

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

**For Immediate Release:** October 16, 2007  
**Contact:** Al Carbone, Commissioner (203) 671-4421

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

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

For the second straight year, the SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month program will honor outstanding young men and women each month during the 2007-08 academic year.

“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. “To recognize a group of outstanding young men and women who have clearly demonstrated the desire and ability to exceed solidifies what this conference is all about.”

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.

### **September 2007 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month**

#### **Zhuiyang “Dean” Chen – Wilbur Cross**

A three-sport captain in boys’ soccer, indoor track and tennis at Wilbur Cross, Zhuiyang “Dean” Chen ranks first in his class academically. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has already taken classes at Yale University. Said Stephanie Nillurn, a Technology teacher at Wilbur Cross: “Dean always exhibits excellent leadership qualities in everything that he does, be it academics or sports.”

#### **Will Turner – Jonathan Law**

A three-sport performer in football, basketball and baseball, Will Turner also serves as team captain of the Lawmen football squad this fall. He holds a 3.9 grade point average. Said Athletic Director Frank Luysterborghs: “Will has been an excellent role model both on the field and in the classroom.”

#### **Colleen O’Flynn – Jonathan Law**

The captain of the Jonathan Law girls’ volleyball team, Colleen O’Flynn has played an integral role for her club this fall. Also a member of the track and field squad, she carries a 3.6 grade point average and is involved in Keyettes and Best Buddies. Said Athletic Director Frank Luysterborghs: “Along with distinguishing herself as our volleyball captain, Colleen has consistently earned high academic honors while also staying involved in many school activities.”

## **September 2007 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month – cont.**

### **David Birdsall – Daniel Hand**

A three-sport athlete in cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field, David Birdsall holds a 3.52 grade point average. He has also served as team captain for the Tigers in cross country. Said cross country/track and field coach Tim Geary: “David is doing a good job as team captain. He always displays good leadership and is a dedicated member of the team.”

### **Brittany Jackson – Daniel Hand**

A four-year starter and All-State selection for the Daniel Hand girls’ soccer team, Brittany Jackson also excels in the classroom with a 3.8 grade point average. Also a member of the Tigers’ girls’ basketball program, Jackson has previously earned All-Area and All-SCC honors on the pitch. Said girls’ soccer coach Bob Faulkner: “Brittany Jackson is one of the finest athletes that I have ever worked with. She is a very special young woman.”

### **Zachary Hahn – Derby**

The captain of the Derby football team, Zachary Hahn ranks ninth in his class academically. He has also devoted his time to many efforts outside of the classroom and the playing field. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Diversity Club, Student Council and is the Senior Class Secretary. Said Athletic Director Joe Oraziatti: “As one of the captains of the football team, Zach has demonstrated true leadership by never missing any of the summer weight lifting sessions even though he could not participate due to shoulder surgery.”

### **Sarah Timpko – Derby**

A two-year team captain for the Derby girls’ soccer team, Sarah Timpko carries a 4.02 grade point average and ranks fifth in her class academically. A member of the National Honor Society, Timpko has also been elected as Senior Class President. Said Athletic Director Joe Oraziatti: “Sarah has endured some personal difficulties, but she never lost her great smile or giving positive encouragement to her teammates.”

### **Colin Nevins – Fairfield Prep**

A member of the crew and ski teams at Fairfield Prep, Colin Nevins holds a 4.03 grade point average. He is involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including peer tutoring, Habitat for Humanity, Chaplain’s Council and the Cardinal Key Society. Said crew coach John Turner: “As a founding member of the crew program, Colin has continually shown unselfish dedication to the team’s growth and improvement. He leads by example with his hard work, helpfulness, patience, reliability and consistent good humor.”

### **John Cunningham – Fairfield Prep**

The captain of the Fairfield Prep football and lacrosse teams, John Cunningham has established himself as a standout student-athlete. He is among the top 25 students in his class and has already been accepted to Princeton. John is a member of the National Honor Society and Cardinal Key Society in addition to his status as an All-State pick in lacrosse and an All-SCC pick in football. Said football coach Rich Magdon: “John Cunningham is the equal of any student scholar-athlete that I have seen in at Fairfield Prep in my 32 years as a football coach and 16 years as an administrator.”

## **September 2007 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month – cont.**

### **David Jordan – Lyman Hall**

The captain of the Lyman Hall football team, David Jordan maintains a 3.47 grade point average in the classroom. He is a member of the Varsity Club and the Spanish Club. In addition, David has also participated in many community activities such as the Wishing Well fundraiser and the Lyman Hall Community Day leaf raking event for senior citizens. Said Athletic Director Elaine Piazza: “David Jordan has matured into the consummate team player. He commands respect from his teammates through leading by example, while also maintaining high standards of excellence both in the classroom and on the football field.”

### **Katie Mantie – Lyman Hall**

A three-sport standout and team captain in soccer, indoor track and outdoor track, Katie Mantie has distinguished herself as a standout both on the field and in the classroom. She ranks in the top 10 percent of her class at Lyman Hall and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has also volunteered at numerous community events including Relay for Life, and has also done charitable work in the Dominican Republic. Said Athletic Director Elaine Piazza: “Katie Mantie is not only a team leader in three sports and the heart of our girls’ soccer offense, but she is also a leader off the field as a Varsity Club Officer, top student and a volunteer who makes a difference in the lives of those around her.”

### **Stacey Williams – West Haven**

A member of the West Haven girls’ soccer and girls’ lacrosse teams, Stacey Williams maintains a 3.57 grade point average and ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, while also serving as the Class Treasurer. Said Athletic Director Jon Capone: “Stacey is an intelligent, hard-working, caring young lady that shows great leadership qualities, organizes her time wisely and goes out of her way to help others in need.”

### **Jamal Howard – West Haven**

A two-sport standout in soccer and track and field, Jamal Howard holds a 3.2 grade point average at West Haven High. He is a team captain and All-SCC selection on the pitch, while also serving as a valuable member of the track and field team. Said boys’ soccer coach Peter Trenchard: “Jamal is one of the hardest workers that I have ever met on the field and in the classroom. He is dedicated to improving himself and once he sets a goal, he does all that he can to reach it. His work ethic and positive outlook has earned him the respect of his teammates, classmates, teachers and coaches.”

*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 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 252 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).*

###