

Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference

From the Commissioner's Desk

Happy Spring everyone! It is hard to believe we have less than two months left in the school year – our 21st as a league. It has been a busy last few months; you'll see that over the next several pages of this newsletter as we recap the various league events. There were lots of great achievements by our member schools and students. Congratulations to everyone and continue the success!

Athletically, our league teams fared well in the various winter state playoffs. Well-deserved kudos to the nine SCC winter teams that captured state titles; and also to the 10 teams who were state runners-up. The spring season is in full swing, and we look forward to hosting our league playoffs in May.

Finally, it is an honor to serve as commissioner of this conference. The league, as a collective body, has done a lot of positive things, and we will continue to do. Thank you to all of our students, coaches, administrators and corporate partners who share in our vision to become the "best high school league" in the state of Connecticut.

All the best!



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WHAT'S NEXT

 **CONCEPTS**
FRESH


Holiday Hill


HOLIDAY HILL
day camp


TOWN FAIR TIRE


UI

Scholar Leader Banquet Held

Forty-six students recognized



The “best of the best” were honored on Monday, March 23 as the SCC held its annual Scholar Leader Banquet at Anthony’s Ocean View in New Haven. Two recipients, as selected by their principal, from each SCC member school were recognized for their leadership and excellence in the classroom, in their schools and local communities.

In addition, two winners (Naomi Caldwell, Amity Regional and Charles Ahern, Branford) were recognized as the 2015 Bill O’Brien Community Service Scholarship winners. Each received \$500. Naomi was chosen for her work with a set of twins she tutored as part of the New Haven Reads program, while Charles was recognized for his involvement and fundraising with Camp Rising Sun, a camp for kids with cancer.

2014-15 SCC Scholar Leaders

Amity Regional – Sricharan Kadimi, Naomi Caldwell
Branford – Jessica Lohret, Charles Ahern
Hill Regional Career – Tanaya Wade, Justin Campbell
Cheshire – Marissa Cohen, Hudson Lee
Daniel Hand – Connor Bondarchuk, Nikitha Reddy
East Haven – Natalia Wiszniewski, Austin Lieto
Fairfield Prep – John O’Connor, Grant Stone
Joseph A. Foran – Shaina Arsenault, Stephen Longley
Guilford – Rachel Glasser, Joe Iassogna
Hamden – Jacob Zavatore-Veth, Julia Lynn
Hillhouse – Janelle Cooper, Troy Walters
Jonathan Law – Kelsey Kopazna, Patrick O’Brien

Lauralton Hall – Devon Valera, Nadine Wagner
Lyman Hall – Rachael Whitney, Jonathon Jacobs
Mercy – Eleanor Frechette, Jill Stifano
North Haven – David Wingate, Emma Dzialo
Notre Dame – Alec Albright, Anthony Coss
Sacred Heart Academy – Isabella Siegel, Ashley Heidtmann
Mark T. Sheehan – Nimanthi Kumara, Michael Moscato
Shelton – Gina Ciambrello, Erik Kocur
West Haven – Kharl Reynado, Michael Tran
Wilbur Cross – Shannon Foley, Sammy Rosofsky
Xavier – Peter Drabinski, Gregory Pollard

Arts Exhibition Held at Creative Arts Workshop

More than 50 pieces were entered in the exhibition

The annual SCC Arts Exhibition is being held April 7-15 at the Creative Arts Workshop in downtown New Haven. There were nearly 50 pieces in the exhibition. There was a “Show Opening” held on April 9 with awards presented by the CAW staff, who judged the pieces. Special thanks to CAW Executive Director Daniel Fitzmaurice and CAW Public Relations Director Katherine Spencer Carey for their hospitality.

2015 Award Winners

First Prize – Malkia Okech (Sacred Heart Academy), acrylic on canvas
Second Prize – Mark Sejourne (Guilford), acrylic
Third Prize – Katherine Schnerr (East Haven), colored pencil
Fourth Prize – Kayla Benedetti (Foran), digital photography
Fifth Prize – Catherine Peng (Daniel Hand), charcoal

Honorable Mention

Tyler Fucci (East Haven), adobe illustrator
Wendy Zheng (Lauralton Hall), watercolor and micron pen
Cassidy DePaolo (Cheshire), mixed media
Isabella Siegel (Sacred Heart Academy), pencil
Victoria Bouffard (North Haven), mixed media
Nate Kiley (Xavier), watercolor



Malkia Okech of Sacred Heart Academy won first prize in the 2015 SCC Arts Exhibition (photo by Bill O’Brien).

Recapping the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season

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

BOYS & GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Championship Meet – Feb. 6 @Floyd Little Athletic Center, presented by SOUNDrunner

Girls Team Results: 1. Mercy, 72; 2. Hillhouse, 67; 3. Wilbur Cross, 58; 4. Shelton, 38; 5. Amity Regional, 33; 6. Branford, 30.5; 7. Daniel Hand, 30; 8. North Haven, 28; 9. Hamden, 26; 10. Career, 22; 11. Guilford, 16; 12. Sheehan, 13; 13. Cheshire, 12; 14. Sacred Heart Academy, 9; 15. Luralton Hall, 4; 15. West Haven, 4; 17. East Haven, 2; 18. Lyman Hall, 0.5



Boys Team Results: 1. Hillhouse, 99; 2. Amity Regional, 85; 3. Hamden, 42; 4. Xavier, 40; 4. North Haven, 40; 6. Shelton, 37; 7. Sheehan, 30; 8. Branford, 26; 9. Daniel Hand, 18; 10. Lyman Hall, 13; 11. West Haven, 11; 12. East Haven, 9; 13. Notre Dame, 7; 14. Fairfield Prep, 5; 15. Cheshire, 3



Shelton captured the All-Girl title at the 2015 SCC Cheerleading Competition on February 7 (photo by Bill O'Brien).

GYMNASTICS

Championship Meet – Feb. 5 @Jonathan Law HS

Final Team Results: 1. Daniel Hand, 137.35; 2. Jonathan Law, 130.55; 3. Hamden, 111.7; 4. Foran, 79.05; 5. North Haven, 54.45



GIRLS BASKETBALL

First Round – Feb. 19 @Higher Seeds

#4 Sheehan 42, #13 Sacred Heart Academy 27
#12 North Haven 52, at #5 Luralton Hall 50 (2 OT)
#11 Hillhouse 49, at #6 Jonathan Law 43
#10 Amity Regional 55, at #7 East Haven 52
#9 Guilford 52, at #8 Cheshire 50

Quarterfinals – Feb. 21 @Sheehan HS

#1 Mercy 65, #9 Guilford 31
#4 Sheehan 40, #12 North Haven 30
#10 Amity Regional 50, #2 Career 46
#3 Daniel Hand 53, #11 Hillhouse 23

Semifinals – Feb. 23 @Jonathan Law HS

Daniel Hand 66, Amity Regional 44
Mercy 59, Sheehan 47

Championship Game – Feb. 25 @TD Bank Sports Center – Quinnipiac University

Mercy 57, Daniel Hand 52



BOYS BASKETBALL

First Round – Feb. 26 @Higher Seeds

#3 Career 96, #14 Shelton 80
#4 Hamden 63, #13 East Haven 38
#5 Xavier 65, #12 Sheehan 47

#6 West Haven 59, #11 Branford 38
#10 Cheshire 74, #7 Daniel Hand 69
#8 Notre Dame 70, #9 Wilbur Cross 57

Quarterfinals – Feb. 28 @Branford HS

#4 Hamden 35, #5 Xavier 32
#1 Fairfield Prep 71, #8 Notre Dame 56
#2 Hillhouse 59, #10 Cheshire 57 (OT)
#3 Career 69, #6 West Haven 59



Semifinals – March 2 @East Haven HS

Career 70, Hillhouse 61
Fairfield Prep 68, Hamden 51

Championship Game – March 4 @TD Bank Sports Center, Quinnipiac University

Career 81, Fairfield Prep 59

CHEERLEADING

SCC Competition – Feb. 7 @North Haven HS

Co-ed: 1. Daniel Hand (158.3), 2. Lyman Hall (152.8), 3. Wilbur Cross (130.7)

All-Girl: 1. Shelton (179.3), 2. Cheshire (161), 3. North Haven (149.5), 4. Luralton Hall (149.2), 5. Jonathan Law (127.1), 6. Mercy (123.6), 7. Branford (117), 8. East Haven (116.6), 9. Sheehan (114), 10. Foran (112.6), 11. Sacred Heart Academy (102.7), 12. Hamden (78.7)



Spirit Award: Wilbur Cross

-- more on page 4

Continued: Recapping the 2014-15 Winter Sports Season

BOYS ICE HOCKEY – SCC/SWC

Div. III Semifinals – March 4 @Milford Ice Pavilion/Danbury Ice Arena

#1 Masuk 5, #4 Sheehan 1

#2 New Fairfield-Immaculate 5, #3 Shepaug-Litchfield 3

Div. II Semifinals – March 6 @Bennett Rink

#3 New Milford 3, #2 North Branford 2

#1 Branford 4, #4 North Haven 1

Div. I Championship – March 6 @Bennett Rink

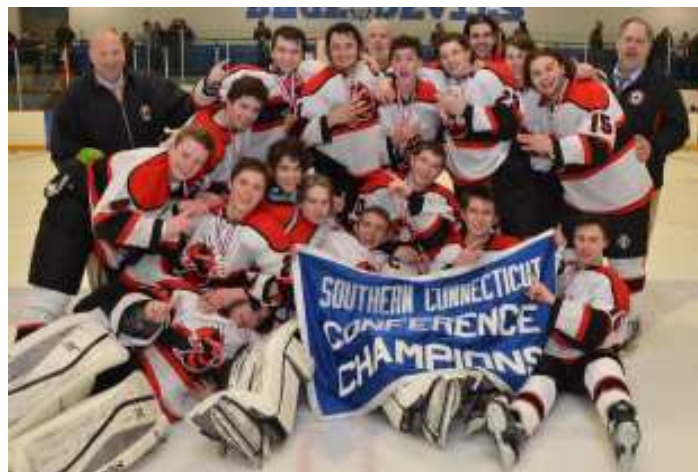
Notre Dame-West Haven 3, Hamden 2

Div. III Championship – March 6 @Bennett Rink

Masuk 5, New Fairfield/Immaculate 0

Div. II Championship – March 7 @Bennett Rink

Branford 5, New Milford 0



Branford won its second straight SCC/SWC Division II boys ice hockey title (photo by Bill O'Brien)

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

Div. I Semifinals – Feb. 23/24 @Higher Seeds

#1 East Catholic/Glastonbury/South Windsor co-op 7, #4 West Hartford co-op 0 (2/23)

#2 Simsbury 4, #3 Hamden 1 (2/24)

Div. I Championship – Feb. 27 @Keoppel Sports Center – Trinity College

Simsbury 2, East Catholic/Glastonbury/South Windsor co-op 1 (OT)

Div. II Semifinals – Feb. 23 @Higher Seeds

#1 Branford/East Haven/North Branford co-op 7, #4 West Haven 0

#2 Daniel Hand 1, #3 Notre Dame-Fairfield/Milford co-op 0

Div. II Championship – Feb. 25 @Bennett Rink

Branford/EH/NB co-op 2, Daniel Hand 0



BOYS SWIMMING

Championship Meet – March 6 @Southern Connecticut State University

Final Team Results: 1. Fairfield Prep, 1083; 2. Cheshire, 903; 3. Notre Dame, 770; 4. Xavier, 622; 5. Amity Regional, 538; 6. Daniel Hand, 470; 7. Branford, 466; 9. Lyman Hall, 342; 10. Shelton, 341; 11. Sheehan, 337; 12. Foran, 311.5; 13. Haddam-Killingworth, 298.5; 14. Guilford, 172; 15. North Haven, 129; 16. West Haven, 118; 17. Jonathan Law, 107



SCC Notebook: Recent News

Daniel Hand's Grace Cummings Receives National Award

Daniel Hand's Grace Cummings is the recipient of the "National High School Spirit of Sport Award" by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The "National High School Spirit of Sport Award" recognizes individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

A three-sport student-athlete (field hockey, ice hockey and tennis), Grace is a member of the percussion section in both the school's marching band and concert band, and she has also been a member of the flag squad. She has maintained a 3.98 grade-point average.

While those accomplishments are amazing in and of themselves, they are made even more remarkable by the fact that since a very young age Cummings has been challenged by serious health issues related to her liver, which she has dealt with since her birth in 1997. In 2012, Cummings subsequently was diagnosed with Sclerosing Cholangitis, showed evidence of portal hypertension and cirrhosis – all of which put her on a list for a liver transplant in May 2012.

With that list being ranked by the MELD (Model End State Liver Disease) scores, Cummings had a low score and her diagnosis did not mesh well with the scoring system. Within three months, they located such a live donor – a young man who was about to become a father. The donor had to first undergo a battery of tests and the transplant took place August 14, 2012. Although that prevented Cummings from attending school and from athletic competition for six months, she maintained both her sterling athletic and academic regimens and has now returned to full capacity.

After being cleared to return to physical activities, Cummings again played her three sports, where she additionally served as captain of both the ice hockey and tennis teams.



SCC Fall Teams Win Nine State Titles

393

Since the league's inception in 1994-95, SCC member schools have now won 393 state championships.

Once again, SCC member-schools fared extremely well on the playing fields. During the 2014-15 winter season, SCC teams won (or shared) nine state championships with another 10 teams earning runner-up status.

70 %: Seventy percent of SCC teams qualified for the state tournaments in the following sports: boys basketball (14-of-20), girls basketball (13-of-20), boys ice hockey (22-of-25) and girls ice hockey (4-of-11).

STATE CHAMPIONS (14)

FALL (5)

- Class L Boys Soccer – Branford – *tied Avon, 1-1 (co-champions)*
- Class LL Boys Cross Country – Amity Regional
- Class M Girls Swimming – Luralton Hall
- Class M Field Hockey – Daniel Hand – *defeated Wilton, 2-1*
- Class LL Small Football – Xavier – *defeated Shelton, 28-27 (OT)*

WINTER (9)

- Class LL Boys Basketball – Fairfield Prep – *defeated Westhill, 51-50*
- Class M Gymnastics – Daniel Hand
- Class M Boys Indoor Track – Hillhouse
- State Open Boys Indoor Track – Hillhouse
- Class L Girls Indoor Track – Wilbur Cross
- Class LL Cheerleading – Shelton
- Co-ed Cheerleading – Lyman Hall
- Girls Ice Hockey – Simsbury and East Catholic – *tied 2-2 (co-champions)*

STATE RUNNER-UPS (14)

FALL

- Class L Girls Cross Country – Mercy
- Class LL Girls Volleyball – Cheshire – *lost to Darien, 3-0*
- Class LL Small Football – Shelton – *lost to Xavier, 28-27 (OT)*
- Class L Small Football – Notre Dame – *lost to Windsor, 38-16*

WINTER

- Class S Gymnastics – Jonathan Law
- State Open Girls Indoor Track – Wilbur Cross
- Class M Girls Indoor Track – Hillhouse
- Class M Wrestling – Foran
- Class L Cheerleading – Luralton Hall
- Co-ed Cheerleading – Daniel Hand
- Class LL Boys Swimming – Fairfield Prep
- Class M Boys Swimming – Notre Dame
- Division III Boys Ice Hockey – Masuk – *lost to EO Smith, 5-2*
- Division II Boys Ice Hockey – North Branford – *lost to Suffield, 4-1*



SportsCenter of CT/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month Program

For the ninth year, the SCC partnering with The SportsCenter of Connecticut (www.sportscenterct.com) on a Scholar Athlete of the Month program. Here are the winter season recipients:

DECEMBER 2014 recipients

Jake Narracci (Xavier, swimming), Tom Fredericks (Xavier, wrestling), Joelle MarkAnthony (Sheehan, basketball), Robert Hacku (Sheehan, swimming), Andrew Jeffries (Notre Dame, swimming), Matthew Montano (Notre Dame, basketball), Chris Mairano (East Haven, wrestling), Jessica Benevento, East Haven, basketball), Taylor Stauffer (Cheshire, skiing), Russell Adam (Cheshire, indoor track), Maya Duff (Hillhouse, basketball), Aaron White (Hillhouse, basketball)

JANUARY 2015 recipients

Kirsten Morro (Guilford, indoor track), Tyler Donlan (Guilford, basketball), James Burham (Lyman Hall, indoor track), Kim Petit, Lyman Hall, basketball), Ryan Harrington (Foran, swimming), Madeline Turiano (Foran, indoor track), Tyreek Perkins (Career Magnet, basketball), Brooke Joyner, Career Magnet, indoor track), Sofia Giansiracusa (Mercy, basketball), Angela Barbagallo (Mercy, cheerleading), Kychoon Park (Hamden, indoor track), Olivia Baker (Hamden, dance), Ryan Foley (Fairfield Prep, basketball), Bryce Keblish (Fairfield Prep, swimming)

FEBRUARY 2015 recipients

Ellery Riccio (Branford, basketball), Dean Conte (Branford, swimming), Douglas Rives (Amity Regional, basketball), Amanda Hudson (Amity Regional, ski racing), Jeremy Doucette (Jonathan Law, basketball), Kelsey Kopazna (Jonathan Law, gymnastics), Maggie Salandra (Lauralton Hall, basketball), Justin Gomez-Stafford (Wilbur Cross, indoor track), Leah Rivers (Wilbur Cross, indoor track), Dan Froehlich (West Haven, ice hockey), Jolie Morrell (West Haven, soccer), Wesley Kocurek (Shelton, indoor track), Elizabeth Lewis (Shelton, basketball), Kyle Welch (Daniel Hand, fencing), Gabby Martin (Daniel Hand, basketball), Lauren Davis (Sacred Heart Academy, basketball)

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 or follow on Twitter @SportsCenterCT



Spring Playoff Schedule

Boys/Girls Outdoor Track & Field

West Sectional – Monday, May 18 – 2:30 p.m. @ Amity Regional
East Sectional – Tuesday, May 19 – 2:30 p.m. @ Amity Regional
Girls Novice Meet – Friday, May 22 – 3:30 p.m. @ Hamden HS
Boy Novice Meet – Friday, May 22 – 3:30 p.m. @ West Haven HS
SCC Championship Meet – Tuesday, May 26 – 1 p.m. @ Sheehan HS

Golf

Championship – Tuesday, May 26 – 8 a.m.
@ Racebrook Country Club (Orange)

Softball

Quarterfinals – Wednesday, May 27 @ Higher Seeds
Semifinals – Thursday, May 28 @ Biondi Field – 5/7 p.m. - West Haven HS
Championship Game – Saturday, May 30 – 6 p.m. @ Biondi Field – West Haven HS

Girls Lacrosse

Semifinals – Tuesday, May 26 @ Cheshire HS – 5/7 p.m.
Championship Game – Thursday, May 28 @ West Haven HS – 6 or 8 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse

Semifinals – Tuesday, May 26 @ Rafferty Stadium – Fairfield University – 5/7 p.m.
Championship Game – Thursday, May 28 @ West Haven HS – 6 or 8 p.m.

Boys Volleyball

Semifinals – Wednesday, May 27 @ Higher Seeds
Championship Game – Friday, May 29 @ Higher Seed – 6 p.m.

Baseball

Quarterfinals – Tuesday, May 26 @ Higher Seeds
Semifinals – Thursday, May 28 @ Piurek Field (West Haven) – 4/7 p.m.
Championship Game – Saturday, May 30 – 12 noon @ Yale Field

Boys/Girls Tennis (Division I and II)

First Round – Tuesday, May 26 @ Higher Seeds
Semifinals – Wednesday, May 27 @ Yale University Tennis Complex – 3 p.m.
Championship Game – Thursday, May 28 @ Yale University Tennis Complex – 3 p.m.

Please Note: Dates and times are subject to change due to weather, school-sanctioned events etc.

Please check the SCC website or follow us on Twitter @SCCcommissioner for updates.



SCC Winter Player and Coaches of the Year

Presented by **OrthoNOW**

The Southern Connecticut Conference will name a Player of the Year and Coach of the Year in each of its 28 sponsored sports. Many thanks to league corporate sponsor Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists and its affiliate OrthoNow for sponsoring the award. The Player and Coach of the Year honorees are selected by the respective sport's head coaches at the conclusion of the regular season.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Cheerleading: Alexis Pavone, Shelton
Boys Basketball: Tyreek Perkins, Career
Girls Basketball: Maura Fitzpatrick, Mercy
Girls Indoor Track: Danae Rivers, Wilbur Cross
Boys Indoor Track: Akiel Smith, Hillhouse
Gymnastics: Abigail McGuirk, Daniel Hand
Girls Ice Hockey: Samantha Cozzolino, Hamden
Division I Boys Ice Hockey: Jeremy Routh, Hamden
Division II Boys Ice Hockey: A.J. Brink, Branford
Division III Boys Ice Hockey: Andrew Loya, Shepaug-Litchfield
Wrestling: Chidi Broderick, Xavier
Division I Boys Swimming: Bryce Keblish, Fairfield Prep
Division II Boys Swimming: Connor Robison, Sheehan

COACHES OF THE YEAR

Cheerleading: Angie Alston, West Haven
Boys Basketball: Jarrad Beck, Hamden
Girls Basketball: Tim Tredwell, Daniel Hand
Gymnastics: Pat Simon, Jonathan Law
Girls Indoor Track: Kathryn Schumann, Mercy
Boys Indoor Track: Gary Moore, Hillhouse
Girls Ice Hockey: Frank Usseglio, East Catholic
Division I Boys Ice Hockey: Bill Verneris, Hamden
Division II Boys Ice Hockey: Ralph Russo, Guilford
Division III Boys Ice Hockey: Mike Gorra, Shepaug/Litchfield
Wrestling: Dave Esposito, Foran
Division I Boys Swimming: Chris Haines, Xavier
Division II/III Boys Swimming: Tom Jurzynski, Shelton



**SCC Player of the Year
and SCC Coach of the Year**

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(Pictured left to right): OrthoNOW's Ron Thompson, SCC Player of the Year Tyreek Perkins of Career; Coach of the Year Jarred Beck of Hamden and Commissioner Al Carbone (photo by Bill O'Brien).