



SCC News

Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference

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From the Desk of the Commissioner

As the school year quickly winds down, it has been a great 25th year for the SCC.

Many thanks to our league administrators for their continued commitment to our conference. Thank you to our students, coaches, fans and media who participate in and support our league events.

Special thanks to our league's corporate sponsors and partners, who provide great support to the SCC through their financial generosity.

To commemorate this special year, we will hold a **"25th Anniversary Clambake"** outing on Monday, June 10 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven.

In the meanwhile, there is a lot to be proud of, both in and around the SCC, so be sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @SCCcommissioner and visit our website at www.southernconnecticutconference.org.

I hope you have also enjoyed our many **"Turn Back the Clock"** social media posts about the special moments from the league's first 25 years.

Here's to a safe and enjoyable summer!

25th Anniversary Clambake is June 10

On Monday, June 10, the SCC will hold a **"25th Anniversary Celebration Clambake"** at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$40.

The Clambake menu includes BBQ ribs and chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers, steamed mussels and clams, pasta, multiple salads and clam chowder along with unlimited beer, wine and soda.

There will be gifts and a raffle.

Please contact Al Carbone or any SCC member school Athletic Directors for tickets (\$40) or event sponsorship information (starting at \$100).



Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors



2018-19 Winter Sports Recap

Boys/Girls Indoor Track

East Sectional – Jan. 22 @Floyd Little Athletic Center

Boys Team Results: 1. Hillhouse, 104; 2. Daniel Hand, 88; 3. Amity Regional, 77; 4. Shelton, 66.5; 5. Lyman Hall, 36; 6. Cheshire, 31; 7. Sheehan, 23; 8. Foran, 17; 9. Guilford, 12; 10. Jonathan Law, 10.5

Girls Team Results: 1. Hillhouse, 148; 2. Sheehan, 84; 3. Shelton, 53; 4. Cheshire, 50; 5. Guilford, 41; 6. Amity Regional, 32; 7. Daniel Hand, 27; 8. Lyman Hall, 15; 9. Jonathan Law, 9, 10. Foran, 6

soundRUNNER
a running store...and more

West Sectional – Jan. 23 @Floyd Little Athletic Center

Boys Team Results: 1. Wilbur Cross, 98; 2. Xavier, 74; 3. Notre Dame, 73.5; 4. Branford, 69; 5. Hamden, 62; 6. North Haven, 42; 7. Fairfield Prep, 30; 8. East Haven, 16.5

Girls Team Results: 1. Hamden, 106; 2. Wilbur Cross, 81; 3. Sacred Heart Academy, 68; 4. North Haven, 56; 5. Luralton Hall, 47; 6. Career, 40; 7. Mercy, 26.5; 8. East Haven, 25.5; 9. Branford, 7

Championship Meet – Feb. 1 @Floyd Little Athletic Center

Boys Team Results: 1. Hillhouse, 78; 2. Wilbur Cross, 60; 3. Xavier, 49; 4. Daniel Hand, 45; 5. Shelton, 38; 6. Notre Dame, 36; 7. Amity Regional, 35; 8. North Haven, 26; 9. Lyman Hall, 23; 10. Fairfield Prep, 21; 11. Foran, 15; 12. Branford, 13; 13. Hamden, 10; 14. Sheehan, 8; 15. Jonathan Law, 4; 16. Cheshire, 3; 17. Guilford, 1

Girls Team Results: 1. Hillhouse, 115; 2. Shelton, 51; 3. Sheehan, 49; 4. Wilbur Cross, 44; 5. Hamden, 42; 6. Guilford, 35; 7. Sacred Heart Academy, 25; 8. Career, 24; 9. Daniel Hand, 17; 10. Amity Regional, 14; 10. East Haven, 14; 12. Mercy, 9; 12. North Haven, 9; 14. Luralton Hall, 6; 14. Cheshire, 6; 16. Lyman Hall, 3, 17; Branford, 1; 17. West Haven, 1

Boys Swimming

Div. 1 champion: Fairfield Prep (6-0)

Div. 2 champion: Sheehan (6-0)

Championship Meet – Feb. 27@Southern Connecticut State University

Team Results: 1. Fairfield Prep, 1333.5; 2. Cheshire, 993; 3. Xavier, 724.5; 4. Daniel Hand, 684; 5. Amity Regional, 623.5; 6. Sheehan, 445; 7. Shelton, 383; 8. Branford/Guilford, 354; 9. Hamden, 310; 10. Foran, 295; 11. North Haven, 287; 11. Notre Dame, 287; 13. Lyman Hall, 267; 14. West Haven, 222.5; 15. East Haven, 59

Girls Basketball

Division Champions

Hammonasset: Mercy (8-0)

Housatonic: Hillhouse, Wilbur Cross (8-0)

Oronoque: East Haven (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Hamden (7-1)

First Round – Feb. 14 @Higher Seeds

#3 Hillhouse 64, #14 Branford 51

#13 Daniel Hand 47, at #4 Mercy 40

#5 Wilbur Cross 53, #12 Lyman Hall 51

#6 Sheehan 62, #11 Shelton 41

#7 Amity Regional 39, #10 Guilford 34

#9 Foran 49, at #8 Jonathan Law 44

Quarterfinals – Feb. 16 @Sheehan HS

#1 East Haven 74, #9 Foran 38

#5 Wilbur Cross 54, #13 Daniel Hand 45

#2 Hamden 71, #7 Amity Regional 61

#3 Hillhouse 51, #6 Sheehan 49

Semifinals – Feb. 18 @Jonathan Law HS

#2 Hamden 62, #3 Hillhouse 58



"The Blades," the Amity-North Haven-Cheshire co-op won the SCC Girls Ice Hockey South Division playoff title (Steady Photography photo)

Wilbur Cross won the SCC boys basketball title in 2019. It was the Governors' first title since 2008 and their 7th overall -- tying Hillhouse for the most in league history (Steady Photography photo)



#1 East Haven 57, #5 Wilbur Cross 45
Championship Game – Feb. 21 @ Hamden HS
 Hamden 65, East Haven 49

Boys Basketball

Division Champions

Hammonasset: Hamden, Cheshire, Hillhouse (6-2)
 Housatonic: Amity Regional (7-1)
 Oronoque: Notre Dame (8-0)
 Quinnipiac: West Haven (7-1)

First Round – Feb. 21 @Higher Seeds

#5 Hamden 69, #12 Sheehan 63
 #6 Cheshire 68, #11 Shelton 53
 #7 Fairfield Prep 50, #10 Xavier 31
 #9 Hillhouse 66, at #8 West Haven 57

Quarterfinals – Feb. 23 @Branford HS

#1 Notre Dame 56, #9 Hillhouse 44
 #5 Hamden 65, #4 Jonathan Law 59 (OT)
 #2 Amity Regional 45, #7 Fairfield Prep 42
 #3 Wilbur Cross 68, #6 Cheshire 57

Semifinals – Feb. 25 @Floyd Little Athletic Center

#3 Wilbur Cross 67, #2 Amity Regional 65
 #1 Notre Dame 63, #5 Hamden 54
Championship Game – Feb. 27 @ Floyd Little Athletic Center
 Wilbur Cross 54, Notre Dame 40

Boys Ice Hockey

Div. I Championship Game – March 1 – @Bennett Rink

#2 Hamden 1, #1 Fairfield Prep 0

Div. II Semifinals – Feb. 28 @Bennett Rink

#2 Watertown-Pomperaug 2, #3 Cheshire 0
 #1 Branford 4, #4 Guilford 4 (Branford wins via shootout, 3-2)

Div. II Championship Game – March 2 @Bennett Rink

Branford 2, Watertown-Pomperaug 1

Div. III Semifinals – Feb. 27 @Milford Ice Pavilion

#3 Sheehan 2, #2 Daniel Hand 1
 #4 JBWA 6, #1 Lyman Hall/Cog/HK 2

Div. III Championship Game – March 1 – @Bennett Rink

Sheehan 10, JBWA 1

Girls Ice Hockey

South Division

First Round – Feb. 18

#3 Amity/North Haven/Cheshire co-op 5, #6 Guilford 3
 #4 Notre Dame-Fairfield co-op 2, #5 Branford/North Branford co-op 0

Semifinals – Feb. 20

#1 West Haven/SHA 3, #4 Notre Dame-Fairfield co-op 0 (Feb. 21)
 #3 Amity-NH-Cheshire co-op 5, #2 Hamden 2

Championship Game – Feb. 22 @ Bennett Rink

Amity-NH-Cheshire co-op 4, West Haven-SHA co-op 3

North Division

Semifinals – Feb. 18

#2 Simsbury 2, #3 East Catholic/Glastonbury/SW co-op 0
 #1 Hall/Conard 1, #4 Suffield co-op 0

Championship Game – Feb. 22 @ Trinity College

Simsbury 2, Hall/Conard co-op 0

Wrestling

Div. 1 champion: Xavier (5-0)

Div. 2 champion: Branford (6-0)

Championship Meet – Feb. 9 @ Jonathan Law HS

Final Team Results: 1. Xavier, 199.5; 2. Foran, 138.5; 3. East Haven, 101; 4. Guilford, 75; 5. Daniel Hand, 73; 6. Branford, 71; 7. Fairfield Prep, 59; 8. Shelton, 55; 9. Jonathan Law, 46; 10. Notre Dame, 37; 11. Amity Regional, 31; 12. Morgan, 29; 12. New Haven, 29

Gymnastics

Team Results: 1. Mercy, 133.3; 2. Daniel Hand, 131.4; 3. Jonathan Law, 127.15; 4. Foran, 117.65; 5. Hamden, 110.8

All-Around: Mia Lawrence (Mercy), 36.15

Bars: Mia Lawrence (Mercy), 9.1

Beam: Grace Rogers (Daniel Hand), 8.8

Floor: Mia Lawrence (Mercy), 9.65

Vault: Mia Lawrence (Mercy), 9.2

Cheerleading

Co-ed: Daniel Hand (85.95), Hamden (46.15)

All-Girl: North Haven (87.05), Shelton (86.05), Luralton Hall (82.45), Branford (77.55), Cheshire (76.1), Mercy (75.95), West Haven (71.2), East Haven (71.0), Sacred Heart Academy (65.5), Sheehan (63.2), Amity Regional (62.6), Jonathan Law (62.1), Foran (61.05)



DREAD THE RED!

Branford boys ice hockey captured the SCC/SWC Division 2 title, and then followed it up with the CIAC Division 2 state title. The Hornets were one of 3 SCC teams (Fairfield Prep and Lyman Hall/HK) to win state titles (Steady Photography photo)

SCC Teams Win Seven State Titles in the 2018-19 Winter Season

STATE CHAMPIONS (15)

WINTER (7)

Hillhouse, Class M girls indoor track

Xavier, Class L boys indoor track

Hillhouse, Class M boys indoor track

Lyman Hall, Div. 3 boys ice hockey -
defeated Sheehan, 6-2

Hillhouse, Class L girls basketball -
defeated Daniel Hand, 39-34

Branford, Div. 2 boys ice hockey -
defeated Glastonbury, 2-0

Fairfield Prep, Div. 1 boy ice hockey -
defeated Notre Dame, 5-2

FALL (8)

Daniel Hand, Class L Boys Soccer -
defeated Maloney, 1-0

Daniel Hand, Class L Football - defeated
Maloney, 54-14

Amity Regional, Class LL girls volleyball -
defeated Darien, 3-1 (27-25, 26-24, 22-25, 25-22)

Guilford, Class M Field Hockey -
defeated Sacred Heart Academy, 3-1

Daniel Hand, Class M Girls Swimming

Cheshire, Class L Girls Swimming

**Xavier, Class L & State Open Boys Cross
Country**

STATE RUNNER-UPS (15)

WINTER (9)

Xavier, State Open wrestling

Foran, Class M wrestling

**Amity Regional, Class L boys indoor
track**

Hillhouse, State Open boys indoor track

Daniel Hand, Class M boys swimming

Sheehan, Div. 3 boys ice hockey - lost to
Lyman Hall, 6-2

Daniel Hand, Class L girls basketball -
lost to Hillhouse, 39-34

Sheehan, Class M girls basketball - lost
to Cromwell, 58-51

Notre Dame, Div. 1 boys ice hockey - lost
to Fairfield Prep, 5-2

FALL (6)

**Sacred Heart Academy, Class M field
hockey -** lost to Guilford, 3-1

Cheshire, Class L field hockey - lost to
Staples, 2-0

Guilford girls cross country (Class L)

North Haven girls swimming (Class M)

Lauralton Hall girls swimming (Class S)

Cheshire girls swimming (State Open)

460

SCC member school teams have won 460 state championships since 1994-95.

IT'S ALL ACADEMIC

• Since 1994, Hillhouse has won the most state titles of any SCC member school with 66. The Academics have won three state titles so far this year.

• Cheshire is second with 61, while Daniel Hand is third (48) and Amity Regional fourth (45).





COS NOW is a walk-in service provided by Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists, a league corporate sponsor.

Injuries happen, let COS NOW treat you quickly without the ER's long waits and high rates. Get immediate care for any sprain, strain or fracture with direct access to more than 20 Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists.

COS NOW has three locations in Branford, Hamden and Orange. Visit them at www.ct-ortho.com



Hillhouse's Gary Moore, Deshaune Poole and Jada Boyd earn Indoor Track honors along with Wilbur Cross' Travis Gale (Bob Davis photo)

COS NOW/SCC 2018-19 Winter Player/Coaches of the Year

WINTER PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

- Girls Basketball** – Makenzie Helms (East Haven)
- Boys Basketball** – Connor Raines (Notre Dame)
- Gymnastics** – Mia Lawrence (Mercy)
- Wrestling** – Michael Rapuano (Xavier)
- Boys Indoor Track** – Deshaune Poole (Hillhouse)
- Girls Indoor Track** – Jada Boyd (Hillhouse)
- Boys Swimming – Div. I** – Matt Torres (Fairfield Prep)
- Boys Swimming – Div. II** – Andrew Buehler (Sheehan)
- Boys Ice Hockey – Div. I** – Niko Kyle (West Haven)
- Boys Ice Hockey – Div. II** – John DeLucia (Guilford)
- Boys Ice Hockey – Div. III** – Kyle Roberts (Lyman Hall/HK)
- Girls Ice Hockey – North** – Grace Melanson (Simsbury)
- Girls Ice Hockey – South** – Taylor Nowak (West Haven/SHA)
- Cheerleading** – Emma Testani (Shelton)
- Cheerleading Merit Award** - Sarina Sandwell (North Haven)

WINTER COACHES OF THE YEAR

- Girls Basketball** – Tim Kohs (Mercy)
- Boys Basketball** - Tyrese Sullivan (West Haven)
- Gymnastics** – Monica Bauer (Mercy)
- Wrestling** – Mike Cunningham (Xavier)
- Boys Indoor Track** – Travis Gale (Wilbur Cross)
- Girls Indoor Track** – Gary Moore (Hillhouse)
- Boys Swimming – Div. I** – Rick Hutchinson (Fairfield Prep)
- Boys Swimming – Div. II** – Keith Cargan (Sheehan)
- Girls Ice Hockey – North** - Paul Melanson (Simsbury)
- Girls Ice Hockey – South** - Michael Callan (Hamden)
- Boys Ice Hockey – Div. I** - Todd Hall (Hamden)
- Boys Ice Hockey – Div. II** - Jim DiNapoli (Branford)
- Boys Ice Hockey – Div. III** - Brian Gonsalves (Daniel Hand)



SCC cheerleading chairperson John Niski with Shelton's Emma Testani and North Haven's Sarina Sandwell (Steady Photography photo)

2018-19 SCC Winter Playoff Champions

Girls Indoor Track: Hillhouse
Boys Indoor Track: Hillhouse
Gymnastics: Mercy
Cheerleading All-Girl: North Haven
Cheerleading Co-ed: Daniel Hand
Boys Swimming: Fairfield Prep
Boys Basketball: Wilbur Cross
Girls Basketball: Hamden
Boys Ice Hockey (Div. I): Hamden
Boys Ice Hockey (Div. II): Branford
Boys Ice Hockey (Div. III): Sheehan
Girls Ice Hockey (South): Amity/North Haven/Cheshire, "The Blades"
Girls Ice Hockey (North): Simsbury
Wrestling: Xavier

2018-19 SCC Winter Playoff Runner-ups

Girls Indoor Track: Shelton
Boys Indoor Track: Wilbur Cross
Gymnastics: Daniel Hand
Cheerleading All-Girl: Shelton
Boys Swimming: Cheshire
Boys Basketball: Notre Dame
Girls Basketball: East Haven
Boys Ice Hockey (Div. I): Fairfield Prep
Boys Ice Hockey (Div. II): Watertown-Pomperaug co-op
Boys Ice Hockey (Div. III): JBWA co-op
Girls Ice Hockey (South): West Haven/Sacred Heart Academy co-op
Girls Ice Hockey (North): Hall/Conard
Wrestling: Foran



"Great Blue Research" SCC Scholar Athlete Recognition Program

Great Blue Research is the presenting sponsor of the SCC Scholar Athlete Recognition program. Based in Cromwell, Conn., **Great Blue Research Inc.** is a full-service, in-house Market & Public Policy Research company utilizing a variety of methodologies, including telephone, email, web-based surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews.

The Scholar Athlete recognition program recognizes the "best of the best" in the SCC. Recipients are selected by their school's coaches and athletic directors. Recipients must have a minimum of a B (3.0) average overall and be a varsity letterwinner.

The recipients should also demonstrate leadership qualities by: being a positive role model for other students both on and off the field; exhibiting an ability to help a teammate overcome adversity; showing a commitment to self-improvement; and putting the needs of the team before themselves.



WINTER:

Amity Regional – Kate Yuan (indoor track), Jacob Feuerstein (ski racing)
Branford – Sophia Araneo (basketball), Aidan Kropiwnicki (indoor track)
Career – Tim Fields (basketball), Maya Joyner (indoor track)
Cheshire – Amanda Adesso (indoor track), Kyle Sheehan (ice hockey)
Daniel Hand – Grace Rogers (gymnastics), Daniel Chen (swimming)
East Haven – Olivia Delbasio (cheerleading), Kevin Pettis (unified basketball)
Fairfield Prep – Sean Zentner (wrestling), Alec Keblish (swimming)
Foran – Emma Cote (Indoor Track), Patrick Brogan (wrestling)
Guilford – Jane Danaher (basketball), John DeLucia (ice hockey)
Hamden – Claire Boncek (girls hockey), Matthew Schrier (boys swimming)
Hillhouse – Talib McBride (indoor track), Tyree Allen (basketball)
Jonathan Law – Will Contaxis (basketball), Julie Myers (gymnastics)
Lauralton Hall – Abigail Baisley (indoor track), Anna Yang (indoor track)
Lyman Hall – Kailey Lipka (basketball), Cameron Regan (basketball)
Notre Dame – Michael Card (Ice Hockey), Eddie Zanor (basketball)
North Haven – Sarina Sandwell (cheerleading), Jack Opramolla (indoor track)
Mercy – Sophia Finkeldey (basketball), Halle Carroll (indoor track)
Sacred Heart Academy – Mary Sarah Olson (basketball)
Sheehan – Logan Adams (swimming), Rayna Esch (swimming)
Shelton – Brian Berritto (basketball), Mackenzie Joyce (basketball)
West Haven – Keegan Riccio (basketball), Nash Noble (tennis)
Wilbur Cross – Yaleija Jackson (Indoor Track), Enasj Jones (Boys Basketball)
Xavier – Julen Lujambio (swimming), Pierre Sylvain (indoor track)

SPRING

Amity Regional – Samuel Mahler (outdoor track & field), Elizabeth Brownfield (softball)
Branford – Mary Nwagboli (outdoor track & field), Anders Brown (lacrosse)
Career Magnet – Nicolas Avila (baseball), Gina Patel (tennis)
Cheshire – Jenny Wang (tennis), Ryan Cyr (baseball)
Daniel Hand – Samantha Riordan (tennis), Julian Banerji (baseball)
East Haven – Mikayla Raffone (tennis), Nate Furino (baseball)
Fairfield Prep – Jamie Paul (sailing), Evan Bean (crew)
Foran – Ryan DeMarco (lacrosse), Natalie Hubler (tennis)
Guilford – Charlotte Zimmer (tennis), Ben Panagoulis (baseball)
Hamden – Ava Albis (tennis), Akshar Agarwal (tennis)
Hillhouse – Yesenny Lina (softball), Emani Williams (outdoor track & field)
Jonathan Law – Cali Jolley (softball), Bryan Reed (baseball)
Lauralton Hall – Sydney O'Neil (lacrosse), Theresa Piscitelli (golf)
Lyman Hall – Carly Jacobs (outdoor track & field), Andrew Horobin (outdoor track & field)
Mercy – Cameryn Antler (lacrosse), Rachael Cipolla (outdoor track & field)
North Haven – Grace Gillooly (lacrosse), Daniella Bryson (tennis)
Notre Dame – Jason Ostrowski (baseball), Tom Rosati (golf)
Sacred Heart Academy – Sofia Verna (lacrosse)
Sheehan – Shreya Patel (tennis), John Yoder (tennis)
Shelton – Jacquelyn Simington (outdoor track & field), Robert Dillon (outdoor track & field)
West Haven – Skyler Serenson (tennis), Dominic Cambino (baseball)
Wilbur Cross – Andrew Marrero (baseball), Olivia Ferrara (softball)
Xavier – Nick DeBrizzi (baseball), Jake Woznyk (lacrosse)

25th Scholar Leader Banquet

Forty-six student leaders recognized

The 25th Annual SCC Scholar Leader Banquet will held on Monday, March 25 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. Forty-six scholar leaders, as chosen by their respective school principals, were recognized for their outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school and external communities.

2018-19 SCHOLAR LEADERS

Amity Regional – Anthony Tom, Rosie Du
Branford – Kelly Tiernan, Praneeth Ganedi
Career – Alexandra Queen, Adam Ahmad-Rizal
Cheshire – Alexa Cofrancesco, Ryan Cyr
Daniel Hand – Callahan Henry, Chloe Veth
East Haven – Talia Ferraro, Jose Rodriguez-Sanchez
Fairfield Prep – Finn O'Connor, Thomas Rudden
Foran – Max Tavitian, Maggie Cummings
Guilford – Will Dinauer, Anne Hooker
Hamden – Maya Verghese, Andrew Naguib
Hillhouse – Makayla Dawkins, Mohamed Naji
Jonathan Law – Kruttika Gopal, Michael Bagdasarian
Lauralton Hall – Caroline McMullen, Isabella Secchiaroli
Lyman Hall – Kailey Lipka, Brian Behrens
Mercy – Caroline Kilian, Grace Delaney
North Haven – Jackson Frank, Sarina Sandwell
Notre Dame – Christian Gee, Colton Varholak
Sacred Heart Academy – Vivian Wang, Claire Lagarde
Sheehan – Sydney Carim, Shreya Patel
Shelton – Alyssa Bretan, Sean Rago
West Haven – Sumedha Chowdhury, Jonathan Saier
Wilbur Cross – Pablo Causa, Sungshil Johnson
Xavier – Connor Dwyer, Kevin Galasso



Bill O'Brien Scholarship Winners

Two scholar leaders -- **Makayla Dawkins (Hillhouse)** and **Thomas Rudden (Fairfield Prep)** - were the recipients of the Bill O'Brien Community Service scholarships. Each received \$500.

• *Thomas took a leap of faith by creating an organization called REIGNS. Its title stands for the Respect, Education, and Inclusion of Gay and Non-Binary Students, and provides a safe space at school for LGBTQ students to feel validated and loved by peers, faculty, and the school. REIGNS helps to improve the school environment through dialogue, education, and inclusion.*

• *Makayla is a student representative on both the New Haven and State Boards of Education. She is currently leading a project and will present to the state board at the end of my term that focuses on the arts, team building, and other coping strategies through trauma and healing workshops for her peers. One of the workshops would be "Creating and Calming" which would be in the form art therapy. This will give people the opportunity to express themselves beyond the traditional mode of talk therapy without the worry of financial barriers or the stigma around seeking assistance for mental health support.*

Arts Exhibition Held at CAW

The 2019 SCC Arts Exhibition was held at the Creative Arts Workshop in downtown New Haven from April 8-25.

More than 50 pieces of arts were exhibited. An awards ceremony was held on April 11 with a jury of professional judges presenting awards.

AWARD WINNERS

First Prize: Abigail Richards, Joseph A. Foran - \$100

Second Prize: Xiaoxiao Long, Sacred Heart Academy - \$75

Third Prize: Hailey D'Alessio, Daniel Hand - \$50

Honorable Mention (\$25)

Nina Chang, Cheshire
Autumn Berube, Hamden
Angela Agnello, Guilford



Abigail Richards (Foran HS) won first prize (Bill O'Brien photo)



Xiaoxiao Long (Sacred Heart Academy) won second prize (Bill O'Brien photo)



Hailey D'Alessio, Daniel Hand won third prize (Bill O'Brien photo)

2018-19 SCC/CT Orthopaedic Specialists' "Comeback Players of the Year"

Two student athletes – **Erin Keary (Shelton HS)** and **Thomas LaTorre (Daniel Hand HS)** – are the recipients of the 2019 SCC "Comeback Player of the Year" awards. Both students suffered severe injuries, yet were able to overcome them to become outstanding role models in their respective schools.

A long-time league corporate sponsor, Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists P.C. (COS) has offered a Comeback Player of the Year Scholarship for student-athletes who participated in an interscholastic sport during the 2018-2019 academic year and showed great leadership both on and off the field after their severe injury.

Coaches and school's athletic directors nominated these student-athletes after they each suffered an unfortunate injury that prohibited them from playing for their high school teams. Both will receive a financial scholarship to be used for their college education.

"This is our ninth year in awarding student-athletes from the SCC with scholarships," explained Glenn Elia, Chief Executive Officer of COS. "Our goal has been to acknowledge student-athletes who have overcome the challenges of an injury and, through hard work and determination, have become positive role models for their fellow teammates. Because we are sports medicine specialists, we understand intimately what it takes to recover from an injury and return to playing sports at a high level."



Pictured (L-R): AI Carbone, SCC Commissioner; Tommy LaTorre, Erin Keary, Jeffrey M. Klauser, MD, Orthopaedic Surgeon Specializing in Sports Medicine - Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists

2018-19 SCC/CONNECTICUT ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALISTS COMEBACK PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

THOMAS LATORRE, DANIEL HAND HS (SOCCER)

Tommy tore his ACL in the spring of his junior year, while playing at a college showcase soccer tournament. He received surgery in April 2018 and undertook extensive rehabilitation – most of the time in the morning before school started - to return to the team, one that was coming off two straight Class L state titles and one he would serve as one of the team's captains. During his physical therapy, Tommy worked diligently and was cleared to play mid-season (in October) and was a catalyst as the Tigers earned their third straight Class L state title, culminating with a 2-1 victory over Maloney on November 18.

Daniel Hand head soccer coach Greg Cumpstone said, "While injured, Tommy served as a source of support and leadership to his teammates. His return to the field gave the team the fire that was infectious; he was up for any battle, and his actions on the field became crucial to the team's late-season state championship run."

Tommy will attend Elon University in the fall with plans to major in sports management.

ERIN KEARY, SHELTON (SOCCER)

A four-year starter at defensive center, Erin sustained an ACL injury during the 2017 state girls soccer tournament. Erin showed her dedication through the rehab process, following the regiment set for her with diligence and persistence, starting with spring workouts, into the summer and fall preseason. Her return to the field in 2018 was admirable, but also impressive. She played in all 20 games, leading the team in minutes played and also scored six goals and added four assists from her defensive position. For her efforts, she earned All-SCC and Second Team All-State honors.

Shelton head girls soccer coach Marvin Miller said, "Persistence has always been Erin's strongest character attributes along with her extremely high personal expectations she puts on herself as a student and as an athlete. With that, she has earned the respect of her opponents and teammates and holds a place of honor with them."

Erin will attend the University of Connecticut in the fall with plans to major in Allied Health Sciences.



**Connecticut
Orthopaedic
Specialists**