

SCC NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference



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From the Commissioner's Desk

Another Great Year for the SCC...

It was another great year for the SCC and our 23 member schools and 23,000 students. Once again, our students did numerous positive things in the classroom, in their respective communities and on the various playing surfaces. I congratulate them all for their efforts, and wish our graduating seniors best of luck.

As I conclude my first full year as SCC Commissioner, there are a few people I would like to acknowledge...

- **All of the SCC Administrators (Principals, Ass't Principals, and Athletic Directors)** for their support and effort throughout the entire year.
- **Corporate Sponsors** - for their financial support that helps support our mission in enriching our students overall high school experience!
- **Bill O'Brien** - the Commissioner-emeritus; a gracious and supporting influence
- **John Steady** - The Official SCC Photographer. Check out John's website - www.steadyphotography.com - to purchase photos from SCC events.
- **Vin DiCarlo** - the SCC "website" designer; a job well-done!
- **Media** - for their continuing coverage of the SCC and our 23 member schools.
- **SCC Parents and Fans** - Thanks for your positive support and feedback!
- **Students** - without you, this league doesn't exist. Keep up the great work!

Have a safe and restful summer and we will see you in the fall!

Best wishes!
Al Carbone

Diversity Dream Teams

Making A Difference In The SCC

For the last 12 months, over 100 student leaders met and formed "diversity dream teams" and were specially-trained advocates for valuing, appreciating and acknowledging diversity in their respective school communities within the SCC.

Facilitators from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and English teachers from SCC member-schools served as catalysts, leading the students to promote acceptance, heighten communication and foster the appreciation for diversity.

A syllabus of reading and writing prompts, as well as interactive face-to-face icebreakers were conducted in a positive atmosphere. Cross-cultural and conflict resolution techniques were shared to help acquire skills and practical strategies to reduce bullying behaviors that often arise in teenage life.

An annual report, distributed at the closing session on May 17 at the JCC in Woodbridge, featured "dream team" writings along with each SCC school's action planning summary.

Dave Maloney, Assistant Principal at Branford High School and program administrator noted, "This year's edition of SCC Diversity Dream Teams were 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. These young men and women are a credit to their school communities."

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 had 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



Recapping the 2005 Spring Sports Season

Listed below are the sport-by-sport divisional and playoff champions for the 10 spring sports sponsored by the conference.

BASEBALL

Hammonasset: Law (7-1)

Housatonic: Amity (8-0)

Oronoque: North Haven (10-0)

Quinnipiac: Notre Dame (6-2)

SCC Playoffs: Amity defeated North Haven, 14-3, in championship game

SOFTBALL

Hammonasset: Hand (8-0)

Housatonic: Amity (8-0)

Oronoque: Career (7-1)

Quinnipiac: Mercy (8-0)

SCC Playoffs: Amity/Mercy were declared co-champions

GIRLS OUTDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hand

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: North Haven

Quinnipiac: Hamden

SCC Championship: Hamden (91.5 points); runner-up was Amity (88.5 points)

BOYS OUTDOOR TRACK

Hammonasset: Hand

Housatonic: Amity

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Hamden

SCC Championship: Amity (125 points); runner-up was Branford (83.3 points)

BOYS LACROSSE

Regular-season Champion: Branford (9-0)

Division I: Hand defeated Branford, 17-6, in championship game.

Division II: Hamden defeated North Haven, 12-5, in championship game.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Regular-season Champion: Branford (8-0)

Division I: Hand defeated Branford, 13-6, in championship game.

Division II: Mercy defeated Sacred Heart Academy, 17-9, in championship game.

GOLF

Hammonasset: Guilford

Housatonic: Cheshire

Oronoque: Branford

Quinnipiac: Xavier

SCC Championship: Fairfield Prep (315); runner-up was Xavier (325)

Medalist: Tim Buczak, Xavier (76)

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Regular-season Champion: Shelton (8-0)

SCC Playoffs: Shelton defeated Amity, 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-10) in championship match

BOYS TENNIS

Hammonasset: Guilford (8-0)

Housatonic: Amity (8-0)

Oronoque: North Haven (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Fairfield Prep (8-0)

GIRLS TENNIS

Hammonasset: Guilford/Hand (5-1)

Housatonic: Cheshire (8-0)

Oronoque: Branford (4-0)

Quinnipiac: Mercy (5-1)

SPECIAL THANKS!

Special thanks to several area organizations who sponsored or hosted 2005 SCC spring sports playoff competitions.

Baseball

Lions Club of New Haven (Sponsor)
www.newhavenct.lionwap.org/



New Haven County Cutters (Host)
www.cuttersbaseball.com



Golf

New Haven Country Club (Host)
<http://www.newhavencc.org>



Boys & Girls Outdoor Track & Field

Boathouse Sports (Sponsor)
www.boathousesports.com



Spring All-Conference Available on SCC Website

The 2005 Spring Sports All-Conference and All-Division selections are available on each sports' respective home page on the SCC website - www.southernconnecticutconference.org

2004-05 Recap: 21 State Championships

SCC Teams Capture Five State Championships in the Spring

SCC teams captured five more state championships in the spring season to bring the final total to 21 for the 2004-05 academic year. Since the league's inception in 1994, SCC schools have now won 219 state championships. Seven additional teams earned runner-up status in CIAC state competition during the spring campaign to bring the 2004-05 total to 17.

State Champions

State Runner-Ups

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 |

Spring (5)

| <u>Sport</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>School</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Boys Outdoor Track | MM | Branford |
| Girls Outdoor Track | MM | North Haven |
| Girls Outdoor Track | M | Career |
| Boys Volleyball | L | Shelton |
| Softball | LL | Amity |

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 (6)

| <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 Swimming | M | Branford |
| Boys Indoor Track | LL | Hamden |
| Boys Indoor Track | M | Hillhouse |

Spring (7)

| <u>Sport</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>School</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Boys Tennis | LL | Amity |
| Girls Tennis | L | Cheshire |
| Golf | II | Hand |
| Boys Outdoor Track | LL | Amity |
| Softball | L | Hand |
| Baseball | LL | Amity |
| Baseball | M | Sheehan |

How Does 21 Compare?

- In the SCC's 11-year history, member schools have now totaled 219 state championships.
- In 2004-05, SCC member schools totaled 21 state championships, the fourth straight year the league surpassed the "20" mark.
- The record for the most championships in a single year is 26, set in 1996-97.
- The record for the most championships won by an individual school in a year is 7, Cheshire (1996-97).
- Cheshire (44), Hillhouse (32) and Amity (19) have won the most state championships in the SCC's 11-year history.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Fall</u> | <u>Winter</u> | <u>Spring</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1994-95 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 14 |
| 1995-96 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 18 |
| 1996-97 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 26 |
| 1997-98 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 23 |
| 1998-99 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 17 |
| 1999-00 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 18 |
| 2000-01 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| 2001-02 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 22 |
| 2002-03 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 21 |
| 2003-04 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 21 |
| <u>2004-05</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>21</u> |
| Totals | 74 | 76 | 69 | 219 |

SCC Notebook

The Question of the Spring - Is the SCC the Best?

If you review the final rankings in the sports of softball and baseball, you can make an argument for the overall strength of the SCC... **In the final *New Haven Register* state softball poll, four SCC teams ranked in the top ten - the most of any conference in the state...** Undefeated Amity (25-0) finished as the top-ranked team in the poll... The Spartans, who defeated Bristol Central, 2-0, in the Class LL final, totaled 11 first-place votes and 358 points. Mercy (23-2), which lost to Amity in the Class LL semifinals, was ranked sixth (226 points)... Cheshire (19-4) and Hand (19-6) tied for seventh with 178 points... Shelton (15-8) also received votes (18th, 51 points)... **Three SCC baseball teams finished in the top 10 in the final *New Haven Register* state baseball poll...** With three teams, the SCC tied the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) for the most of any league... In fact, six SCC teams ranked in the top 25... SCC Tournament champion and Class LL finalist Amity (23-4) finished third in the poll with 390 points... Notre Dame, which captured the SCC Quinnipiac Division title and reached the Class LL quarterfinals, was ranked ninth (199 points), while North Haven, the Oronoque Division champion, was 10th (164)... Three other SCC teams, including Class M finalist Sheehan (16-9), also received votes... The Titans finished 12th (120 points), while Branford, a Class L semifinalist, was 20th (28) and Xavier 24th (10).

The Best of the Best!

Branford's Kenney and Career's Harvey Named Athletes of the Year

Two SCC student-athletes – Branford's Craig Kenney and Career's Natasha Harvey – were named the 2004-05 *New Haven Register* Male and Female Athletes of the Year... The pair was recognized at a banquet at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven on June 28.... Kenney, the All-Area football MVP, led the Hornets to their first state championship appearance since 1981... A quarterback/defensive back, Kenney will be attending Northeastern this fall... Kenney is the second straight Branford male student-athlete to earn the honor (Mike Tamsin received the award in 2004) and the fourth overall... Harvey, the indoor and outdoor girls track MVP, had five State Open titles this season for the Panthers... She will be attending Jacksonville University this fall... Since 1994-95, the *New Haven Register* has recognized two student-athletes as its Male and Female Athlete of the Year... In those 11 years, 11 SCC student-athletes have been honored.

- 1994-95** – Diane Potkay (Derby)
- 1996-97** – Mike O'Keefe (Notre Dame)
- 1998-99** – Nicholette Chambers (Hillhouse); Adam Greenberg (Guilford)
- 2000-01** – Jenn Piazza (Lyman Hall); Glenn McFadden (Hillhouse)
- 2002-03** – Melissa McGow (Branford)
- 2003-04** – Brittany Carfora (Branford); Mike Tamsin (Branford)
- 2004-05** – Natasha Harvey (Career); Craig Kenney (Branford)

QUOTABLE

"This is the culmination of another outstanding year for the SCC. Both Craig Kenney and Natasha Harvey have identified themselves as tremendous student-athletes, but most of all, have exhibited the work ethic and leadership to inspire their teammates and school communities. This honor is well-deserved, and I thank the New Haven Register sports staff for their continuing fine coverage of high school sports."

- Al Carbone, SCC Commissioner

For more news on the SCC and its member schools and students, visit www.southernconnecticutconference.org

MVP, MVP, MVP...

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

Connecticut Post

Boys Tennis Ben Zuckerberg, Sophomore, Amity
 Boys Volleyball B.J. Smith, Senior, Shelton
 Baseball Ben Horwitz, Senior, Amity

New Haven Register

Boys Tennis Ben Zuckerberg, Sophomore, Amity
 Boys Volleyball B.J. Smith, Senior, Shelton
 Girls Lacrosse Dana Heritage, Junior, Cheshire
 Boys Lacrosse A.J. Alessi, Senior, Branford
 Girls Tennis Allie Schwartz, Senior, Amity
 Golf Chris Bushnell, Senior, Hand
 Girls Outdoor Track Natasha Harvey, Senior, Career

Top Coaches...

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

Connecticut Post

Boys Volleyball Bonnie Fineman, Shelton

New Haven Register

Baseball Sal Coppola, Amity
 Boys Outdoor Track
 Rich Biondi and Scott Jenkin, Branford
 Boys Volleyball Bonnie Fineman, Shelton
 Girls Outdoor Track Nina Lujack, Hamden
 Golf Roger Ratchford, Fairfield Prep
 Boys Lacrosse Brian Adkins, Branford
 Girls Tennis Missy Orosz, Law
 Boys Tennis Bruce Levine, Amity