

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

For Immediate Release: March 22, 2008

Contact: Al Carbone, Commissioner (203) 671-4421

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

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

“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 the ‘best of the best’ of this great conference and this month is no different.”

Honored student athletes 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.

February 2008 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month

Alessandra Fiallos, Sacred Heart Academy

A standout member of the Pacers’ indoor track squad, Alessandra Fiallos is a top student with a 3.6 grade point average. Alessandra recently completed notable indoor track season, setting a school record in the 55 meter hurdles (9.42 seconds). Her time ranked among the best in the SCC this year. Sacred Heart Academy indoor track coach Bill Sirosoy said, “Alessandra has showed outstanding consistency in all of her races, and was a top performer all season.”

Mark Hales, East Haven

The captain of the Yellowjackets’ basketball squad, Mark Hales has been a top student-athlete at East Haven High School. Mark sports a 3.5 grade point average and ranks in the top 15 percent of his class. The schools’ record holder for three-point field goals, Mark earned SCC All-Oronoque Division and New Haven Tap-Off Club All-County honors for his efforts on the hardwood this winter. East Haven boys basketball coach Rick Narracci said, “Mark is the model of what a student-athlete should be.”

Britany Sweet, Hamden

A two-sport standout (ice hockey and lacrosse) for the Green Dragons, Britany Sweet ranks in the top twenty percent of her class with a 6.226 grade point average (out of 7.0). A member of the National Honor Society, Britany was a key part of the Green Dragon’s run to the Central Connecticut Girls Hockey League championship game. This spring, Britany will serve as captain of the lacrosse team. Hamden girls ice hockey coach Val Chamberlain said, “Britany is the consummate team player. She will do whatever is necessary to help and support her team.”

February 2008 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month – page 2

Michael Sanca, Hamden

A member of the Green Dragons' ice hockey and golf teams, Michael Sanca is ranked in the top 10 percent his class with a 6.53 GPA (out of 7.0). He is a member of the Hamden "House Leadership Council" and National Honor Society. A consistent defenseman on the ice, Michael scored four points (2 goals, 2 assists) this past winter and will serve as captain of the golf team this spring. Hamden golf coach Steve DelGrego said, "Mike excels in everything related to scholastic life. He is an outstanding student and athlete, and a leader on and off the field."

Ann-Marie Clarke, Hillhouse

One of the top runners in the SCC and the state, Ann-Marie Clarke has been a model student-athlete at Hillhouse. A member of the National Honor Society, Ann-Marie ranks among the top five in her class with a 3.72 grade point average. She is also a recipient of the Yale Book Award. During the indoor track season, Ann-Marie champion in the 300 meters and 55 meter hurdles at the SCC, Class L and State Open competitions. She recently signed a National Letter of Intent to run track at Indiana. Hillhouse athletic director Tom Dyer said, "Ann-Marie is a one-in-a-lifetime student athlete. She gets it done in the classroom and on the track."

Jeremy Moore, Hillhouse

A member of the Academics' football and basketball squads, Jeremy Moore is a top student with a 3.4 grade point average. On the basketball court, Jeremy was integral part of Hillhouse's Hammonasset Division champion team. For his efforts, he earned All-Hammonasset Division honors and was named to the New Haven Tap-Off Club's All-Country team. Hillhouse athletic director Tom Dyer said, "Jeremy is a bright young man and a tremendous role model for young students in New Haven."

Christine Warner, North Haven

A member of the girls basketball team, Christine Warner has been an exemplary student-athlete at North Haven High School. Christine ranks fifth in her class with a cumulative average of 96. A member of the National, Math and Spanish honor societies, Christine is involved with the Interact and Future Problem Solving clubs. North Haven girls basketball coach Jeff DeMaio said, "Christine epitomizes the high school student athlete. She never takes a play off on the court and she never takes a minute off in the classroom."

Steven Plachtyna, North Haven

A member of the ice hockey and lacrosse teams, Steven Plachtyna has had an impressive scholastic career. Ranked in the top fifteen percent of his class, Steven holds an impressive 91 cumulative average and is a member of the National Honor Society. A CAPT Scholar, Steven is very active in his school community, serving as a member of numerous clubs, including the Diversity Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions. Steven also served as a captain of the ice hockey team in 2007-08. North Haven ice hockey coach Mike Violano said, "Steven shows great desire to improve himself on the ice and in the classroom. He has all of the attributes of a successful young adult."

Lacey Vogel, Amity

A three-sport (cross country, indoor and outdoor track) athlete for the Spartans, Lacey Vogel ranks in the top five percent of her class with an impressive 3.71 grade point average. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Lacey is President of the Amity "Charmettes" choir and is a member of the Molecular and French clubs. Amity guidance counselor Jim Collins said, "Lacey is a captain, peer coach and ferocious competitor who displays passion and commitment at the highest level for her academic and athletic pursuits."

February 2008 SCC/Sports Center Scholar Athletes of the Month – page 3

Zachary Bell, Amity

A member of the Spartans' soccer and basketball squads, Zachary Bell ranks in the top ten percent of his class with a 3.68 grade point average. Active in his school community, Zach is Vice President of the "Builds" for Habitat for Humanity and is pursuing an independent study examining the conflict in the Middle East. He has been accepted early decision at the University of Pennsylvania. Amity guidance counselor Julie Ayer said, "Zach is a motivated self-starter who is highly responsible and respectful. He is destined for greatness."

Taylor Gregoire-Wright, Guilford

A three-sport athlete (cross country, fencing and outdoor track), Taylor Gregoire-Wright is an accomplished student who ranks in the top ten percent of his class with a 3.68 grade point average. A National Merit Scholar, Taylor serves as Treasurer of the GHS Student Senate and is a member of the Greater New Haven Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Greater New Haven Concert Band. Taylor captained the fencing team and has a U.S. Fencing Association Foil Rating C07. Guilford fencing coach Tara Bowers said, "Taylor is one of the hardest working athletes I have ever known. His positive attitude is contagious and his dedication has made him a leader among his peers."

Melanie DeCaprio, Guilford

A three-sport (field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse) for the Indians, Melanie DeCaprio ranks in the top 20 percent of her class with a 3.4 grade point average. A member of the Spanish Honor Society, Melanie is a member of the Unity- Anti-Defamation Group and Athletic Leadership Team. Melanie served as captain of the ice hockey team which won the Central Connecticut Girls Hockey League title this winter. Guilford girls' ice hockey coach Tom Sheriden said, "As a student-athlete, Melanie is a positive role model for all whom she is involved with, and as a leader, she always put the needs of others and the team before herself."

Brian Kachmark, Notre Dame

The captain of the Green Knights' ice hockey team, Brian Kachmark has been a successful student-athlete. A member of the National and Italian honor societies, Brian holds a 94.6 grade point average, while holding a variety of leadership activities in the Notre Dame community. Brian serves as President of the Student Council and is a peer counselor. This winter, Brian was named to the First Team All-SCC ice hockey team after earning Second Team honors in 2006-07. Notre Dame athletic director Tom Marcucci said, "Brian is a leader in word and deed. Well rounded, he has represented Notre Dame in a first-class manner both on and off the ice."

Peter Vogel, Notre Dame

The captain of the Green Knights' swimming and tennis squads, Peter is also a talented student with a 92.6 grade point average. A member of the National and Spanish honor societies, Peter serves as Vice President of the Student Council and is the student representative to the Notre Dame Academic Board. Notre Dame athletic director Tom Marcucci said, "Peter has been involved with all facets of life at Notre Dame. He has great enthusiasm and is always willing to help with any activity."

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.