

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

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SCC To Expand Basketball Postseason Tournaments

The Southern Connecticut Conference Athletic Directors recently voted to expand the boys' and girls' basketball postseason tournaments. Starting in 2007-08, the league tournament for both boys and girls will include the four divisional winners plus any team that qualifies for the CIAC state tournament (8 victories) up to a maximum of 16 teams. Derby, which doesn't play a full league schedule, will not be eligible for the SCC postseason tournament.

It marks the first time in 13 years that the SCC has increased the field of its basketball tournaments. Since the league's inception in 1994-95, eight teams qualified for the league tournament.

"The SCC basketball tournaments have been extremely competitive for the last 13 years, and expanding the field parallels the recent growth of the conference," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone said.

After 10 seasons of having three divisions, the league added two Milford schools (Foran and Jonathan Law) and went to a four-divisional format in 2004. Including Derby, there are 21 boys' teams and 20 girls' teams competing in the sport of basketball in the Southern Connecticut Conference.

"Expanding the tournament is a positive change. The coaches were unanimously in favor of it, and it gives our teams another realistic goal to shoot for. And with potentially more teams involved, it will give an already successful event a little more excitement."

Hillhouse is the two-time defending SCC boys' champion, having defeated city-rival Wilbur Cross, 71-58, in the 2007 championship game. Wilbur Cross (5 titles) and Xavier (4) have won the most SCC boys' tournament titles.

Mercy captured its first SCC girls' championship in 2007, defeating Guilford, 62-54. Guilford and Hillhouse each have won a league-best four playoff titles.

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.