

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

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SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for October *Sixteen Outstanding Student-Athletes Recognized*

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

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. The SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month program honors 14-16 outstanding young men and women each month during the 2006-07 academic year. The program will recognize a total of 138 student-athletes – six from each of the conference's 23 member schools.

The SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month – October 2006

Justin Sagnella - Guilford

A two-sport (soccer and tennis) letterwinner, Justin Sagnella ranks in the top ten percent of his class and is a member of the National Honor Society. Justin serves as his class' vice president and is a member of the GHS Student Senate. Guilford athletic director Chip Dorwin said, "Justin is a fine student athlete whose active involvement in a variety of school activities has had a positive impact of our school."

Laura Cantley – Guilford

A three-sport (cross country, ice hockey and track) letterwinner and captain, Laura Cantley ranks in the top ten percent of her class and serves as a member of the GHS Student Senate. A three-time All-SCC cross country performer, she also earned All-League recognition in track. Guilford cross country head coach Jim Ford said, "Laura is an energetic and enthusiastic athlete and an excellent team leader."

Laura Carroll – Sacred Heart Academy

A standout on the soccer field for the Pacers, Laura Carroll is also a top student with a 3.15 grade point average. A SCC All-Quinnipiac Division honoree, Laura led SHA in scoring with 14 goals. SHA head girls soccer coach Ray Curran said, "Laura has a great work ethic and plays an intelligent game of soccer."

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Emily Bucciferro – Sacred Heart Academy

A three-sport (volleyball, gymnastics and track) standout for the Pacers, Emily Bucciferro is also an outstanding student (3.2 GPA). In addition to setting the school record for blocks in a season for the volleyball team, she is also an All-State gymnast. SHA head volleyball coach Dave Alexandro said, “Emily is an extremely hard worker who is a consistent team player.”

Kelly Flood – Cheshire

A three-sport (cross country, basketball and track & field) varsity letterwinner for the Rams, Kelly Flood sports a 4.16 GPA and ranks in the top six percent of her class. Kelly served as captain of the cross country team and earned All-Housatonic Division honors. Cheshire athletic director Steve Trifone said, “Kelly is a strong, determined athlete who leads her team by working hard and shows great enjoyment while doing it.”

Matthew Labonia – Cheshire

A two-sport (football, lacrosse) performer for the Rams, Matthew Labonia is an Honor Roll student who ranks 18th in his class and is active in the CHS community. In addition to his athletic involvement is a member of the Cheshire Blood Drive Committee. Cheshire athletic director Steve Trifone said, “Matt is a hard-working team player who understands the importance of being an academic leader as well as an athletic leader.”

Marvin Batts – Hillhouse

A three-sport standout (football, indoor track and outdoor track) for the Academics, Marvin Batts has a 3.36 GPA and ranks 20th in his class. A volunteer for Best Buddies and Soup Kitchens, Marvin has enjoyed success on the gridiron earning All-SCC Division II accolades. Hillhouse football coach and athletic director Eric Barbarito said, “Marvin is a natural leader on and off the field. He understands the importance of doing the job in the classroom as well as on the field.”

Patricia Bellamy – Hillhouse

A two-year captain of the Academics’ volleyball team, Patricia Bellamy is an outstanding student with a 3.8 GPA and number three ranking in her class. The president of her class, Patricia is a member of the National Honor Society, Varsity Math Team and Diversity Team and volunteers her time for Best Buddies. Hillhouse athletic director Bob Davis said, “Patricia is a model student-athlete. Her academic record is top-notch and her leadership on the volleyball court helped Hillhouse earn its first-ever SCC tournament berth.”

Michelle Meoli – East Haven

A two-sport captain (soccer and tennis) for the Yellowjackets, Michelle Meoli is a top student with a 3.5 GPA and ranks eighth in her class. Michelle has been an SCC All-Academic performer for four years. East Haven athletic Fred Balsamo said, “Michelle gives her best effort every time she steps into a classroom or onto a field. She exemplifies everything a captain is supposed to be.”

Nicholas Child – East Haven

A two-sport (football and outdoor track & field) performer for the Yellowjackets, Nick Child is an exemplary student who ranks second in his class with a 3.7 GPA. A member of the National Honor Society, he is involved with the Future Business Leaders of America and is a peer tutor. On the football field, he serves as captain and is an all-league linebacker. East Haven head football coach Mike Marrone said, “Nick is an outstanding young man who works just as hard in the classroom as he does on the field. He is a pleasure to have on our team.”

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Matt Cartoceti – Xavier

A four-year member of the Falcons' soccer squad, Matt Cartoceti is an outstanding student. He ranks first in a class of 194 with a 3.86 GPA. A member of the National Honor Society, he is active in school clubs, including Xavier Newspaper. Xavier head boys soccer coach Mike Cunningham said, "Matt balances being number one in his class with the commitment to the soccer program. He is one of the leaders of our defense and a key part of our SCC co-championship in 2006."

Joshua Lesse – Xavier

A member of the Falcons' football squad, Joshua Lesse is a fine example of a student-athlete. He sports a 3.29 GPA and ranks in the top third of his class. A member of the National Honor Society and French Honor Society, he has been a two-way two-year starter for the football team which won the Class LL state title in 2005. Xavier head football coach Sean Marinan said, "Joshua leads by example on the field and in the classroom. He is an exceptional role model for our younger student-athletes."

James Cersonsky – Notre Dame

A member of the Green Knights' soccer team, James Cersonsky has a 96.08 average and has earned High Honors every semester of his high school career. He is a member of the National Honor Society and ND's student council. Notre Dame head soccer coach Rudy Raffone said, "James is a true example of a scholar-athlete. He has been an outstanding contributor to our soccer program while maintaining high grades and a high level of participation in school organizations."

Nicola D'Amato – Notre Dame

A three-sport (cross country, indoor track and outdoor track) performer for the Green Knights, Nicola D'Amato sports a 93.3 grade average. He is a member of the National Honor Society and is involved as a peer counselor and Spanish Club. Bill Parkinson, Notre Dame's head cross country coach, said, "I especially like Nicola's drive and toughness under pressure. These traits have served him well in the classroom and in athletic competition."

Sonia Gogliettino –Sheehan

A standout member of the Titans' swimming team, Sonia is an exceptional student (3.58 GPA) who ranks 17th in her class. The captain of the swimming team, she is a member of the school record setting 200-yard freestyle relay team. Sonia McLaughlin, Sheehan's head swimming coach, said, "Sonia's hard work and dedication to swimming and academics makes her a prime choice for this honor. She works hard at being t he best can be through hard work and dedication."

Kevin Whalen – Sheehan

The captain of the Titans' football team, Kevin Whalen is a terrific example of a student-athlete. He sports a 3.48 GPA and ranks 26th in his class. John Ferrazzi, Sheehan's head football coach, said, "Kevin's work ethic inside and outside the classroom has contributed to his success. He is highly respected by his peers, teachers and coaches for his outstanding character."

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 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.