

## **NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE**

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### **SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for May** *Eleven Outstanding Student-Athletes Recognized*

**New Haven, CT** – Eleven student-athletes from six high schools have been named The SportsCenter of Connecticut/Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Athletes of the Month for May – the ninth and final month of the program.

All told, the SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month program honored 133 outstanding young men and women during the 2006-07 academic year.

Selected student athletes were varsity letterwinners and had 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.

“For the last nine months, we have recognized some truly outstanding student-athletes who clearly represent the best of the best,” SCC Commissioner Al Carbone remarked. “Many thanks to the Sports Center of Connecticut for its support of this great program and best of luck to the 133 honorees who clearly have some bright futures ahead of them.”

#### **The SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month – May, 2007**

##### **Kerry Flinn – Derby**

The captain of the girls' outdoor track and field team at Derby High, Kerry Flynn also excels in the classroom for the Red Raiders. She's ranked seventh in her class and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Kerry also participates with the Derby band and choir. Said Athletic Director Joe Oraziatti: “As a valuable member of our track and field team for four years, Kerry has demonstrated the kind of work ethic, leadership and desire to learn that we expect all of our athletes to aspire to.”

##### **Christine Smey – Derby**

The captain of the Derby softball team, Christine Smey ranks sixth in her class academically. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society and has earned Academic All-State honors. Said Athletic Director Joe Oraziatti: “Christine is a wonderful young lady who is a great role model for all of our athletes to emulate.”

##### **Erik Bergers – Daniel Hand**

The school record holder in the discus at Daniel Hand, Erik Bergers has been a standout on the track and field squad throughout his career. A strong student, he also volunteers at local soup kitchens in New Haven County.

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### **Izzy Santone – Daniel Hand**

One of the top softball players in the state, Izzy Santone was a workhorse both in the circle and at the plate this season. Izzy maintains a 3.86 grade point average and has been recruited to play at Tufts University next year. She is also involved vocally with the Show Choir and Waes Hael.

### **Samantha Hathaway – Jonathan Law**

An All-State selection in softball and volleyball, Samantha Hathaway also excelled in the classroom, where she carried a 4.03 grade point average. She also served as team captain in softball, volleyball and basketball. Said Athletic Director Frank Luysterborghs: "Sam is a quiet leader who led by example and served as a great inspiration to her teammates."

### **Ryan Hayden – Jonathan Law**

The captain of the Jonathan Law track and field squad, Ryan Hayden earned All-State honors in the 4x100 relay. His performance in the classroom was also impressive, as he held a 4.16 grade point average. Said Athletic Director Frank Luysterborghs: "Ryan exhibited a tremendous work ethic that infused the rest of the team."

### **Max Leiserson – North Haven**

A four-year standout on the boys' tennis team, Max Leiserson capped his playing career this spring with All-Oronoque division honors. He maintained a 3.8 grade point average and was active with the Future Problem Solvers organization. Leiserson has also been involved with various community service initiatives. Said boys' tennis coach Bryan Smith: "Max is one of the most intelligent, hard-working and dedicated athletes that I have had the pleasure of coaching."

### **Amanda Sihabout – North Haven**

A member of the girls' tennis, cross country and field hockey teams during her high school days, Amanda Sihabout has excelled in all facets at North Haven High. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Art Honor Society, Mu Alpha Beta and is a CAPT Scholar. Amanda also volunteers with Benhaven on weekends. Said girls' tennis coach Laura Hurwitz: "Amanda shows the same determination and intensity in tennis and she does in her studies. She is a captain who leads by example. As a tennis player, she demonstrates the great things that can happen on the court when you combine innate skill with unflagging effort."

### **Mandy Hutchinson – West Haven**

The captain of the West Haven girls' lacrosse and volleyball teams, Mandy Hutchinson maintains a 3.84 grade point average. She has been a three-sport standout for the Blue Devils, also performing with the cheerleading squad. Said girls' lacrosse coach Chrystal Fanelli: "Mandy is responsible and hard-working both on the field and in the classroom. She gives 100-percent and tries her best all of the time. She also always has a great attitude."

### **Frank Morrone – West Haven**

A two-sport captain in cross country and outdoor track, Frank Morrone carries a 3.32 grade point average at West Haven High. He has also lettered with the boys' swimming squad. Morrone is a CAPT Scholar who will attend Sacred Heart University in the fall. Said West Haven boys' swimming coach David Tremblay: "Frank is one of the most talented and coachable athletes that I've had in my 35 years of coaching."

**Robert Inahuazo – Wilbur Cross**

A three-year captain of the Wilbur Cross boys' golf team, Robert Inahuazo ranks sixth in his class for the Governors. He is also involved in many extracurricular activities, including roles as President of the National Honor Society and the Italian Honor Society. Said boys' golf coach Joe Steele: "Robert is a great leader who always puts the team first. I wish that I had 10 players like Robert on our team."

**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](http://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](http://www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org).**

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