

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

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SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for March *Fourteen Outstanding Student-Athletes Recognized*

New Haven, CT – Fourteen student-athletes from seven high schools have been named The SportsCenter of Connecticut/Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Athletes of the Month for March.

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 – March, 2007

Paul Gamble – Amity

A two-sport athlete in wrestling and lacrosse, Paul Gamble maintains a 3.6 grade point average at Amity. He has also been involved in several other extracurricular activities, including serving as captain of the Debate Team and Editor-in-Chief of the *Trident*. Said Athletic Director Paul Mengold: “Paul has an amazing ability to juggle the most rigorous course load while investing 100 percent of his eagerness, drive and determination into his extracurricular and athletic endeavors.”

Marissa Iassogna – Amity

Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class at Amity, Marissa Iassogna has been a three-season athlete for the Spartans. Currently suiting up as a member of the girls’ lacrosse team, she also serves as a Sunday school teacher at her local church in her spare time. Marissa also volunteers as a swim instructor at the town pool. Said Athletic Director Paul Mengold: “Marissa is an enthusiastic, talented and motivated young athlete who is a positive role model to her teammates and peers.”

Austin Dadio – Branford

A two-sport captain in baseball and basketball, Austin Dadio carries a 3.8 grade point average. He’s also involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society, Youth and Government and Model Congress. Said BHS Athletic Director and head basketball coach Jake Palluzzi: “Austin has a tremendous passion to succeed in both sports and in the classroom. He is a tireless worker who gives you everything on the court or the field. He’s a pleasure to coach.”

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Danielle Velardi – Branford

The captain of the Branford field hockey and girls' tennis teams, Danielle Velardi maintains a 3.7 grade point average. A two-time All-SCC pick in tennis and a National Field Hockey Scholar-Athlete, she is also a member of the National Honor Society and Model Congress. Said tennis coach Chris Marra: "Danielle is a great athlete that leads by example and has great love for the team."

Joon Hoon Lee – Career

The fourth ranked student academically in his class, Joon Hoon Lee has made his mark become immersed in a variety of activities while attending Career. He is a two-sport captain in indoor and outdoor track and has been a member of the soccer and cross country squads. Academically, he is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Outside of school, he has also participated in the Choate Summer program and the Yale SCHOL program. Said guidance counselor Jenn Hawley: "Joon Hoon also has a strong, yet gracious presence and is mature far beyond his years."

Joon Yeob Lee – Career

Ranked third in his class at Career, Joon Yeob Lee has made his mark on the playing fields as well. A two-sport captain in indoor and outdoor track, he has been a member of the soccer and cross country squads. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Outside of school, he has participated in the Choate Summer program and the Yale SCHOL program. Said guidance counselor Jenn Hawley: "Joon Yeob has a strong, yet gracious presence and is mature far beyond his years."

Peter Costello – Foran

One of the top students at Foran High, Peter Costello also serves as captain of the boys' tennis team. He carries a 3.8 grade point average and is also active in several school organizations. Said tennis coach George Noyes: "Peter is hard-working in the classroom and relentless on the tennis court."

Kiley Phelan – Foran

The captain of the Foran softball team, Kiley Phelan also maintains a 3.7 grade point average in the classroom and a member of the National Honor Society. A recent recipient of the SCC Scholar-Leader award, Kiley has also earned All-SCC honors for her play on the softball diamond. Said Athletic Director Anthony Vitelli: "Kiley has excelled in the classroom and in athletics. Her positive attitude and excellent leadership skills make her an exceptional role model to the other athletes in our school."

Erin Fox – Hamden

A three-sport standout with the Hamden girls' cross country, indoor and outdoor track teams, Erin Fox has been an All-SCC performer. She has served as captain of the cross country and indoor track teams and ranks in the top 20 percent of her class. Erin is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society and is the President of Students Preventing AIDS. Said track coach Nils Leblang: "Erin has been a varsity athlete for the cross country and track teams for four years and is an excellent student."

James Sasso – Hamden

The President of the Italian National Honor Society at Hamden High, James Sasso has also been a key contributor for the Green Dragons basketball squad. Academically, he ranks in the top 10 percent of his class and is also a member of the National Honor Society. James has also previously been recognized as a Tap-Off Club All-County Academic Team pick and with the Sons of the American Revolution Junior Book Award. Said basketball coach Clem Batchelder: "James has always led by example, in the classroom as well as on the basketball court, by being sensitive to the needs of others. He has demonstrated the admirable quality of always putting the success of the team first."

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Stephanie Paine – Mercy

A two-sport captain in volleyball and tennis and Mercy, Stephanie Paine has been in the middle of plenty of activities during her scholastic career. Academically, she is a member of the National Honor Society and ranks 12th in her class. She has also been involved with the Latin Club, Diversity Team, SADD and the Recruitment Team at Mercy. Athletically, she was a four-year letterwinner in both sports – and has also earned All-SCC honors in tennis twice and volleyball once. Stephanie has also been selected as one of ‘Who’s Who Among American High School Students’. Said tennis coach Miguel Garcia: “Stephanie’s extremely strong work ethic, coupled with her considerate demeanor, exemplify why she is our captain. She is the most gracious player that I’ve ever had and hopefully the underclassmen will grow to emulate her.”

Victoria Satagaj – Mercy

The captain of the Mercy volleyball and softball teams, Victoria Satagaj has clearly left her mark as one of the top pitchers in the state of Connecticut. This All-State and All-SCC softball standout, however, excels in other realms as well. She is the Vice President of the National Honor Society and also participates in the Diversity Club and SADD. She has also won the prestigious Harvard Book Club award. Said softball coach Jason Thody: “Victoria has an unrivaled drive for both herself and her teammates to succeed. She has been a pillar for our program over the past three years.”

Alysha Bullock – Shelton

The captain of the Shelton girls’ tennis team, Alysha Bullock has also been a key member of the volleyball and basketball squads during her scholastic career. Academically, she currently ranks No. 2 in her class and is a member of the National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society. Alysha is the Sports Editor of the school newspaper and holds posts as both a class officer and a Student Council officer. Said tennis coach Michelle Sedlock: “Alysha is an incredible student-athlete. Her experiences in school and in life have brought so much to our team and her teammates. She is well-respected by everyone that she meets.”

Paden Livingston – Shelton

A three-sport performer with Shelton’s football, boys’ basketball and lacrosse teams, Paden Livingston holds a 3.46 grade point average. He is a CAPT Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society and Italian National Honor Society. Paden also serves as President of the Italian Club. Said lacrosse coach Scott Smith: “Paden is a well-rounded athlete and his experience both in and out of the classroom leads to his success on the field.”

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 and 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.