

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

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SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for April *Sixteen Outstanding Student-Athletes Recognized*

New Haven, CT – Sixteen student-athletes from eight high schools have been named The SportsCenter of Connecticut/Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Athletes of the Month for April. The SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month program honors 14-16 outstanding young men and women each month during the 2006-07 academic year. The program will recognize a total of 138 student-athletes – six from each of the conference's 23 member schools.

Student athletes who are selected must be a varsity letterwinner and have a 3.0/B average while demonstrating leadership qualities such as: being a positive role model; helping teammates overcome adversity; showing a commitment to self-improvement; or putting the needs of the team before themselves. Sports Center of CT/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month recipients and receive a certificate, commemorative tee-shirt and a SportsCenter of Connecticut activity pass.

The SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month – April, 2007

Benjamin Toucey – Cheshire

A member of the Cheshire boys' lacrosse team, Benjamin Toucey carries a 3.6 grade point average. Athletically, he has been a key member of the Rams' lacrosse squad. Off the field, he has been recognized as a Scholar-Athlete and serves as a Peer Health Advocate.

Kathleen Brenneman – Cheshire

An All-Southern Connecticut Conference pick in softball, Kathleen Brenneman also holds a sparkling 3.97 grade point average at Cheshire High. During her athletic career, she has been honored by several local publications, including the *Waterbury Republican-American*, *Record-Journal* and *New Haven Register*. She also lettered in volleyball for two years.

Jessica Kuen – East Haven

A member of the East Haven softball team, Jessica Kuen ranks ninth in her class academically. In addition to her strong play on the diamond, she is a member of the French Club and Ski Club, and is also active with the school newspaper. Said softball coach Ed Crisafi: "Jessica is a terrific, hard-working kid. Her positive attitude is contagious on our team."

David Chick – East Haven

A three-sport performer in cross country, indoor and outdoor track, David Chick holds a 3.5 grade point average at East Haven High. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Math Club. Athletically, he has earned All-Southern Connecticut Conference honors in both cross country and indoor track. Said Athletic Director Fred Balsamo: "David is a hard-worker and a dedicated young man. He uses his talents to enhance others and is a tremendous asset to our school."

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Amanda Shaw – Guilford

A two-sport captain in volleyball and tennis, Amanda Shaw maintains a 3.34 grade point average at Guilford High. She also devotes endless time to many extracurricular activities, including the Community Service Club, Athletic Leadership Team, Young Republicans Club, Presidential Classroom and Music Classroom. Amanda has also served as a State Representative for Outstanding Legislators and was selected to participate in the HOBY Leadership Conference. Said Athletic Director Chip Dorwin: "Amanda has a positive energy like no one else I know. She encompasses all of what a scholar-athlete is and does so with strong academics and a compassion for her peers, the community and humanity in general."

Brett Pantera – Guilford

The captain of the Guilford boys' golf team and a two-sport performer in golf and soccer, Brett Pantera carries a 3.62 grade point average. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, while also serving as Co-President of the latter organization. Brett also serves on the Athletic Leadership Team and has been honored as a CAPT Scholar. Said Athletic Director Chip Dorwin: "Brett is always willing to sacrifice personal gain for the benefit of the team."

Terrell Wilks – Hillhouse

A three-sport (football, indoor and outdoor track) standout for the Academics, Terrell Wilks is also a top student who ranks in the top twenty of his class. An All-SCC and All-State performer in football, Terrell was the Hartford Courant's "Indoor Track Athlete of the Year" this past winter. He was also named a SCC "Scholar-Leader" in March. "Terrell is one of the best student-athletes I have ever been associated with," Hillhouse football coach and athletic director Eric Barbarito said.

Judy James – Hillhouse

A member of the Hillhouse softball team, Judy is clearly a fine student-athlete as she is the valedictorian of her senior class. A CIAC Scholar-Athlete recipient, Judy was recognized with the Yale Book Award this past fall. "Judy is terrific example of what a model student-athlete should be," explained Hillhouse athletic director Eric Barbarito.

Alison Flynn – Lyman Hall

A three-sport standout and captain of the Lyman Hall girls' soccer and basketball teams, Alison Flynn delicately balances a strong academic record with her outside activities. She carries a 3.93 grade point average and is a member of the National Honor Society. Alison has been recognized as a Wendy's High School Heisman nominee and is a Varsity Club Officer. Said Athletic Director Elaine Piazza: "Alison is the heart and soul of her teams because she executes both on and off the field with 110-percent effort. She has outstanding communication and organizational skills, the respect of both her peers and coaches, displays a great sense of humor and is clearly motivated."

Justin Keogh – Lyman Hall

The captain of the Lyman Hall boys' basketball and baseball teams, Justin Keogh ranks 11th in his class academically. He has been tabbed as a Varsity Club Officer and a New Haven Tap-Off Club Scholar-Athlete. Said Athletic Director Elaine Piazza: "Justin is a hard-nosed competitor who leads by example. He is a role model and displays great perseverance and character to go with a strong work ethic."

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Ronald Criscuolo – Notre Dame-West Haven

The captain of the Notre Dame tennis team, Ronald Criscuolo also ranks in the top five of his class academically. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and has been honored with the Harvard Book Award. Ronald also serves as Editor of the school newspaper and is active on the yearbook staff. Said Athletic Director Tom Marcucci: "Ron is a team player in an individual sport. He has worked hard and has a great attitude. These traits, combined with his academic record, make him a true scholar-athlete."

Nicholas Cote – Notre Dame-West Haven

A two-sport athlete in soccer and lacrosse, Nicholas Cote excels in all facets of scholastic life. He ranks in the top five of his class and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, along with Model U.N. Nicholas also volunteers with the United Way and WHEAT. Said Athletic Director Tom Marcucci: "Nick is a bundle of energy who goes 100 miles per hour in practice and games. He has been a major contributor to our success in both soccer and lacrosse."

Gillian Allsup – Sacred Heart Academy

The captain of the Sacred Heart Academy lacrosse team, Gillian Allsup will bring her academic talents to the University of Notre Dame in the fall. However, she has left an indelible impact on Sacred Heart Academy over the past four years. Gillian is a member of the National Honor Society and Latin Honor Society. She has also been honored with the Wellesley Book Award. Said lacrosse coach Abby Scott: "Gillian has kept us in every game this season. She is a fantastic goalie."

Melissa Desole – Sacred Heart Academy

The captain of the Sacred Heart Academy tennis team, Melissa Desole carries a 3.58 grade point average. An honors student, she is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society. Said tennis coach Alan Neider: "Melissa has been our most consistent doubles player. She is a wonderful leader and sets a fine example for the younger players on our team to emulate."

Tim Dise – Sheehan

A four-year member of the Sheehan boys' tennis team, Tim Dise also excels in the classroom. Ranked 14th in his class, Tim is currently serving as team captain this spring. A budding musician, he is a member of Jazz Band, Concert Band, Pitt Band and String Ensemble. He also volunteers with the United States Tennis Association and the Boy Scouts. Said boys' tennis coach Donna Laich: "Tim's outstanding leadership qualities, his unwavering self-confidence and his commitment to excellence make him a captain who can be trusted and relied upon. Tim has raised the bar for future captains and it will be difficult for others to measure up to his performance."

Amanda Szeligowski – Sheehan

Deemed a clutch performer both in and out of the classroom, Amanda Szeligowski currently ranks third in her class academically at Sheehan. On the court, she is a standout on the girls' tennis team. In addition, Amanda has also distinguished herself as a CAPT and Varsity Scholar. She is a member of SADD, the Spanish Club and is Vice President of the Science Club. Said girls' tennis coach Nick Ives: "Amanda has been a clutch player for Sheehan. She always delivers for our team in the most difficult situations. Amanda gives all of herself in every aspect of life and we are proud to have her on our team."

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Marco Canetta – Xavier

A member of the Xavier indoor and outdoor track teams, Marco Canetta ranks 11th in his class academically. During his career, he has been a member of the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. He has also earned the prestigious Yale Book Award. Marco will attend Saint Louis University in the fall and plans to major in Flight Science. Said coach Seth Spector: "Marco is a tremendous competitor who translates his academic success into the track arena. He is a young gentleman that all of us at Xavier are extremely proud of."

Chris Darren – Xavier

The captain of Xavier's baseball team, Chris Darren holds a 3.27 grade point average. When not serving as the ace of the Falcons pitching staff, he doubles as a member of the National Honor Society and is a peer minister. Said coach Rich Magner: "As a team captain, Chris has taken his leadership role to heart. He related extremely well with both adults and his peers on the team and in school. He is a role model for all students and student-athletes at Xavier."

The SportsCenter of Connecticut offers an exciting and unique combination of fun, recreation, lessons and competitive exercise! Located at 784 River Road (Route 110) in Shelton, the Sports Center of Connecticut offers a premier weather protected golf practice facility, 18-hole miniature golf course, baseball & softball batting stadium, lazer tag arena, fun bowl and the world's only double-decker ice arena. For more information, visit www.sportscenterct.com.

Founded in 1994, the Southern Connecticut Conference is in its 13th season of competition in 2006-07 with 23 member-schools and nearly 23,000 students. Recognized as the premier athletic league in the state of Connecticut, SCC member schools have captured 240 state championships since the league's inception. More importantly, the SCC is recognized for its outstanding non-athletic programs and events, which attempt to break down barriers and build bridges of understanding to its students. For more information on the SCC, visit www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org.