely well athletically, especially in the recently-completed winter season. We hosted a bunch of competitive league playoff events, and hearty congratulations to the six SCC teams who won state titles and to the seven others who were state runners-up.

The SCC continues to offer some quality events and programs for our students. In late March, we recognized forty-four truly outstanding "scholar leaders" and recently hosted our 11th annual Arts Exhibition. We are not able to do all of these great things without the support of our league's corporate sponsors – **thank you!**

Congratulations to everyone and continue the success!

All the best!



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or on **Facebook** - SCC Commissioner.



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## Thanks to Our League's Corporate Sponsors...



# Recapping the 2012–13 Winter Sports Season

Listed below are the sport-by-sport divisional and playoff champions for the nine winter sports sponsored by the conference.

## Boys and Girls Indoor Track

### **Championship Meet - February 1 @Floyd Little Athletic Center**

**Boys Final Team Results:** 1. Xavier, 70; 2. Amity Regional, 69; 3. Branford, 42; 4. Fairfield Prep, 38; 5. Daniel Hand, 34; 5. Sheehan, 34; 7. Hamden, 32; 8. Hillhouse, 26; 9. North Haven, 22; 10. Cheshire, 19; 11. Wilbur Cross, 18; 12. Jonathan Law, 16; 13. Notre Dame, 14; 14. Foran, 10; 15. Guilford, 8; 16. Shelton, 6; 17. Career, 4; 18. Lyman Hall, 2; 19. West Haven, 1

**Girls Final Team Results:** 1. Hillhouse, 113; 2. Amity Regional, 55; 3. Cheshire, 49; 4. Daniel Hand, 36; 5. Shelton, 33; 6. Career, 28; 7. Wilbur Cross, 26; 8. Mercy, 25; 9. Branford, 23; 10. Sheehan, 16; 11. Guilford, 15; 12. Hamden, 14; 13. Sacred Heart Academy, 10; 14. North Haven, 7; 15. Foran, 6; 16. West Haven, 5; 17. East Haven, 3; 18. Jonathan Law, 1

## Cheerleading

### **Competition - February 2 @Shelton HS**

**Co-ed Division:** 1. Shelton (81.6 points), 2. Wilbur Cross (55.9)

**All-Girl Division:** 1. Branford (78 points), 2. Foran (74.2), 3. Cheshire (70.5), 4. Daniel Hand (66.5), 5. Jonathan Law (66), 6. North Haven (64), 7. East Haven (62.7), 8. Lyman Hall (61.4), 9. Sacred Heart Academy (60), 10. West Haven (57.6), 11. Mercy (37.2), 12. Hillhouse (32.1)

**Spirit Award:** Wilbur Cross

## Gymnastics

### **Championship Meet – February 18 @Jonathan Law HS**

**Final Team Results:** 1. Daniel Hand, 136.55; 2. Jonathan Law, 124.5; 3. Foran, 120.05; 4. North Haven, 105.7; 5. Hamden, 73.75; 6. Branford, 58.05

## Girls Basketball

**Hammonasset Division champions:** Foran (7-1)

**Housatonic Division champions:** Amity, Cheshire (6-2)

**Oronoque Division champions:** Career (8-0)

**Quinnipiac Division champions:** Mercy (6-0)

### **Championship Game – February 19 at TD Bank Sports Center – Quinnipiac University**

Career 48, Mercy 35

## Boys Basketball

**Hammonasset Division champions:** Hillhouse (8-0)

**Housatonic Division champions:** Amity (7-1)

**Oronoque Division champions:** Wilbur Cross (7-1)

**Quinnipiac Division champions:** Fairfield Prep (8-0)

### **Championship Game - February 26 at TD Bank Sports Center – Quinnipiac University**

Hillhouse 53, Fairfield Prep 47 (OT)



*Daniel Hand captured the 2013 SCC Division II ice hockey playoff title with a 4-2 victory over Branford on February 27 (photo by Bill O'Brien).*

## Girls Ice Hockey

**Regular-season champion:** West Hartford (9-0)

### **Championship - February 19 at High Point Solutions Arena – Quinnipiac**

Simsbury 6, West Hartford 2

## Boys Ice Hockey

**Division I regular-season champion:** Fairfield Prep (7-0)

**Division II regular-season champion:** Daniel Hand (5-1-1)

### **Championship Games — February 27 – at High Point Solutions Arena – Quinnipiac University**

Division II - Daniel Hand 4, Branford 2

Division I - Fairfield Prep 6, Notre Dame 2

## Boys Swimming and Diving

**Division I regular-season champion:** Fairfield Prep (6-0)

**Division II regular-season champion:** Lyman Hall (6-1)

### **Championship Meet - Feb. 27 – at Moore Fieldhouse – SCSU**

**Final Team Results:** 1. Fairfield Prep, 1510.5; 2. Amity Regional, 815; 3. Xavier, 602; 4. Branford, 590; 5. Cheshire, 536; 6. Notre Dame, 465; 7. Lyman Hall, 457; 8. Sheehan, 408; 9. Daniel Hand, 400; 10. Shelton, 312; 11. Hamden, 278; 12. Foran, 262; 13. North Haven, 243.5; 14. West Haven, 195; 15. Guilford, 93; 16. Jonathan Law, 82

## Wrestling

**Division A champion:** Xavier (5-0)

**Division B champion:** Foran (5-0)

*The SCC wrestling championship meet was cancelled due to the weather.*

## SCC Winter Teams Win Six State Titles

# 360

Since the league's inception in 1994-95, SCC member schools have now won 360 state championships.

Once again, SCC member-schools fared extremely well on the playing fields. During the 2012–13 winter season, SCC teams won six state championships. Seven additional teams earned runner-up status in CIAC state competition.

Seventy-two percent of SCC teams qualified for winter team sport state playoff competition in boys ice hockey (13-of-16), girls ice hockey (4-of-10), (boys basketball (15-of-20) and girls basketball (15-of-19).

### STATE CHAMPIONS (11)

#### WINTER (6)

**Class M girls indoor track** – Hillhouse

**Class M gymnastics** – Daniel Hand

**Co-ed Cheerleading** – Shelton

**Class LL boys basketball** – Hillhouse – *defeated Fairfield Prep, 52-42*

**Class LL girls basketball** – Mercy – *defeated Lauralton Hall, 54-53*

**Division I boys ice hockey** – Fairfield Prep – *defeated Notre Dame, 3-2*

#### FALL (5)

**Boys Cross Country** – Guilford – Class MM

**Girls Swimming** – Branford – Class M

**Football** – Hillhouse – Class M – *defeated Berlin, 34-12*

**Football** – Daniel Hand – Class L – *defeated Windsor, 23-6*

**Football** – Xavier – Class LL – *defeated Norwich Free Academy, 48-14*

### RUNNER-UPS (14)

#### WINTER (7)

**Class S gymnastics** – Jonathan Law

**State Open Girls Indoor Track** – Hillhouse

**Class M wrestling** – Foran

**Class LL boys swimming** – Fairfield Prep

**Division I boys ice hockey** – Notre Dame – *lost to Fairfield Prep, 3-2*

**Girls Ice Hockey** – West Hartford – *lost to New Canaan, 2-0*

**Class LL boys basketball** – Fairfield Prep – *lost to Hillhouse, 52-42*

#### FALL (7)

**Boys Cross Country** – Xavier – State Open

**Girls Cross Country** – Guilford – Class MM

**Girls Swimming** – Cheshire – Class L

**Field Hockey** – Cheshire – Class L – *lost to Darien, 4-0*

**Field Hockey** – Guilford – Class M – *lost to Wilton, 3-0*

**Girls Volleyball** – Cheshire – Class L – *lost to Darien, 3-0 (25-14, 25-18, 25-21)*

**Boys Soccer** – Fairfield Prep – Class LL – *lost to Norwalk, 2-0*



In addition to winning its third straight SCC title, the Hillhouse girls indoor track team went on to capture its third consecutive Class M state title in 2013 (photo by Bill O'Brien).



After playing in the SCC championship game on February 26 (won by Hillhouse, 53-47 in overtime) at Quinnipiac's TD Bank Sports Center, the top two teams in the state – Hillhouse and Fairfield Prep – played for the Class LL title on March 16 at Mohegan Sun Arena. The Academics prevailed, 52-42, and finished as the top team in the final state polls. (photo by Bill O'Brien).

## Arts Exhibition Winners Announced

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Southern Connecticut Conference Student Arts Exhibition will be held the week of April 29 to May 3 at the Creative Arts Workshop in downtown New Haven.

The exhibition featured 60+ selections of outstanding student-originated visual arts in a variety of media. Each SCC member school had the opportunity to submit up to three works.

A grand opening of the show with refreshments and award presentations was held on Tuesday, April 30.

Prizes were awarded by a jury of professional artists and arts administrators coordinated through CAW Executive Director Susan Smith.

- 1st Prize** – Aedan O’Brien, North Haven (\$100), *drawing*  
**2nd Prize** – Elizabeth Pallman, Amity Regional (\$75), *photograph*  
**3rd Prize** – Jenn Hart, Cheshire (\$50), *pencil drawing*  
**4th Prize** – Maria Espinoza, Jonathan Law (\$40), *mixed media*  
**5th Prize** – Brittany Matto, Shelton (\$35), *pop art sculpture*

**Honorable Mention:** Ben Cone (Daniel Hand), Aja Suarez (Cheshire), Michael Vega (Wilbur Cross), Kayla Connolly (Sound School)

The Creative Arts Workshop is located at 80 Audubon Street in New Haven. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 5:30 and Saturday, 9:00 to 12 noon. For more information or directions, go to [www.creativeartsworkshop.org](http://www.creativeartsworkshop.org).



Aedan O'Brien of North Haven High School's winning piece in the 2013 SCC Arts Exhibition (photo by Bill O'Brien)

## Spring Playoff Schedule

### BOYS and GIRLS OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

May 13 – West Sectional (Oronoque & Quinnipiac Divisions)

@Amity Regional HS – 2:30 p.m.

May 14 – East Sectional (Hammonasset & Housatonic Divisions)

@Amity Regional HS – 2:30 p.m.

May 15 – Girls Novice Meet @ Hamden HS – 3:30 p.m.

May 16 – Boys Novice Meet @ Lyman Hall HS – 3:30 p.m.

May 20 – SCC Championships @Sheehan HS – 1 p.m. – *All-*

*Conference Photos post-event*

### BOYS and GIRLS TENNIS – Division I and II

Monday, May 20 – Quarterfinals @Higher Seeds

Tuesday, May 21 – Semifinals @ Yale Tennis Courts – 2 and 4 p.m. – *All-Conference photos 3:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, May 22 – Championship Matches @ Yale Tennis Courts – 2 and 4 p.m.

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL – 4 teams

Tuesday, May 21 – Semifinals @Higher Seeds

Thursday, May 23 – Championship Game @Higher Seed – 6 p.m. – *All-Conference photos 5 p.m.*

### SOFTBALL – 8 teams

Tuesday, May 21 – Quarterfinals @Higher Seeds

Thursday, May 23 – Semifinals @West Haven HS – 5 and 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 25 – Championship Game @ West Haven HS – 6 p.m. *All-Division photos 5 p.m.*

### BASEBALL – 8 teams

Tuesday, May 21 – Quarterfinals @Higher Seeds – TBA

Thursday, May 23 – Semifinals @Quigley Stadium – 4 and 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 25 – Championship Game @ West Haven HS – 3 p.m. – *All-Division photos 2 p.m.*

### GIRLS LACROSSE – 4 teams

Tuesday, May 21 – Semifinals @Hamden HS – 4 and 6 p.m. – *All-Conference photos between games*

Thursday, May 23 – Championship Game @West Haven HS – 5 p.m.

### BOYS LACROSSE – 4 teams

Tuesday, May 21 – Semifinals @Daniel Hand HS – 5 and 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 – Championship Game @West Haven HS – 7:30 p.m. – *All-Conference photos at half*

### GOLF

Tuesday, May 28 – Racebrook Country Club – Orange – 8 a.m.

## SportsCenter of CT/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month Program

For the seventh year, the SCC is partnering with the The SportsCenter of Connecticut ([www.sportscenterct.com](http://www.sportscenterct.com)) on a Scholar Athlete of the Month program.

### DECEMBER 2012 recipients

Ben Levine (Amity Regional, basketball), Katherine Simon (Amity Regional, indoor track), Stefani Taschner (Daniel Hand, gymnastics), Sam Jablonski (Daniel Hand, basketball), David White (Fairfield Prep, ice hockey), Tim Butala (Fairfield Prep, basketball), Stephanie Cameron (Jonathan Law, gymnastics), Ryan Siddall (Jonathan Law, basketball), Emese Kanyo (North Haven, indoor track), David Goodrich (North Haven, indoor track), Austin Hansen (West Haven, ice hockey), Samantha Palmieri (West Haven, girls ice hockey), Sinade & Isabella Brennan (Wilbur Cross, indoor track)



### JANUARY 2013 recipients

Hunter Carden (Branford, indoor track), Andrew Klarman (Branford, basketball), Kelsey Gibbons (Career, basketball), Lawrence McGill (Career, basketball), Lou Crisci (East Haven, ice hockey), Alissa Korwek (East Haven, basketball), Erin Aspinwall (Foran, indoor track), Wasim Khan (Foran, wrestling), Maria Weselyj (Mercy, basketball), Katherine Saia (Mercy, indoor track), Paul Sliwinski (Notre Dame, ice hockey), Ryan Morgis (Notre Dame, basketball), Timothy Maloney (Shelton, swimming & diving), Lauren Shearer (Shelton, cheerleading)

### FEBRUARY 2013 recipients

Kelsie Carlette (Cheshire, skiing), Dan Masucci (Cheshire, wrestling), Andrew Kelly (Guilford, basketball), Sarah Rosadini (Guilford, girls ice hockey), Bob Hannan (Hamden, boys swimming), Heather Del Cervo (Hamden, girls ice hockey), Christian Giacondino (Sheehan, ice hockey), Victoria Farrell (Sheehan, cheerleading)

The SportsCenter of Connecticut offers an exciting and unique venue of family fun, team building events, and professional lessons for golf and ice skating/hockey! Located at 784 River Road (Route 110) in Shelton, the Sports Center of Connecticut offers and a premier weather-protected golf practice facility, 18-hole miniature golf course, baseball & softball batting stadium, lazer tag arena, game zone, fun bowl and the world's only double-decker ice arena. For more information, visit [www.sportscenterct.com](http://www.sportscenterct.com).

## Scholar Leader Banquet Held on March 25 *44 students recognized*

The annual **SCC Scholar Leader Banquet** was held on March 25 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. Forty-four students were recognized for their outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school and external communities. Recipients were given a commemorative SCC medal and certificate.

Special congratulations to Elise Tomasello (East Haven) and Christopher Mazzacane (West Haven) who were selected as the recipients of the Bill O'Brien Community Service Scholarship – each receiving a \$500 scholarship award.

**Amity Regional** – Hannah Bercovici, TJ Meehan  
**Branford** – Julian Pino, Calla Cameron  
**Hill Regional Career** – Sameir Rankins, Shayla Jackson  
**Cheshire** – Kendra Zdanowski, Nicholas Jakowenko  
**Daniel Hand** – Kelly Tomasevich, Matthew S. Richard  
**East Haven** – Robert Osei-Bonsu, Elise Tomasello  
**Fairfield Prep** – Timothy Peterson, Mark Giannini  
**Joseph A. Foran** – Elissa Paulino, Kyle Michelson  
**Guilford** – Carolyn Duman, Michael Albergo  
**Hamden** – Andrew Klimaszewski, Janelle Avelino  
**Hillhouse** – Remy Gardner, Jacques Alexis  
**Jonathan Law** – Ratan Manohar, Hayley Soulier  
**Lyman Hall** – Carolina Reyes, Jeff Zakrzewski  
**Mercy** – Samantha Formica, Meghan Nelson  
**North Haven** – Tracy Buechele, Doron Rose  
**Notre Dame** – Steven Comeau, Jr., Matthew T. Schumaker  
**Sacred Heart Academy** – Tess Cersonsky, Christina Jiang  
**Mark T. Sheehan** – Nicholas Bartek, Lauren Moscato  
**Shelton** – Stavros Koumbaros, Colette Harley  
**West Haven** – Christopher Mazzacane, Brenda Calderon  
**Wilbur Cross** – Max Pelloth, Imani Webb  
**Xavier** – Michael Massaro, Carlos Mesquita



Christopher Mazzacane (West Haven) and Elise Tomasello (East Haven) were the recipients of the Bill O'Brien Community Service Scholarship – each receiving a \$500 scholarship award. Both are pictured with Bill O'Brien (center).

## COS “SCC Comeback Player of the Year” Scholarship

*Isabelle Fishbein-Ouimette (Lyman Hall) and Noah Criscuolo (Guilford) honored*

Seniors **Isabelle Fishbein-Ouimette (Lyman Hall HS)** and **Noah Criscuolo (Guilford HS)** – are the recipients of the 2013 “Comeback Player of the Year” scholarship award.

A SCC corporate sponsor, Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists P.C. offered the Comeback Player of the Year Scholarship for one male and one female athlete who participated in an interscholastic sport during the 2012-2013 season, and showed great leadership both on and off the field after their severe injury.

Isabelle and Noah each received a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for their college education.

*“This is our third year in awarding student-athletes from the SCC with scholarships,” explained Glenn Elia, Chief Executive Officer of COS. “Our goal has been to acknowledge two athletes that have overcome the challenges of an injury and, through hard work and determination, have become positive role models for their fellow teammates. We know there are scholarships for gifted athletes. This one is for their impeccable character displayed both on and off the field.”*

Isabelle Fishbein-Ouimette, Lyman Hall – soccer

Isabelle is a member of the Lady Trojans soccer squad. Last summer, Isabelle’s doctors found an ovarian tumor, weighing two pounds, and successfully removed it. Isabelle had a remarkably short recovery, but found her return to the team and to her previous fitness level to be a challenge. Nevertheless, she persisted and her inspiration and leadership was a positive impact to her teammates and squad, earning several team awards for her inspired play.

*Lyman Hall girls soccer head coach Charles Liu said, “Isabelle is a very special lady, an athlete determined not to let her school and team down. I don’t know of a more deserving player who has had a very positive impact on the team, especially from an injury that she should have missed and not played.”*

Isabelle plans to attend the University of Ottawa and is interested in studying environmental science.

Noah Criscuolo, Guilford – wrestling

In the summer following his sophomore year, Noah suffered multiple injuries, including a compound fracture of his femur and collapsed lung, in an automobile accident. During his recovery, he suffered from failed bone growth and endured multiple operations which caused him to be unable to wrestle his junior year.

Despite these obstacles, Noah persevered and returned to the team and was named a captain. He had an outstanding 2012-13 season, finishing with a 29-5 record and placed sixth at the Class M state tournament. He also earned Second Team All-SCC honors and was an Academic All-State selection. He finished his scholastic career with 97 victories.

*Guilford wrestling head coach Craig Vedrani said, “Despite being unable to wrestle and while going through intense rehab sessions and encountering setbacks along the way, Noah maintained his passion and enthusiasm for his team and his own recovery. He remained focused on his mission to get healthy and returned to the mat.”*

Noah plans to attend the University of Rhode Island and study nursing.



*Left to right: Glenn Elia, CEO of Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists, Noah Criscuolo, Isabelle Fishbein-Ouimette, Dr. Richard Diana of Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists, and SCC Commissioner Al Carbone (Photo by Bill O'Brien).*

## Commissioner Carbone Awarded “Gold Ring”

SCC commissioner Al Carbone was recognized by the New Haven Boys & Girls Club Alumni as one of their three “Gold Ring Award” recipients at its 79th annual banquet on April 29 at the Country House in East Haven.

The Gold Ring is awarded in recognition of the volunteer service that the honorees perform in the community. Carbone joins former SCC Commissioner Bill O’Brien as a Gold Ring recipient.

*Al Carbone is flanked by league athletic directors and Commissioner emeritus Bill O'Brien at the New Haven Boys & Girls Club Alumni Gold Ring dinner (Photo by Tracey Carbone).*

