

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

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SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for January

Ten Outstanding Student-Athletes Recognized

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

“Many thanks to the Sports Center of Connecticut for its continuing support of the SCC and the Scholar Athlete of the Month program,” said SCC Commissioner Al Carbone. “Each month we are recognizing a group of outstanding young men and women who are truly the ‘best of the best’ of this great conference.”

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. Recipients receive a certificate, commemorative tee-shirt and a SportsCenter of Connecticut activity pass.

January 2008 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month

Tiffany Wynn, Career

A member and two-year captain of the Panthers’ basketball and softball squads, Tiffany Wynn has been a model student-athlete. Tiffany ranks in the top twenty percent of her class with a 3.2 grade point average and serves as Vice President of the Student Government. Career athletic director John Adamovich said, “Tiffany is a very strong leader who has been a positive role model in both the classroom and on the athletic field.”

Raymond Askew, Career

One of the top basketball players in the Southern Connecticut Conference, Raymond Askew has been a top student in the classroom. Ray holds a 3.4 grade point average and ranks in the top twenty percent of his class. A two-time All-Oronoque Division honoree, Ray served as captain of the Panthers’ squad in 2007-08. Career boys basketball coach Larry Kelley said, “Ray is a model student whose achievements are remarkable. His leadership skills go beyond the basketball court as he displays great sportsmanship and a positive attitude.”

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Matt Casey, Branford

A three-sport (cross country, indoor and outdoor track) standout and captain for the Hornets, Matt Casey is also an exceptional student. A National Merit Finalist, Matt ranked fourth in his class and is a member of the National Honor Society. The winner of the Bryant Book Award, Matt is CAPT Scholar and serves as President of the Model Congress. A two-time All-SCC honoree in cross country, Matt earned All-State honors this past fall after finishing 15th in the State Open meet. More recently, he earned Most Outstanding Performer award at the 2008 SCC indoor track championships. Branford indoor track head coach Kevin Connell said, "Matt has led his teammates to a whole new level in indoor track through his commitment to hard work and striving to be the best."

Rebecca Houde, Branford

A three-sport (cross country, gymnastics and outdoor track & field) standout for the Hornets, Rebecca Houde is an outstanding student who ranks in the top twenty percent of her class. A CAPT Scholar, Rebecca is a member of the National Honor Society and is very involved in the BHS community. A two-year captain of the gymnastics team, Rebecca will also serve as captain of the Hornet's outdoor track & field team. Branford gymnastics head coach Brian LeRoux said, "Rebecca is a true leader and is extremely driven to be an achiever in sports and life."

Jennifer Crowther, Sheehan

A member of the Titans' cheerleading squad, Jennifer Crowther is an outstanding student in the classroom. Jennifer currently ranks 19th in her class with a 3.7 cumulative grade point average. A two-year captain of the cheerleading team, Jennifer also serves as a student manager for Sheehan's ice hockey team. Sheehan cheerleading coach Tracey Shook said, "Jenn continually sets the example of maintaining academic excellence as well as contributing her athleticism to the team."

Bryan Sidwell, Sheehan

A three-sport (cross country, ice hockey and golf) athlete, Bryan Sidwell has been an exemplary student in the classroom. Ranked fifth in his class, Bryan holds a 3.9 cumulative grade point average and serves as the Senior Class Secretary. Bryan has been a key member of the Titans' ice hockey squad, including the 2007 SCC Division II champions. Sheehan ice hockey coach Ralph Shaw said, "Bryan is a hard-working dedicated individual both on the ice and in the classroom."

Traci Umbreit, Foran

A member of the Lions' gymnastics squad, Traci Umbreit has been a standout student-athlete. Ranked in the top twenty percent of her class, Tracy has been an Honor Roll student, a recipient of the Superintendent's Award, and is a member of the Key Club. A Second Team All-State honoree, Traci was a key member of the Lions' first-ever SCC champion gymnastics squad in 2008. Foran gymnastic coach Tracy Vassalluzzo said, "Traci has been a consistent all-around competitor and leader for the last four years and extremely deserving of this honor."

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Nathan Firn, Foran

The captain of the Lions' boys basketball squad, Nathan Firn has been a standout performer in the classroom. Ranked 19th in his class, Nathan sports a 3.58 grade point average and is a member of the Foran Film Society. A four-member of the basketball team, Nathan has earned three varsity letters and recently earned All-Hammonasset Division honors in 2007-08. Foran boys basketball coach Tim Swaller said, "Nathan is an extremely hard worker who constantly strives to excel – whether its in the classroom or on the basketball court."

Michael Dellacorte, Shelton

A four-year varsity member of the Gaels' ice hockey and baseball squads, Michael Dellacorte has been an active presence in the Shelton high school community. Ranked in the top third of his class with a 3.26 grade point average, Michael participates in Habitat for Humanity and the Make a Difference Club. Shelton ice hockey coach John Porto said, "Since Mike can into our program he has been a positive influence through his presence and his actions both on and off the ice. He is extremely worthy of his recognition."

Lauren Flament, Shelton

A three-sport (cross country, indoor and outdoor track) athlete, Lauren Flament has also achieved great things in the classroom. Ranked fourth out of a class of 444 students, Lauren holds a 4.0 grade point average and is a CAPT Scholar and member of the National Honor Society. Active in the SHS community, Lauren serves as Vice President of the Student Council, and participates in the Make-A-Difference Club. She also serves as Editor of *Gael Winds*, the school's newspaper. Shelton indoor track coach Adam Reynolds said, "Lauren is not only talented on the track, but she stands out in the classroom as well. Her leadership abilities combined with her work ethic will make her successful in any endeavor she chooses."

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 14th season of competition in 2007-08 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 over 250 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.