

Official Newsletter of the Southern Connecticut Conference

From the Commissioner's Desk



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

It sure has been an interesting year! After battling the seemingly never-ending snow in the early part of 2011, we got through the spring despite some pesky wet weather. The weather continued its devious ways in the fall with a Tropical Storm and uncharacteristic October snow storm.

Nevertheless, our league and member schools persevered and we continued to offer quality programs and postseason activities for our students. *Thank you to everyone for your support and flexibility during these unusual conditions!*

Despite the weather challenges, the league fared extremely well athletically in the recently-completed fall season - cementing the SCC's status as the "most competitive league in the state." We had some spirited league playoff competitions, and hearty congratulations to the six SCC teams who went on to win state titles and to the six others who were state runners-up.

More importantly, the league continued its partnership with The Sports Center of Connecticut to recognize the league's top scholar-athletes. So far, we've honored 38 student athletes with some impressive credentials on the field and in the classroom. *Congratulations to everyone and continue the success!*

2012 looks even more promising! In addition to our upcoming winter sports playoffs, the SCC will host an Unified Basketball tournament, a Cheerleading Competition, and a week-long Arts Exhibition. And in late March, we will honor 44 students – "the best of the best" – at our annual Scholar Leader banquet. Hopefully, all positive experiences for our students.

All the best!

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or on **Facebook** - SCC Commissioner.

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Thanks to Our League's Corporate Sponsors...



Recapping the 2011 Fall Sports Season

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

CROSS COUNTRY

Special thanks to the Woodbridge Running Company for sponsoring the 2011 SCC Cross Country championships!

Boys Championship – October 20 @Hammonasset State Park

Team Results: 1. Xavier, 54; 2. Amity, 60; 3. Fairfield Prep, 63; 4. Guilford, 122; 5. Branford, 159; 6. Cheshire, 163; 7. Hand, 208; 8. Shelton, 215; 9. North Haven, 244; 10. Hamden, 256; 11. Sheehan, 338; 12. Notre Dame, 353; 13. Wilbur Cross, 387; 14. Foran, 408; 15. Jonathan Law, 420; 16. Lyman Hall, 511; 17. West Haven, 551; 18. Career, 584; 19. East Haven, 595

Individual Winner: Connor Rog (Fairfield Prep), 15:59.39

Division Champions

Oronoque – Branford (4-0) **Housatonic** – Amity (4-0)
Hammonasset – Guilford (4-0) **Quinnipiac** – Fairfield Prep (4-0)

Girls Championship – October 20 @Hammonasset State Park

Team Results: 1. Guilford, 41; 2. Cheshire, 65; 3. Hillhouse, 103; 4. Amity, 148; 5. Hand, 149; 6. Mercy, 155; 7. Shelton, 249; 8. Sacred Heart Academy, 268; 9. Branford, 278; 10. Jonathan Law, 280; 11. Foran, 292; 12. Hamden, 300; 13. Lyman Hall, 313; 14. North Haven, 380; 15. Career, 427; 16. Sheehan, 432; 17. East Haven, 459

Individual Winner: Kellie Davis (Hillhouse), 19:13

Division Champions

Oronoque – Branford (4-0) **Housatonic** – Cheshire (4-0)
Hammonasset – Guilford (4-0) **Quinnipiac** – Mercy (3-0)

GIRLS SWIMMING

Championship – November 3 @Moore Fieldhouse – SCSU

Team Results: 1. Amity 882.5; 2. Cheshire 835.5; 3. Branford 410; 4. Mercy 403; 5. Hand 383; 6. North Haven 296; 7. Sacred Heart Academy 292; 8. Lyman Hall 260; 9. Shelton 254; 10. West Haven 252; 11. Hamden 251; 12. Sheehan 130; 13. Foran 126; 14. Jonathan Law 80; 15. East Haven 72; 16. Guilford 6.

Division Champions

Division I – Amity (6-0)
Division II – North Haven (7-0)

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Tournament – Top-seeded Cheshire defeated #2 Guilford, 3-0 (25-18, 25-14, 25-21) in the championship match on Nov. 5 at North Haven HS.

Division Champions

Oronoque – Branford (7-1) **Housatonic** – Cheshire (8-0)
Hammonasset – Guilford (7-1) **Quinnipiac** – Mercy (6-0)

FIELD HOCKEY

Tournament – Top-seeded Cheshire defeated Guilford, 2-1, in overtime in the championship game on Nov. 5 at Guilford HS.

Regular-season champion – Cheshire (10-0)



Cheshire captured the 2011 SCC field hockey tournament title with a 2-1 overtime victory over Guilford on November 5. Cheshire would go on to win the Class L state championship - defeating Norwalk, 1-0 on November 19.

GIRLS SOCCER

Tournament – Fifth-seeded Cheshire defeated #2 Shelton, 1-0, in championship game on Nov. 5 at East Haven HS

Division Champions

Oronoque – North Haven (4-1-1)
Housatonic – Shelton (5-0-3)
Hammonasset – Guilford (5-0-1)
Quinnipiac – Sacred Heart Academy (5-1)

BOYS SOCCER

Tournament – Second-seeded Fairfield Prep defeated #4 Notre Dame, 1-0, in the championship game on Nov. 5 at East Haven HS.

Division Champions

Oronoque – Career/Hillhouse, Wilbur Cross, Branford, North Haven (5-3)
Housatonic – Cheshire, Shelton (6-1-1)
Hammonasset – Guilford (5-0-1)
Quinnipiac – Fairfield Prep (5-0-3)

FOOTBALL

Division Champions

Division I West – Xavier (4-0)
Division I East – Hand (4-0)
Division II West – Hillhouse (4-0)
Division II East – North Haven (3-0)

Fall Sports Standings and All-Conference Teams on SCC Website

The 2011 Fall Sports Final Standings and All-Conference and All-Division selections are available on each sports' respective page on the SCC website - www.southernconnecticutconference.org

SCC Teams Win Six State Titles in the Fall

330

Since the league's inception in 1994, SCC schools have now won 330 state championships.

Once again, SCC member-schools fared well on the playing fields.

During the 2011 fall season, SCC teams won six state championships. Six additional teams earned runner-up status in CIAC state competition during the fall campaign.

Sixty percent of SCC teams qualified for CIAC fall team sport playoff competition in girls soccer (9-of-18), boys soccer (14-of-19), girls volleyball (11-of-19), and field hockey (7-of-11). In addition, four football teams (out of 19) qualified for the state playoffs.

STATE CHAMPIONS (6)

Football – Class LL – Xavier defeated Staples, 42-7

Football – Class L - Hand defeated New Canaan, 34-10

Field Hockey – Class L – Cheshire defeated Norwalk, 1-0

Boys Cross Country – State Open – Fairfield Prep

Boys Cross Country – Class LL – Fairfield Prep

Girls Cross Country – Class MM – Guilford

RUNNER-UPS (6)

Field Hockey – Class M – Branford lost to Wilton, 2-1

Boys Cross Country – State Open – Xavier

Girls Cross Country – State Open – Guilford

Girls Cross Country – Class M – Hillhouse

Girls Swimming – Class LL – Amity

Girls Swimming – Class M – Branford



Guilford captured the SCC girls cross country title in 2011. A few weeks later, the Indians won the state Class MM title for the eighth straight season. (photo by Bill O'Brien)

SportsCenter of CT/SCC Scholar Athlete of the Month Program

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



SEPTEMBER 2011 recipients

Samantha Garcia (West Haven, swimming), Alex Palmieri (West Haven, basketball), Karina Escobar (Jonathan Law, cross country), Jack Campbell (Jonathan Law, soccer), Christopher Musco (North Haven, soccer), Kristyn Cullen (North Haven, volleyball), Aaliyah Robinson (Wilbur Cross, volleyball), Alec Shub (Wilbur Cross, soccer), Peter Gerson (Hand, football), Renata Diotalevi (Hand, diving), Michael Whelan (Fairfield Prep, cross country), Marek Zaleski (Fairfield Prep, sailing), Sam Lynn (Hamden, cross country), Allegra Nottoli (Hamden, soccer), William Woznicki (Lyman Hall, football), Alex Papale (Lyman Hall, swimming)

OCTOBER 2011 recipients

Kyle Packnick (Shelton, cross country), Angela Ferro (Shelton, soccer), Tess Gildea (Foran, swimming), Thomas Bassine (Foran, cross country), William Ayala (Career, soccer), Brianna Longley (Career, volleyball), Derek Spambanato (Notre Dame, soccer), Garrett Dillon (Notre Dame, football), Clark Shurtleff (Amity, cross country), Colby Champagne (Amity, swimming)

NOVEMBER 2011 recipients

Alex Soriano (Sheehan, soccer), Rachael Carnale (Sheehan, cross country), Rachael Cisto (Sacred Heart Academy, volleyball), Meg Goodrich (Guilford, volleyball), Juan Lluberres (Guilford, soccer), Mike Vessicchio (East Haven, football), Adrianna Tomasello (East Haven, volleyball), Anna Frenzilli (Cheshire, field hockey), Jeffrey Carbonella (Cheshire, soccer), Ryan Hackett (Branford, cross country), Carly Weted (Branford, swimming)

The SportsCenter of Connecticut offers an exciting and unique venue of family fun, team building events, and professional lessons for golf and ice skating/hockey! Located at 784 River Road (Route 110) in Shelton, the Sports Center of Connecticut offers a premier weather-protected golf practice facility, 18-hole miniature golf course, baseball & softball batting stadium, lazer tag arena, game zone, fun bowl and the world's only double-decker ice arena. For more information, visit www.sportscenterct.com.

Corporate Sponsor Corner

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 corporate sponsors for the 2011-12 academic year, including:

NewAlliance Foundation – www.newalliancefoundation.com

The United Illuminating Company – www.uinet.com

Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists – www.ct-ortho.com

Fresh Concepts – www.freshconcepts.net

Holiday Hill/Holiday Hill Day Camp –

www.holidayhill.com/www.holidayhilldaycamp.com

Center for Research – www.cfrglobal.com

First Niagara Bank – www.fnfg.com

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* is title sponsor of the Scholar-Athlete of the Month program. Also, *Achieve Athletics* is the event sponsor for the SCC Captains Council events. This support is much-appreciated!



Prep's Rog Runs to Spectacular Season

Congratulations to Fairfield Prep senior **Connor Rog**, who finished 18th with a time of 15:35 at the *Foot Locker National High School Cross Country* championships on Saturday, December 10 at Balboa Park in San Diego.

Rog was the 2011 SCC, Class LL, State Open individual champion and finished second in the New England meet. A top student, Rog has committed to attend the University of North Carolina.



Fairfield Prep senior Connor Rog (photo by Bill O'Brien)

Winter Playoff Schedule

Boys and Girls Indoor Track

SCC Novice Meet – Thurs., Jan. 19 – 3:30 p.m. @Floyd Little Ath. Center

East Sectional Meet – Wed., Jan. 25 – 4:30 p.m. @FLAC

West Sectional Meet – Thurs., Jan. 26 – 4 p.m. @FLAC

SCC Championship Meet – Fri., Feb. 3 – 4 p.m. @FLAC

Unified Basketball – Monday, January 30 – 3 p.m. @NHAC

Cheerleading – Sat., Feb. 4 – 10 a.m. @East Haven HS

Gymnastics – Fri., Feb. 10 – 5 p.m. @Jonathan Law HS

Wrestling – Sat., Feb. 11 – 9 a.m. @Hand HS

Girls Basketball

First Round @Higher Seeds – Thurs., Feb. 16 – times TBA

Quarterfinals – Sat., Feb. 18 – 12, 1:45, 3:30 and 5:15 p.m. @Sheehan HS

Semifinals – Mon., Feb. 20 – 6 and 7:45 p.m. @East Haven HS

Championship Game – Tues., Feb. 21 – 7 p.m. @TD Bank Arena

Boys Basketball

First Round @Higher Seeds – Thursday, Feb. 23 – times TBA

Quarterfinals – Sat., Feb. 25 – 12, 1:45, 3:30 and 5:15 p.m. @East Haven HS

Semifinals – Mon., Feb. 27 – 6 and 7:45 p.m. @East Haven HS

Championship Game – Tues., Feb. 28 – 7 p.m. @TD Bank Arena

Boys Swimming

Trials – Mon., Feb. 27 – 4 p.m. @Cheshire Community Pool

Diving – Tues., Feb. 28 – 5 p.m. @Hamden HS

SCC Championships – Wed., Feb. 29 – 6 p.m. – Site TBD

Girls Ice Hockey

Quarterfinals – Sat., Feb. 18 – (3 vs. 6; 4 vs. 5) @Higher Seeds

Semifinals – Mon., Feb. 20 – @Higher Seeds

Championship Game – Wed., Feb. 22 – 5 p.m. @TD Bank Sports Center

Boys Ice Hockey - Division II

Semifinals – Thurs., March 1 – 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. @Bennett Rink

Championship Game – Sat., March 3 – 6 p.m. @Bennett Rink



(Photo by Bill O'Brien)

Xavier Repeats as "Kelly Award" Winner by Walter Camp Foundation

Undefeated Xavier, the SCC Division II West and Class LL state champion, was the repeat recipient of the "Kelly Award" by the Walter Camp Football Foundation as the best high school in the state of Connecticut. The Falcons (13-0) will be recognized at the Walter Camp National Awards Dinner on January 14 at the Yale University Commons. It is the third time that Xavier has earned the Kelly Award (2005 and 2010). It also marked the ninth time since 1994 that a SCC school captured the honor.