

SCC News

Volume 7, Issue 3
JULY 2011

Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference

From the Commissioner's Desk

It was another outstanding year for the "best" high school conference in the state.

Whether it was hosting a variety of successful events for our students, or the fact that our league teams won twenty-two state championships on the playing fields, the SCC fared extremely well. Most importantly, all of these successes fit nicely with the three core ideals – *academics*, *sportsmanship* and *leadership* – this conference has continually embraced. I congratulate all of our member schools for their commitment towards these ideals.

Many thanks to our administrators and coaches from our member schools whose enthusiasm and vision sustain this league. Your support, ideas, and interest are always appreciated! Special thanks to Dr. Russ Dallai (North Haven) who concluded his two-year tenure as the league's President. Russ is extremely passionate about this league and has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Beth Smith (Shelton HS headmaster) as the league's new President.

And many thanks to our corporate sponsors, fans and students who help make this league what it is.

Best wishes for a safe and restful summer!



Follow the SCC on **Twitter** @SCCcommissioner
or on **Facebook** - SCC Commissioner.



In This Issue:

- 1) Corporate Sponsor Thank You
- 2) Art Show/Comeback Player Scholarship
- 3) Spring Sports Recap
- 4) SCC Playoff Champions
- 5) SCC State Champions and Runners-Up
- 6) SCC Notebook
- 7) Scholar Athlete of the Month program

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 2010-11 academic year, including the *NewAlliance Foundation*, *The United Illuminating Company*, *Fresh Concepts* and *Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists*.

For the fifth straight year, *Dick's Sporting Goods* has partnered with the SCC to provide coupons and promotional material at league events, and the *SportsCenter of Connecticut* supported the Scholar-Athlete of the Month program for fifth consecutive year.

All of the support is well-appreciated!



9th SCC Arts Exhibition Held in May



2011 SCC arts exhibition first-place winner Helen Brechlin pictured with her winning piece and SCC president Dr. Russell Dallai. (Photo by Bill O'Brien)

The ninth **SCC Student Arts Exhibition** was recently held at the Creative Arts Workshop in downtown New Haven. The exhibition featured 50+ selections of outstanding student-originated visual arts in a variety of media. Prizes were awarded by a jury of professional artists and arts administrators coordinated through CAW Executive Director Susan Smith. A grand opening of the show with award presentations was held on Tuesday, May 3. The Creative Arts Workshop is located at 80 Audubon Street in New Haven. For more information or directions, go to www.creativeartsworkshop.org.

2011 SCC Arts Prizes

1st Prize: Helen Brechlin, Guilford

2nd Prize: Rachel Spina, Sheehan

3rd Prize: Katelyn Wong, Amity Regional

4th Prize: Corinne Johnson, Amity Regional

5th Prize: Grace Hager, Branford

Honorable Mention: Michael Gelardi (Hamden), Christian Tracy (Cheshire), Jemina Mbaka (Career), Amanda Chavez (Jonathan Law), Patrick Gilmore (Lyman Hall)

A Little About the Comeback Player Scholarship

“Our goal was to acknowledge those student athletes that have overcome the challenges of an injury and through hard work and determination became positive role models for their fellow teammates. Most athletes win scholarships based on their athletic ability. Our criteria focused on strength of character, perseverance and leadership.”

– Glenn Elia, Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists

Photo Captions

Top (L-R): George Bedocs, Sacred Heart Academy athletic director; Katie Winkle; Dr. Richard Diana, COS; Bill O'Brien, SCC Commissioner Emeritus

Bottom (L-R): Left to right: Chip Dorwin, Guilford athletic director; Tom Unger, Guilford head football coach; Jack Singleton, Dr. Pat Ruwe, COS; Bill O'Brien, SCC Commissioner Emeritus

Comeback Player Scholarship Winners

Two senior student athletes – **Katie Winkle** (*Sacred Heart Academy*) and **Jack Singleton** (*Guilford HS*) – were the initial recipients of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists’ “Comeback Player of the Year”

scholarship award. A SCC corporate sponsor, COS offered a \$1,000 scholarship for one male and one female

athlete who participated in an interscholastic sport during the 2010/2011 season, and showed great leadership both on and off the field after their severe injury.



Katie Winkle, Sacred Heart Academy – softball

A standout softball player, Katie Winkle was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in the June of 2006 and has battled the disease ever since. She had chemotherapy and AVN (Avascular Necrosis) in her shoulder and needed surgery to restore circulation. Her perseverance and enthusiasm allowed her to return to the Pacers’ softball squad (and led them to a state championship!) and was a standout player who earned SCC All-Quinnipiac Division honors in each of the last two years. A high honor student with a 4.11 GPA, Katie, who is a resident of Orange, will attend Quinnipiac University.

Jack Singleton, Guilford – football

Jack was a member of the Indians’ football squad and endured double hip surgery following his junior season. Told he would be unable to compete during his senior year, Jack battled back and played every single game as a starting inside linebacker and was responsible for making the team’s defensive calls for each play. His leadership, effort and desire were evident and he pushed through the pain to play and practice every week. Also a standout student, Jack will attend Holy Cross.



Recapping the Spring Sports Season

BASEBALL

Tournament: Fifth-seeded Cheshire defeated #3 Fairfield Prep, 14-0, in the championship game on May 28 at Yale Field.

Division Champions

Hammonasset: Foran, Hand (6-2)

Housatonic: Amity (8-0)

Oronoque: Branford (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Notre Dame/Fairfield Prep (6-2)

SOFTBALL

Tournament: Sixth-seeded Mercy defeated #4 West Haven, 1-0, in the championship game on May 29 at Biondi Field.

Division Champions

Hammonasset: Foran (8-0)

Housatonic: Cheshire, Amity, Sheehan (5-3)

Quinnipiac: West Haven (6-0)

Oronoque: North Haven/East Haven (6-2)

BOYS LACROSSE

Tournament: Top-seeded Fairfield Prep defeated #2 Cheshire, 11-1, in the championship game on May 27 at Branford HS.

Regular-season champion: Fairfield Prep (7-0)

GIRLS LACROSSE

Tournament: Second-seeded Cheshire defeated #1 Hand, 9-8, in the championship game on May 27 at Branford HS.

Regular-season champion: Hand (7-0)

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Tournament: Top-seeded Cheshire defeated #3 Hand, 3-0 (25-13, 25-15, 25-11), in the championship game on May 26 at Shelton HS.

Regular-season champion: Cheshire (8-0)

GIRLS TENNIS

Tournament: Top-seeded Amity defeated #2 Hand, 4-3, in the championship match on May 27 at Branford HS.

Division I regular-season: Amity (7-0)

Division II regular-season: Foran (8-0)

BOYS TENNIS

Tournament: Third-seeded Amity defeated #4 Fairfield Prep, 4-3, in the championship match on May 27 at Yale University.

Division I regular-season: Hand (8-0)

Division II regular-season: Sheehan (9-0)



Cheshire won the 2011 girls lacrosse title (photo by Bill O'Brien)

OUTDOOR TRACK

Boys Championship – May 25 @Sheehan HS

Final Team Results: 1. Hand, 99; 2. Hillhouse, 95; 3. Amity, 80; 4. Cheshire, 74; 5. Notre Dame, 48; 6. Sheehan, 41; 7. Xavier, 39; 8. Fairfield Prep, 33; 9. Shelton, 32.50; 10. Branford, 28; 11. North Haven, 25; 12. Hamden, 22; 13. East Haven, 21; 14. Wilbur Cross, 18; 15. Career, 11; 16. Lyman Hall, 10; 17. West Haven, 9.5; 18. Jonathan Law, 8; 19. Guilford, 6

Girls Championship – May 25 @Sheehan HS

Final Team Results: 1. Hillhouse, 118.50; 2. Hand, 100.83; 3. Amity, 73.33; 4. Guilford, 62.50; 5. Mercy, 45.50; 6. Shelton, 40; 7. Hamden, 38; 8. Cheshire, 34; 9. Lyman Hall, 30; 10. Sheehan, 29; 11. North Haven, 28; 12. Career, 26; 13. Branford, 23.33; 14. Wilbur Cross, 20; 15. East Haven, 15.50; 16. Foran, 8.5; 17. Jonathan Law, 7; 18. West Haven, 2

Division Champions:

	Boys	Girls
Oronoque:	North Haven (4-0)	East Haven (3-1)
Hammonasset:	Hand (4-0)	Hillhouse (4-0)
Housatonic:	Amity (4-0)	Amity (4-0)
Quinnipiac:	Notre Dame (4-0)	Hamden (3-0)

GOLF

Championship: May 31 @Racebook Country Club

Final Team Results: 1. Shelton (317); 2. Amity (332); 3. Notre Dame (333); 4. Fairfield Prep (334); 5. Hand, 337; 6. Xavier, 338; 7. Cheshire, 342; 8. Hamden, 349; 9. East Haven, 380

Medalist: James Tate (Shelton), +5, 76

Division Champions

Hammonasset: Hand (8-0)

Housatonic: Amity (8-0)

Quinnipiac: Fairfield Prep (4-2-1)

Oronoque: East Haven/Branford (7-1)

2010-11 SCC Postseason Champions

*The SCC hosted postseason championships in 24 sports during the academic year.
Listed below are the champions and runner-ups in each of the sports.*

FALL

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Girls Cross Country:	Guilford	Hand
Boys Cross Country:	Guilford	Xavier
Field Hockey	Hand	Guilford
Boys Soccer:	Hand	Guilford
Girls Soccer:	Shelton	Hamden
Girls Volleyball:	Shelton	Jonathan Law
Girls Swimming:	Cheshire	Amity

WINTER

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Boys Indoor Track:	Amity	Hillhouse
Girls Indoor Track:	Hillhouse	Career
Boys Basketball:	Hillhouse	Career
Girls Basketball:	Hillhouse	Mercy
Wrestling:	Xavier	Hand
Gymnastics:	Hand	Jonathan Law
Ice Hockey – Division II:	Hand	Guilford
Boys Swimming:	Fairfield Prep	Xavier
Cheerleading	North Haven (15-over champion), Foran (15-over runner-up), Cheshire (15-over 2nd runner-up), Hamden (14-under champion), Career (novice champion), Shelton (co-ed champion)	

SCC Championship Facts

- In 2010-11, nine different SCC member schools won or shared a SCC playoff titles.
- Hand had the most league titles with five, followed by Cheshire and Hillhouse with four each.
- In addition to its league-best six titles, Hand also totaled a SCC-high five runner-up finishes.

SPRING

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Golf:	Shelton	Amity
Boys Volleyball:	Cheshire	Hand
Baseball:	Cheshire	Fairfield Prep
Softball:	Mercy	West Haven
Boys Tennis:	Amity	Fairfield Prep
Girls Tennis:	Hand	Amity
Boys Outdoor Track & Field:	Hand	Hillhouse
Girls Outdoor Track & Field:	Hillhouse	Hand
Boys Lacrosse:	Fairfield Prep	Cheshire
Girls Lacrosse:	Cheshire	Hand



Hand – 2011 SCC field hockey champions



Amity – 2010 SCC boys indoor track champions

SCC: Twenty-Two State Titles in 2010-11

During the recently-completed spring season, SCC teams won eight state championships to bring the final total for the 2010-11 academic year to 22. Since the league's inception in 1994, SCC schools have now won 324 state championships.

STATE CHAMPIONS (22)

FALL (6)

Guilford, Class MM Girls Cross Country
 Amity, Class LL Boys Cross Country
 Guilford, Class MM Boys Cross Country
 Shelton, Class LL Girls Soccer – *defeated Westhill, 1-0*
 Xavier, Class LL Football – *defeated Trumbull, 24-13*
 Hillhouse, Class M Football – *defeated New London, 7-0*

WINTER (8)

Career, Class LL girls basketball – *defeated Mercy, 39-37*
 Hillhouse, Class L girls basketball – *defeated E.O. Smith, 77-50*
 Fairfield Prep, Division I ice hockey – *defeated St. Joseph, 5-0*
 Cheshire, Division II ice hockey – *defeated Guilford, 3-1*
 Hillhouse, Class M girls indoor track
 Xavier, Class LL wrestling
 Branford, Coed cheerleading
 North Haven, Class L cheerleading

SPRING (8)

Notre Dame, Class L baseball – *defeated Farmington, 2-1*
 Hillhouse, Class MM boys outdoor track
 Hillhouse, Class M girls outdoor track
 Hillhouse, State Open girls outdoor track
 Cheshire, Class L boys volleyball – *defeated Staples, 3-1 (12-25, 25-23, 26-24, 25-22)*
 Hand, Class M girls tennis – *defeated Avon, 5-2*
 Foran, Class L softball – *defeated Bacon Academy, 3-0*
 Sacred Heart Academy, Class M softball – *defeated Seymour, 4-3*

STATE RUNNER-UPS (24)

FALL (7)

Guilford, State Open Girls Cross Country
 Cheshire, Class L Girls Cross Country
 Guilford, State Open Boys Cross Country
 Xavier, Class LL Boys Cross Country
 Hand, Class M Field Hockey – *lost to Darien, 3-2*
 Cheshire, Class L Girls Swimming
 Branford, Class M Girls Swimming

WINTER (13)

Fairfield Prep, Class LL boys basketball – *lost to St. Joseph, 79-53*
 Career, Class M boys basketball – *lost to Trinity Catholic, 57-51*
 Mercy, Class LL girls basketball – *lost to Career, 39-37*
 Guilford, Division II ice hockey – *lost to Cheshire, 3-1*
 Hand, Class L boys indoor track
 Hillhouse, Class M boys indoor track
 Fairfield Prep, Class LL boys swimming
 Amity, Class L boys swimming
 Foran, Class S gymnastics
 Career, Class M girls indoor track
 Hand, State Open wrestling
 Hand, Class L wrestling
 Shelton, Coed cheerleading

SPRING (4)

Guilford, Class MM girls outdoor track
 Hand, Class M girls lacrosse – *lost to Darien, 15-5*
 Hand, Class L boys tennis
 Fairfield Prep, Class L boys lacrosse – *lost to Ridgefield, 11-10*

State Championship Facts

In 2010-11, SCC member schools won 22 state championships bringing the total to 324 since the league's inception in 1994.... The record for the most state titles in a single year is 25, set in 1996-97... Fourteen different SCC schools won state titles in 2010-11 with Hillhouse capturing the most (6: Class M football, Class L girls basketball, Class M girls indoor track, Class MM boys outdoor track, and Class M and State Open girls outdoor track)... Guilford, Xavier and Cheshire all won two state titles during the year.

SCC vs. SCC

In 2010-11, there were three instances of SCC teams winning a state title and also being the runner-up... In head-to-head competition, there were two All-SCC state championship games this year – Division II ice hockey (Cheshire 3, Guilford 1) and Class LL girls basketball (Career 39, Mercy 37).

Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Total
1994-95	5	6	4	15
1995-96	7	5	9	21
1996-97	9	8	8	25
1997-98	9	8	6	23
1998-99	5	7	6	18
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
2004-05	9	7	5	21
2005-06	8	8	4	20
2006-07	4	6	3	13
2007-08	3	5	3	11
2008-09	3	5	4	12
2009-10	7	8	8	23
<u>2010-11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>22</u>
TOTALS	105	118	101	324

SCC Athletes Earn Athlete of the Year Honors

Congratulations to Shelton wrestling/lacrosse star **Patrick Gillen** and Foran two-sport (volleyball and softball) standout **Sage Esposito** for being named the *New Haven Register's* 2010-11 Athletes of the Year.

Pat will wrestle at the University of Virginia, while Sage will continue her volleyball career at the University of Connecticut. Pat and Sage represent the 19th and 20th student athletes – since 1996-97 – from the SCC to earn this prestigious honor. It is also the eighth time both recipients came from the SCC.

Three SCC Students Named Governor's Scholars

Three juniors from the SCC were among the 30 Governor's Scholars finalists, a program under the direction of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) which recognizes talented students on the basis of class rank, PSAT or SAT scores, CAPT scores and a written essay.

Congratulations to **Christine Smith** (*Sacred Heart Academy*), **Victor Wu** (*Xavier*) and **Zizi Yu** (*Amity*).

Foran Softball #1 in State

Foran, which captured the Class L state softball title, finished as the #1 team in the *New Haven Register* season-ending poll.

The Lions (22-4) captured the Hammonasset Division title during the regular season. Since the poll's inception in 1999, Foran becomes the fifth SCC team (Hand, 2001; Amity, 2001-2002, 2005) to earn the top billing.

Hillhouse Track Star Earns National Accolades

Hillhouse sophomore outdoor track standout **Precious Holmes** was named as the *Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year*. She is the second Hillhouse student-athlete – joining former Academic Shaniqua Burgess (2006-07) – to earn the honor.

Precious captured three individual state championships (100, 200 and 400 meters) this spring and led the Academics to the SCC, Class M and State Open titles. At the New England championships, Holmes placed first in the 100 (12.29) and 400-meter (55.420 dashes. At the New Balance Outdoor Nationals, she ran the third leg of the second-place sprint medley relay quartet that finished in 3:59.87, and she placed second in the 400-meter dash in 53.26.

SportsCenter of CT/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month Program

For the fifth year, the SCC partnered with The SportsCenter of Connecticut (www.sportscenterct.com) on a Scholar Athlete of the Month program.

The SportsCenter of Connecticut/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month program recognized outstanding young men and women from each of the conference's 22 member schools during the 2010-11 academic year.

MARCH 2011 recipients

Sophia Panaccione (Mercy, softball), Margaret Schumann (Mercy, tennis), Nick Douglas (Shelton, outdoor track), Sonali Rodrigues (Shelton, outdoor track), Nick Madonna (Lyman Hall, tennis), Taylor Culmone (Lyman Hall, outdoor track), Lazario Barrios (Hillhouse, baseball), Jenna Wilborne (Hillhouse, outdoor track), MacKenzie Mendygral (Sheehan, outdoor track), Evan Gladney (Sheehan, tennis), Carly Lindgren (West Haven, softball), Dean Alling (West Haven, lacrosse), Alisha Roopchand (Amity, tennis), Edward Hochman (Amity, tennis)

APRIL 2010 recipients

J. Oliver Neal (Xavier, sailing), Chelsea Bast (East Haven, tennis), Vin Guglietti (East Haven, baseball), Nikole Perugini (Career, softball), Glenn Anderson (Career, baseball), Taylor Harkness (Foran, softball), Robert Fohrenbach (Foran, tennis), Alyssa Kowolenko (Branford, outdoor track), Bill Conte (outdoor track), Dominic Palmieri (Notre Dame, lacrosse), Michael DeChello (Notre Dame, baseball), Tom Wellspeak (Cheshire, golf), Ashia Wright (Cheshire, outdoor track)

MAY 2010 recipients

Angelika Stamos (Sacred Heart Academy, softball), Peter Clarke (Hand, outdoor track), Joya Helander (Hand, outdoor track), Connor Byrne (Fairfield Prep, lacrosse), Bill Firisin (Fairfield Prep, rugby), Sarah Vaughan (Hamden, outdoor track), Kevin Hochstrasser (Hamden, tennis), Dara Davis (Guilford, lacrosse), Jesse Iassogna (Guilford, outdoor track), Fabio Dos Anjos (Wilbur Cross, tennis), Claire Loxsom (Wilbur Cross, outdoor track), Istvan Kanyo (North Haven, tennis), Martina Benassi (North Haven), Lea Finch (Jonathan Law), Ryan Falaguerra (Jonathan Law)

