

SCC NEWS



Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference

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From the Commissioner's Desk

It's Warming Up...

Greetings! I hope everyone is looking forward to the spring time and of course, warm weather and the many end of the school year activities.

It was a very busy winter in the SCC with lots of things going on. I am also happy to report the SCC had many successes by its students, teams, and schools during this time.

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- Recapping the Winter Sports Season - 7 more state titles!
- 11th Annual Football Banquet Recap
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- SCC Notebook

Next issue in June: The next issue of SCC News will be out in June to wrap up the spring!

Questions, Comments, Ideas...

If anyone has questions, comments, or suggestions about the SCC, this newsletter, etc., please don't hesitate to contact me via email:

commissioner@southernconnecticutconference.org

Best wishes for a safe rest of the school year!

Al Carbone

Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors...

To continue to offer top-notch programs and events, the Southern Connecticut Conference relies on financial support from the local business community. The SCC has several sponsors for the 2004-05 academic year, including NewAlliance Bank, The United Illuminating Company, New Haven Register, and Velocity Sports Performance. Their support is well-appreciated.



New Haven Register



SCC Launches Website!

In late January, the SCC launched its first official website, located at www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org.

The site includes valuable information about the history of the conference, its 23-member schools, corporate sponsors, and offers the latest news about the SCC's students, programs and events.

In addition, there are links to each member school's website, the CIAC, as well as the various media outlets that cover the SCC and high school athletics.

"The Internet has become a vital part of any organization's marketing, promotional and information efforts and this website has been designed to provide the most accurate and timely information about the SCC," explained Commissioner Al Carbone.

The site was designed by Very Digital Communications (www.verydigital.net). Very Digital's President Vincent DiCarlo is a graduate of SCC-member West Haven High School.



SCC Member Schools: Amity • Branford • Career • Cheshire • Daniel Hand • Derby • East Haven • Fairfield Prep • Foran • Guilford • Hamden • Hillhouse, Jonathan Law • Lyman Hall • Mercy • North Haven • Notre Dame-WH • Sacred Heart Academy • Sheehan • Shelton • West Haven • Wilbur Cross • Xavier

Diversity Dream Teams *Making A Difference In The SCC*

Over 100 SCC student leaders have met seven times this year, forming "diversity dream teams," specially trained advocates for valuing, appreciating and acknowledging diversity in their respective school / communities within the SCC.

Each SCC school has sent five students, accompanied by a faculty representative, to the multifaceted learning experiences that take place once per month at the Jewish Community Center in Woodbridge. Facilitators from the Anti-Defamation League and SCC English teachers have served as catalysts, leading the students to promote acceptance, heighten communication and foster the appreciation for diversity.

Training techniques for combating the challenges associated with managing the changing complexity of diversity within the SCC have featured a syllabus of



One of the many activities during the Diversity Dream Team sessions

reading and writing prompts, as well as interactive face-to-face icebreakers conducted in a positive atmosphere. Cross-cultural and conflict resolution techniques have been shared as participants acquired the skills and practical strategies to reduce bullying behaviors that often arise in teenage life. A syllabus of reading coupled with the training activities energized students across rural-suburban-urban boundaries to respond in writing. The soon to be published annual report will feature "dream team" writing along with each school's action planning summary. From their initial understanding last summer at the retreat at Quinnipiac University, dream team members have developed critical stances, attempting to make connections between the training sessions and their personal lives in SCC schools.

Dave Maloney, Assistant Principal at Branford High School and program administrator for the project noted, "This year's edition of SCC Diversity Dream Teams is as committed and passionate as any in the past ten years! They've built positive, meaningful relationships with one another while tackling some of the central issues of prejudice and bias in their world. To be sure these young men and women are a credit to their school / communities."

Third Annual SCC Arts Exhibition a Success

A total of 51 entries submitted

The SCC presented its third annual student arts exhibition at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven during the week of March 7-12. A grand opening of the show with refreshments, sponsor recognition, and award presentations was held on March 7.

The exhibition – a total of 51 entries – featured a selection of outstanding visual arts in a variety of media, produced by students in grades 9-12. Each SCC member school had the opportunity to submit up to three works.

Prizes were awarded by a jury of professional artists and arts administrators coordinated through CAW Executive Director Susan Smith. The chair of the event was Amity principal Dr. Ed Goldstone.



First Prize winner Elizabeth Duffy of Mercy High School

1st Prize – Elizabeth Duffy (Mercy) - \$100

2nd Prize – Matthew Morello (Xavier) - \$75

3rd Prize – Kayte Mooney (Amity) - \$50

4th Prize – Katherine Roll (Sacred Heart Acad.) - \$40

5th Prize – Hajer Ahmed (Career) - \$35

Honorable mentions: Elizabeth Brombecker (Lyman Hall); Michael Ciarlo (Lyman Hall); Dave Estes (Sheehan); Nate Johnson (Guilford) and Jonathan Sigworth (Hamden)

A special thank you to the participating event sponsor – **The Specialized Packaging Group, Inc.** Based in Hamden, The Specialized Packaging Group, Inc. is a full-service world-class producer of paperboard packaging offering a comprehensive range of value-added services.



For more pictures from the Arts Exhibition, go to
www.southernconnecticutconference.org/arts.php

11th Annual SCC Scholar-Leader Banquet Held

46 Students Honored for Scholarship and Leadership

The 11th Annual Scholar Leader Banquet was held on March 28 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. 46 students representing the 23 SCC member schools were recognized for their outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school communities.

Shelton High School principal Donald Ramia and Notre Dame-West Haven principal Ralph Proto were co-chairs of the event. UHY Advisors LLP was the participating event sponsor for the SCC Scholar Leader Banquet. UHY is part of the nation's 14th largest business consulting and accounting firm, and also an active partner in the New Haven community.



2004-05 SCC Scholar Leader Recipients:

Amity Regional

Ryan Benjamin
Melissa Katz

East Haven

Stephanie Gagliardi
John Chick

Hillhouse

Courtney Leak
Frennis Walden

Sacred Heart Academy

Jamie Buller
Michele Vizziello

Branford

Brittany Amendola
Christopher Martens

Fairfield Prep

Charles Adams
Colin Shukie

Jonathan Law

David Perrett
Stephanie Lane

Sheehan

Tiffany Cartier
Julie McIntyre

Career

Alyssa Carbone
Nicholas Olsen

Foran

Justin Rosen
Alexander Armstrong

Lyman Hall

Kathleen Gaudet
Daniel Nguyen

Shelton

Sara Callahan
Michael Lavigne

Cheshire

Taylor Mahanna
George Barchini

Guilford

Tim Mulvey
Alyson King

Mercy

Jessica Champagne
Courtney Hofman

West Haven

Elizabeth Valente
Douglas Bova

Wilbur Cross

Elizabeth White
Mara Revkin

Hamden

Craig Clark
Ashlee Tran

North Haven

Nicholas Leiserson
Rachel Swirsky

Xavier

Nicholas Grasso
Matthew Mainella

Derby

Amanda Thompson
Martin Hubbard

Hand

Veronica Yu
Joachim De Lombaert

Notre Dame

Rossi Patterson
Chris Gombeski



Robyn White, event sponsor UHY Advisors' director of marketing, assisted in the awards presentation.



Each SCC Scholar Leader recipient received a medal and certificate.

Recapping the Winter Sports Season

SCC Team Capture Seven State Championships; 16 So Far in 2004-05

It was another successful winter seasons as SCC member-schools fared well in league and state-wide competition. All told, SCC teams captured seven more state championships which brings the total to 16 for the 2004-05 academic year. Five additional teams earned runner-up status in CIAC state competition during the winter campaign. Since the league's inception in 1994, SCC schools have now won 214 state championships.

In addition, 41 teams qualified for CIAC winter sport playoff competition in girls basketball (15), boys basketball (15), and ice hockey (11). Nine SCC teams reached the semifinal round in their respective competitions - three in each sport.

2004-05 SCC State Champions

Fall (9)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Girls Cross Country	MM	Guilford
Boys Cross Country	L	Guilford
Boys Cross Country	Open	Guilford
Girls Volleyball	L	East Haven
Field Hockey	M	Branford
Girls Swimming	M	Branford
Girls Swimming	LL	Cheshire
Girls Swimming	Open	Cheshire
Football	M	Hand

Winter (7)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Girls Indoor Track	LL	Amity
Girls Indoor Track	L	Hillhouse
Girls Indoor Track	S	Career
Boys Indoor Track	LL	Amity
Ice Hockey	I	Fairfield Prep
Boys Swimming	L	Cheshire
Girls Basketball	L	Hillhouse

2004-05 SCC State Runner-Ups

Fall (4)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Girls Volleyball	LL	Cheshire
Girls Volleyball	M	Law
Girls Soccer	L	Hand
Football	M	Branford

Winter (5)

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Ice Hockey	I	Notre Dame-WH
Boys Swimming	L	Xavier
Boys Swimming	LL	Fairfield Prep
Boys Indoor Track	LL	Hamden
Boys Indoor Track	M	Hillhouse

SCC Divisional & Playoff Champions

Listed below are the sport-by-sport divisional and playoff champions for the eight winter sports.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hammonasset: Hillhouse

Housatonic: Sheehan

Oronoque: Wilbur Cross

Quinnipiac: Mercy

SCC Playoffs: Hillhouse; runner-up was Wilbur Cross

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hammonasset: Hillhouse/Hand

Housatonic: Shelton

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Hamden

SCC Playoffs: Xavier; runner-up was Hamden

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hillhouse

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: North Haven

Quinnipiac: Hamden

SCC Championship: Amity; runner-up was Hillhouse

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hand

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Hamden

SCC Championship: Amity; runner-up was Hamden

ICE HOCKEY

Division I: Fairfield Prep

Division II: Branford

GYMNASTICS

SCC Championships: Hand; runner-up was Law

BOYS SWIMMING

Regular Season: Fairfield Prep

SCC Championship: Fairfield Prep; runner-up was Cheshire

WRESTLING

North: Xavier

South: Amity

SCC Championship: Amity; runner-up was Hand

Former Cheshire and UCONN Standout Tim Lassen Honored at SCC Football Banquet

Four divisional champions also recognized

The 11th Annual Southern Connecticut Conference All-Conference Awards Banquet was held on Monday, January 10 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

SCC Commissioner Al Carbone served as master of ceremonies and recapped another successful year on the gridiron. In addition to honoring the 60 all-conference football players, the four divisional winners (Xavier, Hand, Branford, and Foran) were recognized.

The guest speaker for the event was Tim Lassen, a 2001 graduate of Cheshire High School (and former All-SCC football standout) and starting tight end for the 2004 Motor City Bowl-champion UConn Huskies.

There were three event sponsors - **New Haven Gridiron Club, Gene Casey Chapter of the National Football Foundation, and the Walter Camp Football Foundation.**

All three organizations had representatives at the banquet, and their financial generosity allowed the league to purchase long-sleeve t-shirts for each of the All-Conference recipients.

Additional recognition was given to Hand, the Class M champion, and Branford, the Class MM runner-up. It was the 13th state title won by a SCC school in the 11 years of the conference. And with its perfect 12-0 record, Hand was named the #1 team in the state in all three final state polls – and the Tigers also captured the Kelly Award from Walter Camp Football Foundation. It marked the fifth time since 1994 that a SCC school has earned the Kelly Trophy (Cheshire 1994 and



Former Cheshire and UCONN standout Tim Lassen was the guest speaker at the 11th Annual SCC Football Banquet.

1995; Hand 1997 and 2004; West Haven 2002).

In addition to Hand and Branford, four other SCC teams – Shelton, Notre Dame, Xavier and West Haven – all received mention in the final state polls as well.

Individually, eight SCC football players made the *Hartford Courant* All-State team, while 13 were named to the *New Haven Register* All-State team. Branford's Craig Kenney was also named the *Register's* 2004 All-Area Player of the Year.

Pilot Pen Tennis Tournament Director is Guest Speaker at Spring Captains Council

The SCC held its spring Captains Council luncheon at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven on April 4. Over 300 captains gathered to discuss leadership and responsibility and listen to guest speaker Anne Worcester, the Tournament Director of Pilot Pen Tennis.

Event chairperson Fred Balsamo (East Haven's athletic director) facilitated an ice-breaker session that allowed the captains to discuss solutions to potential problems regarding "after-hours parties" and "disruptive teammates." SCC Commissioner Al Carbone then gave some remarks and thanked the league's athletic directors and corporate sponsors and introduced Ms. Worcester.

The first female to ever lead a professional sports organization (CEO of the WTA – Women's Tennis Association), Worcester stressed "leadership is responsibility" and that each captain must fully embrace this concept.

A former captain of her high school tennis team, Worcester related stories about her relationships with various professional women's tennis players – many of whom are

high school-aged – and how she has developed programs to help these players grow professionally.

"You (captains) are all role models," she said. "As much as you might not think, people do and will always notice you, what you do, and how you react to things. So it's so important that you always say thank you and be fair and kind."



Anne Worcester was the guest speaker at the SCC Spring Captains Council event on April 4.

Conducted three times a school year, the SCC Captains Council affords the various sports captains a chance to meet before the season to provide guidance on what it means to be a captain and the responsibility that comes with the position.

SCC Notebook

Former SCC Football Standouts Honored by Walter Camp

Two former All-SCC football performers - Dan Orlovsky of Shelton and UCONN, and Anttaj Hawthorne of Hamden and Wisconsin - shared the Walter Camp Football Foundation "Connecticut Player of the Year" award, given annually to the top collegiate player(s) who resides from the state of Connecticut.



SCC Commissioner Emeritus Bill O'Brien (far left) and Commissioner Al Carbone (far right) pose with former SCC greats Anttaj Hawthorne (Hamden HS) and Dan Orlovsky (Shelton HS) at the Walter Camp National Awards Dinner.

Kudos to Chip and Paul!

Congratulations to Guilford Athletic Director Chip Dorwin who was recognized with the "Distinguished Service Award" by the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors during their recent conference in March... At the same event, Amity's Paul Mengold was also recognized for his service as a Past President of CAAD.

Is the SCC the Best?

If you review the final rankings in the sports of girls & boys basketball and ice hockey, you can make an argument for the overall strength of the SCC... In the final girls' basketball state polls, three SCC teams (Hillhouse, Mercy, and Guilford) all ranked in the top ten - the most of any conference in the state... In the boys' polls, four more SCC schools (Xavier, Hillhouse and Hamden, and Hand) were ranked - again the most of any conference in the state... And finally in ice hockey, four more SCC schools (Fairfield Prep, Notre Dame-WH, Hamden, and Lyman Hall) ranked in the final top 10, including the top three (Prep, ND, and Hamden).

Good Sportsmanship...

Congratulations to the head coach Larry Vieira and his Branford High School ice hockey program for being named the 2005 "Ray Crew Sportsmanship Award" recipient. The award is named in honor of the late Sheehan coach.

MVP, MVP, MVP...

Several SCC student athletes were recognized by the *New Haven Register* and *Connecticut Post* as Most Valuable Players in their respective winter sports:

Connecticut Post

Gymnastics Dina Savoca - Sophomore - Foran
Ice Hockey Mark Arcobello - Junior - Fairfield Prep

New Haven Register

Boys Swimming Dan Mazzaferro - Junior - Cheshire
Girls Indoor Track Natasha Harvey - Senior - Career
Wrestling Jared Czareski - Senior - Foran
Boys Basketball Joe Trapani - Junior - Hand
Ice Hockey Mark Arcobello - Junior - Fairfield Prep
Girls Basketball Sherelle Allen - Senior - Hillhouse

Amity a Finalist for Michael's Achievement Cup...

Amity is one of six finalists for the 16th annual Michaels Achievement Cup... The award is presented annually to state high schools which achieve high levels of success on and off the playing field... The six divisional winners included Simsbury in Class LL, Amity in Class L, Darien in Class MM, Holy Cross-Waterbury in Class M, Haddam-Killingworth in Class SS and Shepaug Valley in Class S... While wins and losses account for a percentage of the Cup's points, other factors figure in as well including participation, academic and scholarship support, sportsmanship, programs dealing with chemical and alcohol use and sports medicine. A school also can receive credit for participation in non-CIAC sports... Three other SCC schools (Cheshire, 3rd in LL; Hand, 2nd in MM; Notre Dame-WH, 2nd, M) also ranked among the top finishers in their respective divisions.

Top Coaches...

Several SCC winter coaches were also honored as the best in their respective sports this past winter.

Connecticut Post

Girls Indoor Track Sean Mahon, Amity
Boys Swimming Bruce Jaffee, Fairfield Prep

New Haven Register

Boys Swimming Ed Aston, Cheshire
Gymnastics Melissa Tott, Hand
Boys Indoor Track Thom Jacobs, Amity
Girls Indoor Track Sean Mahon, Amity
Wrestling Robert Buyea, Amity
Boys Basketball Jeff Beeman, Hand
Girls Basketball Catrina Hawley-Stewart, Hillhouse
Ice Hockey Bill Gerosa, Notre Dame