

SCC NEWS

Official Newsletter of the
Southern Connecticut Conference



Volume 3, Issue 2

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From the Commissioner's Desk

What a great time of the year! The weather is finally getting nice and the end of the school is almost here. It sure was a busy winter in the SCC with lots of things going on. That's why I am very happy to report the SCC had many successes by its students, teams, and schools during this time.

In this issue of SCC NEWS...

- Fifth Annual Arts Exhibition
- 13th Annual Scholar Leader Banquet
- Cheerleading Competition and Captains Council recaps
- A Look Back at the Winter Sports Season - 6 more state titles!
- SCC Notebook and "Kudos"

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

Questions, Comments, Ideas...

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

commissioner@southernconnecticutconference.org Special thanks to Mike Kobylanski, the SCC's administrative intern, for his help in the compilation of this newsletter.

*Best wishes,
Al Carbone*

THANKS TO OUR 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 2006-07 academic year, including the NewAlliance Foundation, The United Illuminating Company, New Haven Register, Velocity Sports Performance, and the International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 478.

Their support is well-appreciated!



Give Them A Hand!

Daniel Hand HS Captures Michaels Achievement Cup

Daniel Hand recently was named the state's overall winner of the 2006-07 Michaels Achievement Cup. The announcement was made on April 22 at the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance's annual Gold Key Awards banquet.

Since 1985, the Michaels Achievement Cup has been the standard of excellence for high school sports programs in Connecticut.

The Michaels Cup program honors outstanding high school athletic programs in Connecticut through an objective formula based on achievement (wins and losses); student participation in athletics; demonstrable programs in the areas of academic support, sportsmanship and substance abuse; plus athletic training, participation in non-CIAC sports (such as crew, skiing, fencing, bowling, girls' ice hockey and the like) and participation in Unified Sports.

Schools are grouped by combined male and female enrollment in the upper three grades (although freshman participants are counted in that category). The pool is divided into six equal segments ranging from Class LL to Class S.

One school, which has the best overall marks, is then selected as the winner of the Michaels Achievement Cup, which will be on display at the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame exhibit at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

13th Annual Scholar-Leader Banquet Held

The 13th Annual Scholar Leader Banquet was held on March 26 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.

In addition, Elizabeth Americo (Guilford) and Robert Inahuazo (Wilbur Cross) were recognized as the first recipients of the "Bill O'Brien Community Service Scholarship." Elizabeth and Robert, who each received \$500, were chosen by a committee composed of the league's corporate sponsors. Criteria included having a healthy balance of school and community activities that are value-added and embody the "spirit and passion" of Bill O'Brien, the league's Commissioner Emeritus.

2006-07 SCC Scholar Leader Recipients:

Amity - Jessica Bell, George Yorgakaros

Branford - Jaclyn Milici, Austin Dadio

Career - Daniel Boyd, Loribeth Rodriguez

Cheshire - Jamie Sarfeh, James Zhang

Wilbur Cross - Robert Inahuazo, Laura Visocheck

Derby - Andrew Bisaccia, Kristen Smith

East Haven - Meghan Ames, Nicholas Child

Fairfield Prep - John Cunningham, Michael Romano

Foran - Kiley Phelan, Christopher Bacchiocchi

Guilford - Elizabeth Americo, Casey Smith

Hamden - Laura Winnick, Alex Velazquez

Hand - Shirin Karimi, Christopher Frink

Hillhouse - Terrell Wilks, Patricia Bellamy

Jonathan Law - Ryan Hayden, Erica Reinholz

Lyman Hall - Brian Marquis, Alison Flynn

Mercy - Ashley Driscoll, Joan Stupik

North Haven - Alyssa Pandolfi, Nicholas R. Bujalski

Notre Dame - Mario Massimino, John Giammatteo

Sacred Heart Academy - Kasey Mitchell, Nicole Perrelli

Sheehan - Alyssa Carboni, Kerri Wolf

Shelton - Theandra Sokolowski, Alexander Harris

West Haven - Robert Aceto, Jill Collins

Xavier - Matthew Cartoceti, Thomas Lynch

5th ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION at CAW

The fifth annual SCC Student Arts Exhibition was held the week of March 5-10 at the Creative Arts Workshop on Audubon Street in New Haven. A grand opening of the show with refreshments took place on Monday, March 5. The exhibition featured over 65 selections of outstanding student-originated visual arts in a variety of media. 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.

For the fourth straight year, the **Specialized Packaging Group, Inc.** was the event sponsor. For more information on SPG, go to www.spgroup-inc.com.

"Once again, thanks to Susan Smith and her staff at the Creative Arts Workshop for hosting the SCC Arts Expo once again," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone commented. "New Haven is indeed the 'creative arts capitol' of Connecticut, so it's an honor to have such a first-class venue to show off our students' great work."

5th Annual SCC Arts Exhibition Prizes

1st Prize: Jonathan Eckels, Xavier (pen and ink drawing)

2nd Prize: Ashley Velazquez, Wilbur Cross (color pencil drawing)

3rd Prize: Mackenzie Pikaart, Mercy (ceramic)

4th Prize: Kelly Flood, Cheshire (drain pastel)

5th Prize: Nicholas Balzano, North Haven (acrylic)

Honorable Mention: Aaron Ruposio, Branford (photo); Ayrenna Marietta, Sheehan (ceramic); Michelle Garcia, West Haven (charcoal drawing); Juan Galan, Career (sugar photo); Mariah Azoti, Amity (photo)



Jonathan Eckels of Xavier won first prize for his pen and ink drawing.



Recapping the Winter Sports Season

SCC Teams Capture Six State Championships; 10 So Far in 2006-07

SCC member-schools fared extremely well in league and state-wide competition during the winter season. All told, SCC teams captured six state championships which brings the total to 10 for the 2006-07 academic year. Seven 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 249 state championships.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hammonasset: Hand (7-1)

Housatonic: Cheshire (8-0)

Oronoque: East Haven/Career (7-1)

Quinnipiac: Mercy (5-1)

SCC Playoffs: Mercy defeated Guilford, 62-54, in the championship game on February 22 at West Haven High School.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hammonasset: Hillhouse (8-0)

Housatonic: Amity/Sheehan (6-2)

Oronoque: Wilbur Cross (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Xavier/Fairfield Prep (5-3)

SCC Playoffs: Hillhouse defeated Wilbur Cross, 71-58, in the championship game on March 2 at East Haven High School.

ICE HOCKEY

Division I: Fairfield Prep (7-0-1)

Division II: Amity (5-1)

Division II Playoffs: Sheehan defeated Branford, 5-2, in the championship game on March 3 at the Northford Ice Pavilion.

WRESTLING

Regular-Season: Amity (9-0)

SCC Championship Meet: February 10 @ Jonathan Law High School

Final Team Results: 1. Amity, 168.5; 2. Derby, 106.5; 3. Jonathan Law, 105; 4. Hand, 102; 5. Guilford, 96; 6. Foran, 70; 7. Xavier, 58; 8. Cheshire, 57; 9. East Haven, 35.5; 10. Branford, 32; 10. Shelton, 32; 12. Fairfield Prep, 17; 13. New Haven, 1; 13. Notre Dame, 1.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

SCC Championship Meet: February 2 at New Haven Athletic Center.

Final Team Results: 1. Amity 105; 2. Hillhouse, 74; 3. Cheshire, 48; 4. Wilbur Cross, 37; 5. Branford, 31; 6. Shelton, 26; 7. Hamden, 24; 7. Sacred Heart Academy, 24; 9. Career, 20; 10. Sheehan, 18; 11. Mercy, 11; 12. Guilford, 10; 12. Lyman Hall, 10; 14. Daniel Hand, 9; 15. East Haven, 8; 16. North Haven, 6; 17. West Haven, 4

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

SCC Championship Meet: February 2 at New Haven Athletic Center.

Final Team Results: 1. Xavier, 71; 2. Amity, 48; 3. Sheehan, 32.50; 4. Hillhouse, 29; 5. Wilbur Cross, 28; 5. Notre Dame, 28; 5. Hamden, 28; 8. Fairfield Prep 26 8. Daniel Hand, 26; 10. Shelton, 24; 11. Cheshire, 23; 12. East Haven, 21; 13. Branford, 18; 14. West Haven, 16; 15. Lyman Hall, 14.50; 16. Career, 14; 17. North Haven, 12 18. Guilford, 6

GYMNASTICS

SCC Championship Meet: February 8 at Jonathan Law High School. **Final Team Results:** 1. Jonathan Law, 133.65; 2. Foran, 133.20; 3. Hand, 124.70; 4. Hamden, 118.95; 5. Cheshire, 92.45; 6. Lyman Hall, 84.60; 7. Branford, 68.80; 8. Amity*, 67.55; 9. West Haven*, 37.35; 10. North Haven, 30.85

Individual All-Around Title: Jen Fuggi, West Haven

BOYS SWIMMING

Regular Season: Fairfield Prep

SCC Championship Meet: February 28 at Wesleyan University. **Final**

Team Results: 1. Fairfield Prep, 1008.5; 2. Cheshire, 645; 3. Xavier, 638.5; 4. Branford, 411.5; 5. Notre Dame, 399; 6. Amity, 363; 7.

Hamden, 301; 8. Foran, 254.5; 9. North Haven, 199; 10. Sheehan, 189; 11. Lyman Hall, 141; 12. Shelton, 138; 13. West Haven, 92; 13. Hand, 62.

Diving Champion: Mark Gracia, Xavier

2006-07 SCC State Champions

Fall (4)

Sport	Class	School
Girls Cross Country	MM	Guilford
Girls Swimming	L	Branford
Girls Soccer	LL	Amity (co-champs)
Football	M	Hillhouse

Winter (6)

Sport	Class	School
Boys Basketball	LL	Hillhouse
Boys Swimming	L	Fairfield Prep
Gymnastics	M	Hand
Ice Hockey	I	Fairfield Prep
Cheerleading	LL	Shelton (co-champs)
Cheerleading	L	Foran

2006-07 SCC State Runner-Ups

Fall (7)

Sport	Class	School
Boys Cross Country	M	Guilford
Field Hockey	M	Hand
Girls Swimming	Open	Cheshire
Girls Swimming	LL	Cheshire
Girls Soccer	L	Hand
Girls Volleyball	LL	Shelton
Girls Volleyball	M	Law

Winter (7)

Sport	Class	School
Girls Basketball	M	Career
Ice Hockey	II	East Haven
Boys Swimming	Open	Fairfield Prep
Boys Swimming	L	Xavier
Gymnastics	S	Law
Girls Indoor Track	L	Hillhouse
Girls Indoor Track	LL	Amity

Quinnipiac University Men's Lacrosse Coach Speaks at SCC Spring Captains Council Event

Quinnipiac University men's lacrosse coach Eric Fekete was the guest speaker at the Southern Connecticut Conference Spring Captains Council event held at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven on April 2.

Now in his sixth year leading the Bobcats, Fekete has elevated the program to new heights as a member of the Great Western Lacrosse League, a conference that includes the likes of Notre Dame, Ohio State, Denver and the United States Air Force Academy.

Fekete, a former two-sport athlete at Skidmore College, encouraged the group of nearly 400 student-athletes to embrace their roles as team captains.

He told the student-athletes that they often serve as the "lynchpin" of their clubs, and more than just intermediaries between their teammates and coaches.

Fekete expressed the fact that as captains, each individual has "moved past responsibility and into accountability." He



Quinnipiac men's lacrosse head coach Eric Fekete was the guest speaker at the SCC Spring Captains Council event.

urged them to assist all teammates and lead with the best interests of the entire team in mind, regardless of class, friendship or ability level.

In addition, he asked each individual to talk with their fellow captains at school to share ideas because "another captain at your school might know what you are going through."

Fekete concluded his talk by encouraging each captain to take his or her team to new heights this spring and ensure that regardless of past program success, the 2007 campaign would be their best-ever.

2006-07 Captains Council Speakers

Fall - Bob Trupin, sports psychologist

Winter - Maria Conlon, former UConn basketball star

Spring - Eric Fekete, Quinnipiac men's lacrosse coach

CHEERLEADING COMPETITION A SUCCESS!

The Southern Connecticut Conference hosted another successful Cheerleading Competition on Saturday, February 3, at Shelton High School.

Fourteen SCC schools participated in the competition in three different categories – 14-under squad size, 15-over squad size, and co-ed.

"Once again it was a great event," SCC Commissioner Al Carbone said. "From the enthusiastic participation of the league's coaches to organize the event to the effective hosting of the event by the Shelton Cheer Parents Group, this competition has quickly become a 'marquee' league event not only for our participants but also for our fans."

Special thanks to **Bird's Eye Sports** (www.birdseyesports.com) for its sponsorship of the event.

2007 Final Results

15-over division

Champion - Shelton (94.5 pts)

1st runner-up - Foran (89.5)

2nd runner-up - Derby (83)

Others: North Haven (71.5), Cheshire (71), West Haven (70), East Haven (66), Jonathan Law (64), Sheehan (63) and Sacred Heart Academy (60.5)

14-under Division

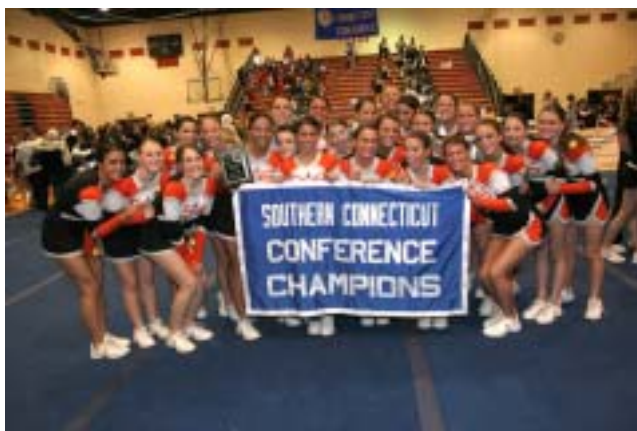
Champion - Hamden (83 pts)

1st runner-up - Amity (68)

Co-ed Division

Champion - Branford (75 pts)

SCC Spirit Award - Cheshire High School



Shelton won the 15-over division with 94.5 points.

SCC Notebook

Winter Postseason Facts

During the winter sports season, 41 SCC teams (out of 57 eligible teams) qualified for CIAC playoff competition in girls basketball (15-of-20), boys basketball (14-of-21), and ice hockey (12-of-16).

SCC On Top of the State?

If you review the final rankings in the sports of boys basketball and ice hockey, you can, **once again**, make an argument for the overall strength of the SCC.

The "House" is Back-to-Back!

For the second straight year, SCC and Class LL champion Hillhouse (27-1) was the **consensus** choice as the top boys' basketball team in the state... Behind All-Staters Mike Moore and Kwamaine McCarter, the Academics defeated East Catholic, 55-39, in the Class LL title game at Gampel Pavilion on March 17.

Fairfield Prep Dominates the Ice!

Fairfield Prep finished as the top ice hockey team in the final state polls... The Jesuits(19-3-1), who won the 2007 SCC Division I regular-season championship, captured the Division I state title with an exciting 3-2 overtime win over Notre Dame-Fairfield at Ingalls Rink... Fairfield Prep finished the season 19-3-1.

Individual Honors in the Winter

The SCC was well-represented on the various winter sports All-State Teams, as selected by the *Hartford Courant* high school sports staff... Sixteen student-athletes earned All-State status, while 29 more were named to the Second Team or received honorable mention status... Four SCC student-athletes were named as their respective sport's Player of the Year, including Hillhouse's **Terrell Wilks** (boys indoor track), Hillhouse's **Mike Moore** (boys basketball), Fairfield Prep's **Ryan Garvin** (ice hockey) and Notre Dame's **Richard Ulatowski** (boys swimming).

Good Sportsmanship...

Milford earned the "Ray Crew Sportsmanship Award," which is given to the Division II ice hockey team in honor of the former Sheehan ice hockey coach... Xavier captured the "Dick Gagliardi Sportsmanship Award," which is given to the Division I team in honor of the former Hamden coach and SCC ice hockey chairperson.

Tap-Off Club Recognizes Scholar-Athletes

The New Haven Tap-Off Club recognized 19 student-athletes from the SCC at their annual banquet on April 24 at the Villa Bianca in Seymour.... SCC student-athletes recognized as "Scholar Athletes" included Megan Barbessi (Amity), Trip Fernandes and Kelsey O'Reilly (Branford), Taryn Belowsky and Kelly Flood (Cheshire), Stacey Stobieski (Derby), Jessica Moriarty (East Haven), Kayla Naposki (Foran), Jaci Daigneault (Guilford), James Sasso (Hamden), Becky Jablonski and Maria Picone (Hand), Alison Flynn, Karen Grunwald and Justin Keogh (Lyman Hall), Michael Roth (Notre Dame), Michael Papale (Sheehan), Kaycvee Baransky and Kemal Zahirovic (West Haven).

Winter All-Conference on SCC Website

The 2007 Winter Sports All-Conference and All-Division selections are available on each sport's respective home page on the SCC website – www.southernconnecticutconference.org

"KUDOS" DEPARTMENT

- The SCC was well represented at the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance's 66th annual "Gold Key" Dinner on April 22 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington... Amity baseball coach **Sal Coppola** was awarded the Doc McInerney High School Coach of the Year honor, while Hillhouse track coach **Gary Moore** earned a "Good Sport" award... Former Fairfield Prep and Yale football standout **Ed McCarthy** was the Bill Lee Male Co-Athlete of the Year.
- Former Notre Dame athletic director **Joe Tonelli**, Derby wrestling coach **Walter Jadach**, Branford swimming & diving coach **John O'Connor** and **Paul Thees** (Amity, girls volleyball) are Connecticut's finalists for the NHSACA Coach of the Year award, which will be presented on June 29 in Milwaukee.
- Five SCC students - **Francesca Carlisle** (Sacred Heart Academy), **Chen Ding** (Branford), **John Karpinski** (Shelton), **Kathryn Saxton** (Cheshire) and **Neda Shahriari** (Career) were among the 30 state-wide selected as 2007 Governor's Scholars... The quintet will be honored at a luncheon at The Aqua Turf Club in Southington on May 24.
- Three SCC schools performed well at the first annual Connecticut High School Dance Team Championships on March 10... Shelton finished second in the Jazz Division and third in the Pom Division... Branford placed first in the Hip Hop Small Division, while Hamden captured top honors in the Pom Division.
- **Greg Barron**, a senior attackman on the Branford boys' lacrosse team, has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Michael Breschi Scholarship, which is awarded by the United States Lacrosse Men's Division Coaches Council... The Michael Breschi Scholarship is a \$2,000 college scholarship awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of a men's or women's high school or college coach who is a full-time employee of an educational institution... Barron, who was diagnosed with leukemia in January 2006 and missed all of last season because of chemotherapy treatments, hasn't let any adversity slow him down.. He maintains a 4.0 grade point average and last November, organized the largest blood drive in Branford history for an Eagle Scout project.