

SCC NEWS

Official Newsletter of the
Southern Connecticut Conference



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From the Commissioner's Desk

It was another **great** year for the SCC! What else did you expect me to say? Honestly, the 12th year of the conference proved once again to be pretty successful. We successfully hosted a variety of outstanding events and programs, achieved success on the playing fields, and of course, received great support from our sponsors!

Many thanks to our various administrators (principals, assistant principals, athletic directors) from our member schools whose enthusiasm and vision help drive this league. Your work and interest and support is much appreciated!

Special thanks to Vin Iezzi (Hamden HS) who served as the league's President in 2005-06. In fact, Vin did such a great job - he gets to retire! Best of luck Vin!

Also, many thanks to Jeanne Cooper (Hamden HS) who took on a dual role this year, juggling the leadership responsibility as the league's Athletic Director Chairperson while keeping her Secretary duties.

Even with these successes, we must be vigilant and look forward and anticipate the various challenges that will come our way. I would like to officially welcome Rosemary Duthie (Sheehan HS), who will serve as President, and Judy Gallagher (Cheshire), who will be Vice-President, for 2006-07.

That's why I am looking forward to continuing the **great** things.

Best wishes for restful summer!

Al Carbone

If anyone has questions, comments, or suggestions about the SCC, our website, this newsletter, etc., please contact me via email: commissioner@southernconnecticutconference.org.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

To continue to offer top-notch programs and events, the Southern Connecticut Conference relies on financial support from the local business community.

The SCC had several sponsors for the 2005-06 academic year, including the NewAlliance Foundation, The United Illuminating Company, New Haven Register, Velocity Sports Performance, and the International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 478.

Their support is well-appreciated!



A Fine Line?

This spring, the CIAC Football Committee adopted a "Score Management Policy" beginning with the 2006 season - i.e. if a team wins by 50 points or more, the offending coach will be forced to sit out the team's next game.

One of the supposed key factors in this decision was the number of lopsided games played. In 2005, there were 27 such games with 50+ point margins. Fortunately for the SCC, we had **zero** of those games! Since 2001, our league has had just eight games where the margin has been 50 or more points.

Obviously, public outcry erupted and the ruling became a hot discussion topic in the local, regional and national media - most of it mocking the ruling.

An article in the *Las Vegas Sun* included a telling quote from a coach who said... "*The line between beating somebody by a big score and hitting them upside the helmet with it is really not that fine. Teams that have class know the difference. Teams that don't are never going to get it.*"

In the SCC, there are processes in place that ensure regular communication between our coaches and administrators. It's a process that has made this league successful, and one that helps in making informed, consistent rules and decisions that benefit the league and our student-athletes.

Because of this positive support system and communication, I believe all SCC coaches and teams exhibit the "class" as mentioned in the *Las Vegas Sun* article.

That's why I have a problem with the rationale provided for this new rule. If large margins of victory were such a rampant problem, where was the request for some discussion around the state?

All we have now is a "number" that determines what is good and what is bad. Unfortunately, a very fine line to say the least.

Fourth Annual SCC Arts Exhibition A Success

Creative Arts Workshop Hosts Event; The Specialized Packaging Group, Inc. sponsors event

The fourth annual SCC Student Arts Exhibition was held the week of April 24-29 at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven. A grand opening of the show with refreshments, sponsor recognition, and award presentations occurred on April 25.

The exhibition featured a 60+ student-originated visual arts in a variety of media. Each SCC member school had the opportunity to submit up to three works. Prizes were awarded by a jury of professional artists and arts administrators coordinated through CAW Executive Director Susan Smith.

2006 SCC Arts Exhibition Prizes

- 1st Prize - Mohamed Badawi (Career) \$100 - mixed media
- 2nd Prize - Lindsay Rohr (Guilford) \$75 - ceramic
- 3rd Prize - Allison Elgan (Amity) - \$50 - photo
- 4th Prize - Anna Lee (Cheshire) - \$40 - charcoal hand
- 5th Prize - Jose Soto (Lyman Hall) - \$35 - portrait

Honorable Mention:

- Kelly Dapp (Derby) - sculpture
- Massimo Pileggi (Guilford) - mixed media sculpture

"Congratulations to all of our students who produced some fantastic pieces of art," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone commented during the grand opening.

"Many thanks to Susan Smith and her staff at the Creative Arts Workshop for hosting the SCC Arts Expo once again," he added.

For more information on the Creative Arts Workshop, go to www.creativeartsworkshop.org



Mohamed Badawi of Career won first prize at the SCC Arts Expo.

For the third straight year, the **Specialized Packaging Group, Inc.** was the event sponsor. For more information on SPG, go to www.spgroup-inc.com.

Diversity Program Has Another Successful Year

Final Session held on May 16 at JCC; Annual Report available on SCC website

In the conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the SCC Diversity Dream Team program held its final session at the Jewish Community Center in Woodbridge on May 16. The 2005-06 Annual Report, a compilation of our schools' and students' works, is available on the SCC website at www.southernconnecticutconference.org/diversity.php

The following is a reprint of an article in the May 17 issue of the New Haven Register... Diversity program gives area students broader view - Pamela McLoughlin, Register Staff

WOODBIDGE — Dee Ginicola, a senior at Jonathan Law High School in Milford held up a string of colorful pipe cleaners shaped like hearts Tuesday to illustrate what her "diversity dream team" took from a year-long program in which high school students explore diversity and bring the lessons to others in their school. "Everyone's heart is different, but in the end we're all the same and we can live together and be friends," Ginicola said.

Leslie Rivera, a junior at Hamden High School, chose to shape her pipe cleaner like a heart with a cross in it. "We made a lot of sacrifices to be part of this program so that we could learn to be leaders, not followers," Rivera said.

For Shirin Karimi, a junior at Daniel Hand High School in Madison, the program was a real eye-opener, she said, that each high school is not a true microcosm of society, because the real world is full of all types of people; all races, religions, gender preferences, and other variables.

"At school you're not seeing the world for what it is," Karimi said. "When we graduate, we have to be more worldly."

The Diversity Dream Teams program, subtitled, "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," is a major program of the Southern Connecticut Conference, although the SCC is often associated with

sports. The program, led by Branford High School Assistant Principal Dave Maloney, is co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League's World of Difference Institute. Students spend a year at their respective schools studying complex issue of prejudice, bigotry and discrimination. The dream teams then promote acceptance, tolerance and appreciation of differences in their high schools through various, often creative ways.

Tuesday's get-together at the Jewish Community Center, of students from 23 high schools involved and teachers who advise them, was the culmination and sharing of the year's work, a graduation of sorts.

Members of Shelton High School's Diversity Dream Team, returning for the second time, said they wanted to be stronger this year after a weak presence last year. Returning team member Alicia Ouellet, a senior, said the team really "stood their ground" this year and got fellow students into the high school's lecture hall for a "diversity forum." Even students whom they assumed would never hear the message were "on the edge of their seats," at the end of each forum, said Kris Bifulco, also a senior at Shelton High School. "We thought kids talking to kids would be more powerful, and it was," Bifulco said.

Jack Kim, a junior at Notre Dame of West Haven, made a smiley face of his pipe cleaner and told the audience his experience on the team was part hope and part disappointment. Kim said he met some folks whose hearts weren't really into it as much as others, yet he also met many willing to sacrifice their social lives to put their all into the team and studying diversity. He said outside the walls of where they stood in the JCC auditorium that racism and prejudice are raging and that it's a hard subject. But sometimes, he said, "we need to smile."

Maloney told the students to keep asking, "Why?" throughout their lives. Marji Lipshez-Shapiro, Director of Education for the ADL, said the program gives her hope in a world where hatred, genocide and mistrust still exist.

Recapping the Spring Sports Season

For the first time, SCC sponsored postseason competition in all 10 sports

BASEBALL

Hammonasset: Foran

Housatonic: Amity/Shelton

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Xavier

SCC Playoffs: Amity defeated Xavier, 5-1, in championship game

SOFTBALL

Hammonasset: Foran

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Mercy

SCC Playoffs: Mercy defeated Amity, 4-0, in championship game

GIRLS OUTDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hand/Hillhouse

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: North Haven

Quinnipiac: Mercy/Hamden

SCC Championship: Amity (106.5 points); runner-up was Hillhouse (86 points)

BOYS OUTDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Jonathan Law

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: North Haven

Quinnipiac: Hamden

SCC Championship: Amity was first (127 points); runner-up was North Haven (75 points)

BOYS LACROSSE

Regular-season: Hand

SCC Championship: Hand defeated Fairfield Prep, 11-4, in championship game

GIRLS LACROSSE

Regular-season: Cheshire

Division I Playoffs: Cheshire defeated Hand, 11-6, in championship game

Division II Playoffs: Amity defeated Sacred Heart Academy, 15-4, in championship game

GOLF

Hammonasset: Guilford

Housatonic: Lyman Hall

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Fairfield Prep

SCC Championships: Fairfield Prep (319); runner-up was Notre Dame (329)

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Regular Season: Amity/Shelton

SCC Playoffs: Amity defeated Shelton, 3-2 (16-25, 21-25, 25-20, 25-22, 15-13)



Amity captured its 8th SCC boys volleyball championship in 2006, and its first since 2002. The Spartans also won titles in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

BOYS TENNIS

Hammonasset: Guilford

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Fairfield Prep

SCC Playoffs: Amity defeated Fairfield Prep, 4-0, in championship match

GIRLS TENNIS

Hammonasset: Hand

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Sacred Heart Academy

SCC Playoffs: Cheshire defeated Hand, 5-2, in championship match

SOME GOOD SCC INFO...

- The SCC hosted playoff competitions for all ten sports it sponsored during the spring season... Also, for the first time in 2006, both boys and girls tennis hosted a postseason playoff with the four divisional champions earning berths.

- Sixty-nine SCC teams (out of a possible 104) qualified for CIAC spring sport team playoff competition in 2006: baseball (16-of-21), softball (14-of-20), boys lacrosse (10-of-12), girls lacrosse (7-of-11), girls tennis (7-of-16), boys volleyball (4-of-5) and golf (11-of-19).

SCC Notebook

Happy Trails...

Several administrators will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2005-06 academic year... The SCC thanks them for their hard work and participation and wish them well in their well-deserved retirements... Vin Iezzi (Hamden HS, principal); Jay Smith (East Haven HS, principal); Joe Tonelli (Notre Dame HS, athletic director); Judy Samaha (Sheehan HS, athletic director); Bob Tait (Foran HS, athletic director) and Ken Marcucio (Derby HS, athletic director).

News from CAAD...

The Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) recently announced its slate of officers for the 2006-07 year with some great representation from the Southern Connecticut Conference.

- President - Chip Dorwin (Guilford)
- Treasurer - Ken Marcucio (retired, Derby)
- SCC Representative - Marge Dolan (North Haven)
- District #3 At-Large Representative - Jeanne Cooper (Hamden)
- CIAC Representative - Paul Mengold (Amity)

A Spartan Effort!

In the final state baseball polls, the SCC and Class LL champion Amity (25-2) was the choice as the top team in the state... Amity is the first SCC team since Notre Dame (2000) to be voted the top team in Connecticut... Fellow SCC member and Class L champion Branford (18-8) also made the top ten and SCC runner-up and Class LL quarterfinalist Xavier (17-9) also received votes.

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!

In a rematch of the SCC championship game (and the fourth meeting of the season), Mercy defeated Amity, 4-1, in the Class LL softball championship game on June 12 at West Haven HS... Mercy (26-2) finished second in the final state polls, while Amity (23-4) was fourth.

Division II Hockey to Get Postseason Tournament

The SCC Board of Governors approved a Division II ice hockey tournament in 2006-07... The four-team tournament will be contested at a site to be determined... It is the league's first postseason tournament since 1999... "It's obviously a good thing for our league because our ice hockey student-athletes get to play for a SCC title and I give credit to the Division II coaches for pursuing this," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone told the *New Haven Register*... "Our league has the best hockey in the state (16 state titles in 12 years) – so I look forward to the competitiveness of the tournament. I know it will be successful"... The SCC had teams in all three CIAC championship games and won **two state titles** (Hand in Div. II; Cheshire in Div. III).

Amity's Tinker Wins Team Player Scholarship

Amity softball standout and two-year captain Christine Tinker is the 2006 winner of the Bo Kolinsky Team Player Scholarship... The \$1,000 scholarship is given by the Hartford Courant in honor of the former assistant sports editor who specialized in high school sports... Tinker, who graduated in the top four of her class, will attend Tufts.

Spring All-Conference Teams

The complete list of the spring sports All-Conference teams are available at www.southernconnecticutconference.org

2005-06 SCC State Champions

Sport	Class	School
Fall (8)		
Girls Cross Country	MM	Guilford
Boys Cross Country	MM	Guilford
Boys Cross Country	LL	Amity
Girls Soccer	LL	Cheshire (co-champs)
Field Hockey	M	Branford
Football	M	Hand
Football	MM	Branford
Football	LL	Xavier
Winter (8)		
Boys Basketball	I	Hillhouse
Boys Swimming	L	Cheshire
Boys Indoor Track	LL	Amity
Boys Indoor track	Open	Amity
Girls Indoor Track	L	Hillhouse
Gymnastics	M	Hand
Ice Hockey	II	Hand
Ice Hockey	III	Cheshire
Spring (4)		
Baseball	LL	Amity
Baseball	L	Branford
Boys Lacrosse	L	Fairfield Prep
Softball	LL	Mercy

State Runner-Ups

Fall (9)		
Boys Cross Country	Open	Amity
Football	M	Hillhouse
Field Hockey	L	Cheshire
Field Hockey	M	Hand
Girls Cross Country	L	Mercy
Girls Swimming	Open	Cheshire
Girls Swimming	LL	Cheshire
Girls Swimming	M	Branford
Girls Volleyball	LL	Shelton
Winter (6)		
Girls Basketball	LL	Mercy
Ice Hockey	I	Hamden
Boys Swimming	LL	Fairfield Prep
Boys Swimming	L	Xavier
Girls Indoor Track	Open	Hillhouse
Girls Indoor Track	LL	Amity
Spring (8)		
Boys Lacrosse	M	Hand
Boys Volleyball	M	Hand
Boys Outdoor Track	LL	Amity
Boys Tennis	LL	Amity
Girls Lacrosse	II	Amity
Girls Outdoor Track	L	Hillhouse
Girls Outdoor Track	MM	North Haven
Softball	LL	Amity