

18th Annual

“No ‘I’ In Team” Awards Dinner

sponsored by

**The Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club, Inc.**



“To foster and promote the game of baseball.”

June 11, 2023

6 p.m.

**Il Monticello
Meriden, Conn.**

**EAST SHORE TRAVEL LEAGUE would like to
congratulate all the recipients of the
2023 'No 1 IN TEAM' AWARD**

**It is truly an honor to be picked for this award by
your school and the Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club Board.**

**Consider yourself very lucky and respected by your
peers. We as an organization of AAU BASEBALL
are truly proud of everyone's success in your high
school program. We hope that all of you go on to
have very bright futures.**

Congratulations to all!

**MICHAEL LAMBERTI
CHUCK COYLE
SAL PUNZO**

CO-DIRECTORS & FOUNDERS

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies Ned Burt, *SCDC Executive Board*
Pledge of Allegiance Ed Klinkhammer, *SCDC Executive Board*
Invocation.....Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*
History of SCDC/Introductions.....Ned Burt

DINNER

Guest Speaker Dan Gooley, *Director of Baseball Operations, Quinnipiac University*
Guest Speaker Dr. Kristen DeCarli, *Assoc. Professor of Sport Management., Albertus Magnus College*
Presentation of the Whitey Piurek “No ‘I’ In Team” Awards.....Ned Burt
Presentation of the George Klivak Team of the Year Award*Ron Luneau, SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance..... Nick Merullo, *Guilford High School*
Presentation of the Sam Burrell Coach of the Year Award.....Scott Burrell, *So. Conn. St. Univ./Dan Gooley*
Acceptance..... Nick Merullo
Closing Remarks Rose V. Mentone, *Executive Director, SCDC*
Benediction..... Rev. Owen Sanderson

SCDC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rich Altieri	Ed Klinkhammer	Frank Mentone Jr.
Rich Biondi	Mike Lamberti	Matthew Mentone
Chris Borelli	Burt Leventhal (<i>emeritus</i>)	Rose V. Mentone
Ned Burt	Ron Luneau	Tony Notarino
Dan Gooley	Joe Mattei	Fred Norman

GUEST SPEAKERS



DAN GOOLEY

Director of Baseball Operations, Quinnipiac University

Dan Gooley, a Hall-of-Fame athlete and record-setting coach at Quinnipiac University, returned to his alma mater in 2022 as the Director of Baseball Operations.

Gooley is QU's all-time leader in baseball coaching victories with 430, leading the Braves/Bobcats from 1977-87 and 2002-14. During his first tenure, he guided Quinnipiac to three NCAA Division II Regional appearances, including the 1983 D-II World Series.

From 1988-92, Gooley was the head coach of the Division-I University of Hartford, taking the Hawks to a pair of ECAC D-I tournaments. After a six-year stint overseeing baseball operations for the Starter Corporation, he came back to Quinnipiac as Director of Athletic Development, spearheading corporate and alumni support following the Bobcats' move to Division I.

Upon returning to the dugout, Gooley led QU to the 2005 Northeast Conference championship and its first NCAA D-I Regional berth. In 2007, the Bobcats won 29 games, then the school record. Overall, he owns 542 career victories. He coached MLB Hall-of-Famer Jeff Bagwell at Hartford and another former major-leaguer, Turk Wendell, at Quinnipiac.

A standout pitcher for QU, Gooley holds the school career record with 316 strikeouts. He sits second with a 2.47 earned-run average and his 20 career victories are tied for third. He holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Quinnipiac and a master's in sociology from Southern Connecticut State University. Gooley is a member of the Quinnipiac (1983) and Southern Connecticut Diamond Club (2008) Halls of Fame. *(Photo by Bob Rasmussen.)*



DR. KRISTEN DeCARLI

Assoc. Professor of Sport Management, Albertus Magnus College

Dr. Kristen DeCarli is an associate professor in the Tagliatela School of Business and Leadership at Albertus Magnus College. She also serves as the the director of the sport management program and a co-director of the Albertus Magnus College Honors Program.

Dr. DeCarli joined the Albertus Magnus faculty in 2015 after working in its athletics department. Over a four-year period, she served as assistant director of athletics, sports information director, senior woman administrator, acting director of athletics, and associate director of athletics. She was named the 2012 Great Northeast Athletic Conference Sports Information Director of the Year.

Dr. DeCarli came to Albertus Magnus following four years in the athletics communications office at the University of Connecticut. During that time, she was the primary media contact for eight different UConn programs and an assistant media contact for the Huskies' famed women's basketball team.

A three-sport student-athlete at Hamden High School, Dr. DeCarli was inducted in to the HHS Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019. She went on to play volleyball at Endicott College, where she was a three-year captain before earning a bachelor of arts degree in sports management. She possesses an MBA from Albertus Magnus and a DBA from California Southern University.

Dr. DeCarli's father, Rich Altieri, is a member of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Executive Board. He was the 2010 winner of the SCDC's Andrew Gassira Umpire of the Year Award.

THE AWARDS

The “There’s No ‘I’ In Team” Award was initiated in the late 1990s by the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association (GNHBUA). It originally honored a single athlete in the GNHBUA’s coverage area.

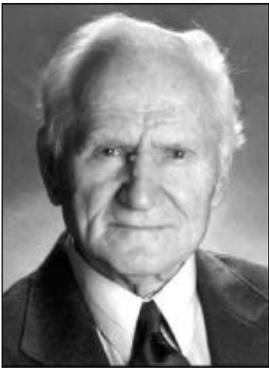
In 2005, the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club (SCDC) assumed responsibility for and expanded the awards program. The Diamond Club’s stated mission is “to foster and promote the game of baseball” in the New Haven area.

The award is named for longtime West Haven High baseball coach and GNHBUA commissioner **John “Whitey” Piurek**. The GNHBUA tagged one of Piurek’s favorite phrases from his coaching days onto the award’s name.

Tonight, more than 30 athletes from area high schools will be presented with the John “Whitey” Piurek “There’s No ‘I’ In Team” Award. Athletics directors and coaches jointly made the decision for their school. While it was recommended they choose a senior, they were free to select any player they felt gave most unselfishly to their team.

The **George Klivak** “Team of the Year” Award was another honor initiated by the GNHBUA. In 2007, the SCDC instituted the **Samuel A. Burrell Jr.** Coach of the Year Award.

WHITEY PIUREK



John “Whitey” Piurek holds the distinction of being the only Connecticut coach to earn state championships in three sports -- football, basketball and baseball.

He is best known for his accomplishments as the baseball coach at West Haven High. In 36 seasons, Piurek posted a record of 526-115-2, won two state championships (with two runner-up finishes as well), and won the District League title 21 times. West Haven’s varsity baseball field is named in his honor.

Piurek was a 1935 graduate of Bulkeley High of Hartford and received a bachelor’s degree from the College of the Holy Cross in 1939. From 1948 to 1989, he was a professional baseball scout for the Seattle Mariners. He was inducted into the SCDC Hall of Fame in 1981 and the National High School Hall of Fame in 1998. Piurek passed away at age 94 on December 3, 2009.

GEORGE KLIVAK



George “Ginger” Klivak signed with the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League out of high school in 1938. After being drafted, Klivak was stationed at Manhattan Beach for the U.S. Coast Guard. He still found time to play baseball, coming home on weekends to pitch for the West Haven Sailors and other local teams.

After the war ended, Klivak opted to stay in West Haven, where he had a comfortable job during the week and could play for the Sailors in his spare time. He was one of the Sailors’ top pitchers and was called upon for a game in 1948 against the Birmingham Black Batons of the Negro League.

Klivak pitched for the Baltimore Orioles Triple-A organization. He served as secretary/treasurer for the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association for more than 20 years. He is a 1988 inductee into the SCDC Hall of Fame. Klivak passed away on August 16, 2007, at age 91.

SAMUEL A. BURRELL JR.



Sam Burrell taught in the New Haven public school system and worked in the central office of the physical education department. He coached at Wilbur Cross High School and was later the head baseball coach at Hillhouse High. He also coached American Legion Post 47 baseball from 1956 to 1967 and won several zone championships.

In 1968, Burrell was appointed head freshman baseball coach at Yale University, where he coached for many years and is believed to be the first black intercollegiate coach at Yale. He later became an assistant freshman football coach at Yale from 1979 to 1992. In 1993, he was appointed to the Yale varsity football staff, where he served until 1996.

Burrell was the community outreach coordinator for the Yale athletics department. He was a co-founder of the SCDC and was placed in its Hall of Fame in 1990. He passed away April 11, 2022 at the age of 89.

2023 HONOREES

AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Ernie Goodwin
Head Baseball Coach: Sal Coppola
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Alex Blomberg, P**



“Alex is a complete team player! Alex has had very little playing time due to injuries. Despite this, he is the first player to volunteer if the coaches need anything from the team. He is extremely hard working and completely unselfish. Even though he hasn’t played a lot he is ingrained in the culture of our team! Our team wouldn’t be the same without him.” -- *Coach Coppola*

ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Tom Brockett
Head Baseball Coach: John Stankus
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Dylan Ellison, CF/P**



“Dylan never complains. When I ask Dylan about days he might pitch or spots in the batting lineup in which he might want to hit, he always responds that whatever I believe is best for the team is fine with him.” -- *Coach Stankus*

BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Tom Ermini
Head Baseball Coach: Steve Malafronte
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Michael Rebmann, OF**



“Michael Rebmann is one of the most team-oriented players I have had the privilege to be around. Michael believes that success in baseball is found in selfless actions. He has become a player who tries to give everything he can on the baseball field, in the dugout, in school, and always finds a way to contribute to the success of any team he has been a part of. Michael has brought energy and team spirit to every game, practice or event our team has participated in. Whether he is in the game or on the bench he shows up the same everyday. He leads by example and has tried his best to inspire the young players on our team to become great teammates. Demonstrating this by making it a point to attend and support the sub-varsity programs regularly, home or away, Michael has been there to help pick up guys when they are down and encourage them to keep fighting. He is the first player out of the dugout to help warmup an outfielder, after every play whether a strike out, or a hit, whatever it may be he is always trying to pick up his teammates and keep their heads held high. He is a player who accepts his role and when on the field does everything in his power to complete his job and help his team be better then they were the day before. It has been an honor to be around such a well-rounded person who I believe is going to go on to be a great success and role model.” -- *Coach Malafronte*

CANTERBURY SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Jim Stone
Head Baseball Coach: Todd Mathewson
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Jason Fisher, OF**



Will attend the U.S. Naval Academy next year... “Jason is an outstanding young man and very selfless as a player. He will do whatever the team needs and has a team-first mentality. Jason pinch-ran one game and took third in a very heads-up play to help us win a one-run game.” -- *Coach Mathewson*

2023 HONOREES

CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Steve Trifone
Head Baseball Coach: Alex LeFevre
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Anthony Votto, P/OF**



Anthony Votto is the most selfless person in Cheshire High’s baseball program. His constant positivity, professionalism, & effort are things that his teammates and younger players can look to as a perfect example of what it means to be a Ram. His always-present smile and energy do not go unnoticed and will be missed next year. Anthony is a Ram through and through and leaves the CHS baseball program better than he found it.” -- *Coach LeFevre*

DERBY HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Matthew Bradshaw
Head Baseball Coach: Robert Swierbitowicz
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Ryan Slack, SS/P**



Team captain... four-year varsity starting shortstop... “Ryan truly understands and embodies ‘No I in Team.’ His sports-manship on and off the field is really amazing. He has consistently demonstrated his leadership on the diamond, providing encouragement to players who didn’t get a hit or make a play. Not only does he do this for his team, but he shows respect to the other dugout. He is always showing this respect as if the “Baseball Gods” are present. His locker room presence spreads to his daily life. He leads his teammates and peers with dignity and confidence. He is first to gather the team for words of encouragement and motivation. As a soon-to-be college athlete, he is an extension of the coaching staff and for that the Derby Red Raider Baseball team/staff are thankful.” -- *Coach Swierbitowicz*

EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Anthony Verderame
Head Baseball Coach: Butch Johnson
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Rocco Lombardi, P/1B**



Four-year player... captain of EHHS basketball team... “Rocco always puts the needs of the team ahead of himself. He is the first to arrive and the last to leave and is always encouraging others. Rocco leads by example and is respected by all the coaches, teammates and officials. He sets an example of what a teammate should be on and off the field. Rocco’s commitment and perseverance will carry him far in life and should set an example to others to follow through and never quit.” -- *Coach Johnson*

FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Tom Curran
Head Baseball Coach: Rudy Mauritz
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Trey Hartnett, P**



“Trey has seen limited time as a pitcher this season, but has accepted an essential role for us as a pinch runner. When presented with this opportunity Trey was more than willing to do whatever he could to help the team succeed. While primarily a pitcher he has learned how to run the bases and has become an excellent base-stealer and major contributor off the bench.” -- *Coach Mauritz*

2023 HONOREES

JOSEPH A. FORAN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Anthony Vitelli
Head Baseball Coach: Garrett Walker
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Brendan Fallon, C**



Will attend the University of Alabama next year... “Brendan was a four-year member of the program, but lost his senior season to a knee injury. Despite not being able to play, Brendan never missed a game or practice. He became a vocal leader and helped bring along a young catching group. Brendan is full of life and energy and is one of the funniest kids to be around. He will be missed.” -- *Coach Walker*

GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Jake Jarvis
Head Baseball Coach: Nick Merullo
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Alex Vincent, C**



“Alex always puts the team first. He plays the game the right way, and is always thinking of the team and the pitching staff over his individual accolades or stats. He plays a physically demanding position and has endured many bumps and bruises, but continues to give the team his best effort each and every day.” -- *Coach Merullo*

HAMDEN HALL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: David Doyle
Head Baseball Coach: Brad Chernovetz
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Kaleb Cohen, OF**



“Kaleb is a senior captain who is one of the hardest workers on the team. He has anchored down the outfield this year. Kaleb has always put the team before himself.” -- *Coach Chernovetz*

HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Tom Dyer
Head Baseball Coach: Mike Dwyer
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Larry Rarick, P**



“Larry is the epitome of the ‘No I In Team’ award. He is a team-first guy who not only knows and understands what it takes to ensure he is doing what he has to do to see the team do well, but he strives to make the team better. Whether it is his individual work or his team work ethic. Larry is a guy that everyone wants on their team. Whether he is heading the fund-raising charge or giving it his all at practices or games Larry will always be known as a team-first player.” -- *Coach Dwyer*

DANIEL HAND HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Chris Farrell
Head Baseball Coach: Travis LaPointe
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Cole Daignault, 3B**



“Cole epitomizes what it means to be a leader and a great teammate. He is respected by all of the players and coaches on our team because he is selfless and perseveres through all challenges. Even though his senior season ended with an injury, Cole remained consistent as a teammate and continued to add value to our ballclub.” -- *Coach LaPointe*

2023 HONOREES

HILLHOUSE/CAREER co-op

Athletics Facilitators:

R.J. Voelker (H); Michael Giardini (C)

Head Baseball Coach:

R.J. Voelker

“No I In Team” Honorees:

Tyler Saxton, OF(H); Adrian Padilla, IF/P (C)



“Tyler has been an outstanding leader and teammate. Tyler has come a long way with the game of baseball; he dedicated himself to getting better each season and has. Tyler has been a tremendous teammate and captain. He takes pride in helping to mentor the younger players. In addition to being an exceptional leader, he is a true definition of a scholar athlete holding a 3.7 GPA.” -- *Coach Voelker*

“Adrian has demonstrated leadership skills ever since I first knew him in the 7th grade. Adrian has grown up around the game of baseball his whole life. His brother and other family members have helped mold him into a fierce competitor, but also a respected leader. We always had the saying ‘We go as Adrian goes.’ He deserves credit for helping the team just with his presence.” -- *Coach Voelker*

HOPKINS SCHOOL

Director of Athletics:

Rocco DeMaio

Head Baseball Coach:

Rocco DeMaio

“No I In Team” Honoree:

Luke O’Connell, 2B/C



U.S. Naval Academy commit... three-sport captain in football, basketball and baseball... “Luke is a tremendous leader... He is a converted infielder who was a catcher and played 1st and 2nd base his senior season. Luke is a tremendous lead-off hitter with all the tools to get on base, run and score runs.” -- *Coach DeMaio*

JONATHAN LAW HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics:

Gianni Ragaini

Head Baseball Coach:

Greg Simler

“No I In Team” Honoree:

Nolan McKenna-Hansen, P/1B



“Nolan has been an important part of our baseball program for the past 4 seasons. He is one of our captains and a great teammate who puts others and the team ahead of himself. Nolan is always there to pick his teammates up. He works hard every day, giving 100% during practices and games. Nolan leads by example and shows what it means to be a baseball player at Jonathan Law. I am very proud to be able to recognize Nolan for this award because he truly exemplifies that ‘There is No I in Team.’” -- *Coach Simler*

THE MORGAN SCHOOL

Director of Athletics:

Meagan Sears

Head Baseball Coach:

Trevor Brown

“No I In Team” Honoree:

Nicholas Spaziano, OF/SS



“Nicholas is a complete team player who will do whatever it takes for the team to win. He has played multiple positions and has hit in multiple spots in the batting order. He’s the first one at practice and the last one to leave, and is a great leader and captain for Morgan Baseball.” -- *Coach Brown*

2023 HONOREES

NORTH BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL



Director of Athletics: Lori Connelly
Head Baseball Coach: Billy Mitchell
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Nico Falcioni, 1B**

“Nico truly epitomizes the meaning of the ‘No I in Team’ award. For three years he has done anything asked of him without question for the good of the team, including playing multiple positions. This year he has settled in to first base and bats third in our lineup being our most productive hitter. He was voted captain this year by his teammates which tells what his team thinks of him. Nico is always helping younger players in practice with advice and instruction so they can improve as individuals on and off the field. It has been an honor to have coached Nico the past three years and he will be missed greatly. He has definitely made his mark on our program and has left it in a better place for the younger players in the future.” -- *Coach Mitchell*

NORTH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



Director of Athletics: Steven Blumenthal
Head Baseball Coach: Joe Romanelli
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Steven Vincent, P/OF**

“Steven is one of our captains and has been the definition of a team player all year long. He fills any role we need him to fill.” -- *Coach Romanelli*

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL



Director of Athletics: Jason Shea
Head Baseball Coach: Donald Martone
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Will Panza, LF**

“‘Winning is a result of everyone giving 100% of himself to his role on the team’ - *Augie Garrido*. Will Panza is our War Dog. War Dogs have been used in wars since ancient times. Their jobs have varied over the years, from being trained to track with their acute sense of smell, to bringing down infantry or even horses by biting into the hamstrings of their targets. War Dogs are sent into battlefields, their role to sniff out mines, because the soldiers cannot. Will is a two-year player whose position was anywhere on the field we needed him. Whenever we moved his position he did it with a smile outworking everyone else and killing it in practice. Will carries water, cleans the bus and dugout after games, and leads by example on the field with his old-school, hard nosed play. Will Panza is a War Dog; the epitome of a No I in Team Award winner.” -- *Coach Martone*

EMMETT O'BRIEN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Director of Athletics: Lillie Johnson
Head Baseball Coach: Charles Hine
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Mike Smith, C/SS**

“Mike selflessly played a position he hadn't played in years. He led our guys with confidence.” -- *Coach Hine*.

2023 HONOREES

OLD SAYBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Brendan Saunders
Head Baseball Coach: Ryan Fraser
“No I In Team” Honoree: **John Witczak, P/OF**



“John deserved the No I in Team Award because of his selfless dedication to his teammates. John is consistently encouraging teammates to keep working and strive for greatness. John also does an amazing job serving as a role model for younger teammates to continue working despite ups and downs on the field.” -- *Coach Fraser*

ORVILLE H. PLATT HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Richard Katz
Head Baseball Coach: Bryan McCarty
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Bruce Candelora, SS**



Three-year varsity starter... “Bruce is a hard working athlete who leads the team by actions and not words. He will often keep the team up, despite losing, through his effort and emotions. He never casts blame on anyone and will often give his teammates a pat on the back.” -- *Coach McCarty*

MARK T. SHEEHAN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Gary Gravina
Head Baseball Coach: Dom Lombardozzi
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Ben Busillo, OF**



“Ben is the ultimate teammate. He goes above and beyond to help the team succeed in every way possible. His positive attitude and competitive nature allow those around him to do their best.” -- *Coach Lombardozzi*

SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Scott Snell
Head Baseball Coach: Scott Gura
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Ken Supersano Jr., 1B**



“Ken is an unselfish player that always put the team first. He never worried about his personal accomplishments and concentrated on how the team performed. He was one of the first players at the field and the last to leave. He took extra batting and fielding practice at the end of the day. He excelled in the little things that are not always seen in the box score. He is a great role model and captain for the younger players on the team. It will be hard to replace his great leadership skills that he provided this season.” -- *Coach Gura*

SOUTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Steve Risser
Head Baseball Coach: Stan Switala
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Tyler Blumetti, P**



“Tyler Blumetti is one of the most unselfish players I have ever met. His main goal is to just help the team win. He has been mainly a pitcher the past 2 years and has never hit for me while I have been the head coach at Southington HS. We have been struggling with the bottom of our line up all year. Tyler recently said he could hit and help the team win. During the next four games he hit .692 with six RBI and was moved to the top of our lineup. We wouldn't be the same team without him. Most of all, Tyler is a great person and always comes to practice and games with a smile on his face. He is an outstanding person and I'm glad to have coached him the past 2 years.” -- *Coach Switala*

2023 HONOREES

WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Caitlin Eichler
Head Baseball Coach: Derek Hanssen
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Tyler Prisley, C/P**



Four-year member of program... career began during lost COVID season of 2020... “Tyler is a pitcher and a catcher for the Knights and through his career has displayed a tremendous leadership and competitive spirit. Tyler is a leader on the field and is well-respected by his teammates. He has a mindset of sacrifice and always puts the team’s needs ahead of his own. In his senior season Tyler has played through many obstacles and still contributed greatly to the team’s success. Tyler is both an offensive and defensive centerpiece for the team and his overall contributions to the program over his career are significant.” -- *Coach Hanssen*

WEST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Joe Morrell
Head Baseball Coach: Steve Carden
“No I In Team” Honoree: **K.J. Harp, CF**



“K.J. has been the lone captain and leader of a young West Haven team. He has shown up to every practice and game with a positive attitude and a great work ethic. In center field he covers more ground than any player I have seen in quite some time. He has been an asset to our program and will be missed.” -- *Coach Carden*

WILBUR CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Athletics Facilitator: Harold Haughton
Head Baseball Coach: Angel Ramos
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Joshua Santiago, P**



Four-year member of Wilbur Cross program... committed to pitch for Framingham State University next season... “As a pitcher and a student-athlete, Joshua is very disciplined. In addition to his time playing baseball he has performed several community service activities. Overall he’s just a great person.” -- *Coach Ramos*

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Athletics: Dan DeConti
Head Baseball Coach: Nick Cerreta
“No I In Team” Honoree: **Ryan Santello, 2B/RF**



“Ryan is the most positive player I have ever been around. He supports all of his teammates every single day and always puts the team first. You simply don’t find young men anymore like Ryan when it comes to sports. The humility Ryan displays is so rare these days among his generation. He has a love for the game that I admire, and plays with incredible passion every single pitch. Ryan is a coach’s dream because he is loyal, hard-working, energetic, kind-hearted, responsible, trustworthy, intelligent, humorous, and genuine. Ryan is a true student-athlete because as dedicated as he is on the field he works even harder in the classroom. It has been an honor watching him grow into such a fine, poised young man over the last couple of years. Ryan is truly the type of player that comes around once in a lifetime. If I had a team full of Ryans I would rarely lose a game. He is the heartbeat of the Xavier baseball program.” -- *Coach Cerreta*

2023 HONOREES

SAMUEL A. BURRELL JR. COACH OF THE YEAR

Nick Merullo, Guilford High School



Nick Merullo was named the 2023 Southern Connecticut Conference Coach of the Year. He guided the Grizzlies to their first SCC championship since 2007.

Merullo is completing his third season with the Grizzlies. After a 2-16 campaign in 2021, Guilford improved to 11-9 a year ago. The Grizzlies were 20-3, and winners of their previous 14 games, heading into the 2023 state tournament.

A Madison, Conn., native, Merullo played football and baseball at Daniel Hand High School. He was named all-state in both sports (quarterback, catcher). After competing collegiately at Division-I James Madison University, he signed a minor-league free-agent contract with the Baltimore Orioles in 2014. Merullo played for the Class-A GCL Orioles and Aberdeen Ironbirds.

Coach Merullo is a fourth-generation professional baseball player. His father, Matt Merullo, a member of his Guilford staff, enjoyed a six-year Major League career with the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, and Minnesota Twins.

Merullo teaches fifth grade at Brown Intermediate School in Madison. He was an assistant coach at Hand from from 2015-20, and has been on the football staffs of Hand and The Morgan School. Merullo resides in Niantic, Conn., with his wife, Holly, and their dog, Mack. They are expecting their first child in September.

GEORGE KLIVAK TEAM OF THE YEAR

Guilford High School

The 2023 Guilford Grizzlies finished their regular season with a record of 17-3, riding an 11 game win streak. Guilford posted its best regular-season record since 2008.

In postseason play, the Grizzlies defeated Sheehan High School, 5-3, in the SCC quarterfinals and Xavier High School, 6-2, in the semis to advance to the championship game against Fairfield Prep. On May 25, Guilford topped two-time defending champion Prep, 10-7, to claim its first SCC title since 2007.

Five Guilford players were recognized as All-SCC performers: sophomore SS/P Lucas Deshefy, junior RF/P Bryce Meder, senior OF/P Sam Ametrano, sophomore CF Lucas Ametrano, and senior P Andrew Shosho.

Additionally, head coach Nick Merullo was voted the SCC Coach of the Year and Lucas Deshefy earned SCC Player of the Year honors.

Deshefy was also chosen the SCC Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Deshefy leads the team in nearly every offensive category, hitting .507/.616/.791 with 11 doubles, two home runs, 25 runs batted in and 24 runs scored. He also pitched in 12 games (one start) and posted a 4-0 record with five saves, a 0.93 ERA and 29 strikeouts in 22 2/3 innings. Meder has also made great two-way contributions, hitting .364/.398/.494 with a homer and 21 RBI, and posting a 4-2 pitching record and three saves in 11 appearances (seven starts). He owns a 2.05 ERA with 55 strikeouts and just nine walks in 44 1/3 innings.

The Guilford baseball coaching staff consists of Nick Merullo and assistants John Foti, Jeff Letourneau, Jeff Mainetti, Matt Merullo and Ralph Russo. The Guilford roster is made up of seniors Sam Ametrano, Jack Farrah, Cole Morgan-Berry, Andrew Shosho, Alex Vincent, Carter Williams; juniors Mike Buccaro, Bryce Meder, Colin Pompano, Brandon Rosa and Joe Tafro; sophomores Lucas Ametrano, Adam Copeland, Lucas Deshefy, Matt DiNardo and Victor Morris; and freshmen Finn Matlosz and Alex Tafro.



PREVIOUS WINNERS

“NO ‘I’ IN TEAM AWARD

2005

Amity.....	Pat McKenna
Branford.....	Edward Bethke
Career.....	Luis Gaston
Cheshire.....	Bobak Emamian
Choate.....	Brian Marcus
Derby.....	Michael Smith
East Haven.....	Ryan DaCorte
Foran.....	Mike Dooling
Guilford.....	Stuart Campbell
Hamden Hall.....	Jon Swirsky
Hamden.....	Kevin Stanford
Hand.....	Nick Brettingen
Hopkins.....	Craig Cooper
Hyde.....	Brendan Logan
Lyman Hall.....	Mike Oswald
Morgan.....	Eraclito Rapuano
North Branford.....	Kyle Beefus
North Haven.....	Dan Golden
Notre Dame.....	Mike Flynn
O'Brien Tech.....	Chris Smith
Platt.....	Nick Culver
Platt Tech.....	Pat Dixon
Sheehan.....	B.J. Senna
Shelton.....	Brian Marsegua
Westbrook.....	Chris Lombardozi
West Haven.....	Steve Alves
Wilbur Cross.....	Rich Rivera

2006

Amity.....	Brian Paturas
Branford.....	Doug Papuga
Career.....	Tom Hauberger
Cheshire.....	Matt Cesca
Choate.....	Michael Cesca and Timothy Brettinger
Derby.....	Jason Devonshuk
East Haven.....	Casey Tyler
Foran.....	Corey Lydiksen
Guilford.....	Anthony Callegari
Hamden Hall.....	Sam Eldrich
Hamden.....	Justin Chabot
Hand.....	Travis Gulick
Hillhouse.....	Danny Burke
Hopkins.....	Chris Santopolo
Hyde.....	Jesse Camacho and T.Q. Gray
Law.....	Brandon Edo
Lyman Hall.....	Michael McCarthy
Lyme-Old Lyme.....	Rob Neaton
Morgan.....	Scott Rembisz
North Branford.....	Mark Giannelli
North Haven.....	Nate Shatsoff
Notre Dame.....	Mike Kolakowski
Platt.....	Rene Nieves
Platt Tech.....	Mike Bereza
Sheehan.....	John Gumkowski
Shelton.....	Mark Garamella
Westbrook.....	Justin Lawrie
West Haven.....	Steve Carden
Wilbur Cross.....	Rob Tamaro

2007

Amity.....	Kyle Birdsall
Branford.....	Brian Maturo
Career.....	Austin Edwards
Cheshire.....	Thomas Sirois
Choate.....	Mark Beaudoin Jr.
Derby.....	Michael Matosian
East Haven.....	Joe Lucibello
Eli Whitney Tech.....	Luis Garayua
Fairfield Prep.....	Kevin Collins
Foran.....	Cody Quinn
Guilford.....	Nick Hahn
Hamden Hall.....	Jackson Arpine
Hamden.....	Richard DeMatties
Hand.....	Kevin Kworek
Hillhouse.....	Brandyn Wright
Hopkins.....	Sam Schrieber
Hyde.....	T.Q. Gray
Law.....	Chris Kochiss
Lyman Hall.....	Paul Thurston
Lyme-Old Lyme.....	Eddie Freeman
Morgan.....	Adam Taylor
North Branford.....	Greg Remmey
North Haven.....	Jeff Gaudioso
Notre Dame.....	Michael Biondi
O'Brien Tech.....	Peter Jankauskas
Platt.....	Jim Wielgosz
Platt Tech.....	Tom Green
Sheehan.....	Mike Dean
Shelton.....	Tom Lindberg
Westbrook.....	Matt Trasacco
West Haven.....	John Wezenski
Wilbur Cross.....	James Shapiro
Xavier.....	Will Hendel

2008

Amity.....	Steve Siena
Branford.....	John Ahern II
Career.....	Otis Brown
Cheshire.....	Dan Feldshon
Choate.....	Ben Pascale
Derby.....	Tim Geer
East Haven.....	Stephen Pelliccia
Eli Whitney Tech.....	Tylor Wetmore
Fairfield Prep.....	Peter Eason
Foran.....	Ben Basket
Guilford.....	Mike Pavelko
Hamden Hall.....	Alessandro Gasparro
Hamden.....	M.J. Lombardozi
Hand.....	Chris DiMarco
Hillhouse.....	Danny Burke
Hopkins.....	Keith Bolles
Hyde.....	Bobby Coleman
Law.....	Steve Kubik
Lyman Hall.....	Michael McCarthy
Lyme-Old Lyme.....	Rob Gentile
Morgan.....	Steve French
North Branford.....	Frank Mentone III
North Haven.....	Steve Rudiewicz
Notre Dame.....	Anthony Pisani
O'Brien Tech.....	John Gromotskie
Old Saybrook.....	Frank Eucalitto
Platt.....	Raymond Thayer
Platt Tech.....	Nick Dudek
Sheehan.....	Ben DiTota
Shelton.....	Marek McCormack
Westbrook.....	Ryan Riggio
West Haven.....	Mike Carden
Wilbur Cross.....	Elvin Rodriguez
Xavier.....	Will Hendel

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2009

Amity.....	Ryan Adams
Branford.....	Justin Giddings
Career.....	Aaron Perry
Cheshire.....	Steve Howard
Choate.....	Jason Cohen
Derby.....	Tim Geer
East Haven.....	Daniel Russo
Fairfield Prep.....	John Blagys
Foran.....	Chris Folsom
Guilford.....	Matt Anthonis
Hamden Hall.....	Nolan Rich
Hamden.....	Kingsley Birdsall
Hand.....	Brendan Maghini
Hillhouse.....	Leon Davis Jr.
Hopkins.....	Thomas Driscoll
Hyde.....	Jordan Green
Law.....	Mike Nelson
Lyman Hall.....	Lloyd Jacques
Lyme-Old Lyme.....	Mike Smith
Morgan.....	Mitch DeMazza
North Branford.....	Jeff Rivellini
North Haven.....	Frank Barbiero
Notre Dame.....	Eric Romano
O'Brien Tech.....	Gary Britto
Old Saybrook.....	Jon Palmer
Platt.....	Patrick Bruenn
Platt Tech.....	Nick Cowell
Sheehan.....	Nick Hatcher
Shelton.....	Nick Georgalas
Westbrook.....	Dylan Twigg
West Haven.....	Rich Prydol
Wilbur Cross.....	Jose Acosta
Xavier.....	Bob Stachura

2010

Amity.....	Brian Kernan
Branford.....	Chris Carbone
Career.....	Sheldon Poole
Cheshire.....	Mike Severino
Choate.....	Kyle McDonough
Derby.....	Ryan Skelly
East Haven.....	Paul Spadacenta
Eli Whitney Tech.....	Brian Aquino
Fairfield Prep.....	Andrew Fitzsimmons
Foran.....	Dan Geier
Greens Farms.....	Gerard Connelly
Guilford.....	Craig Schlitter
Hamden Hall.....	Jordan Kubilus
Hamden.....	Will Hindinger
Hand.....	Jeff Buck
Hillhouse.....	Reno Dunkley
Hopkins.....	Ryan D'Souza
Hyde.....	Noello Espinal
Law.....	Jeff St. Pierre
Lyman Hall.....	Eric Thurston
Lyme-Old Lyme.....	Sawyer Gregory
Morgan.....	Mike Lee
North Branford.....	Matt Proto
North Haven.....	Stephen Cusano
Notre Dame.....	William Meade
O'Brien Tech.....	Shane Sweeney
Old Saybrook.....	Ken Henry
Platt.....	Jake Wolf
Sheehan.....	Reid Nelson
Shelton.....	Eric Christensen
Westbrook.....	Dane Pallotto
West Haven.....	John Ascenzia
Wilbur Cross.....	Edinson Rodriguez
Xavier.....	Brandon Sullivan

2011

Amity.....	Anthony Faggiana
Ansonia.....	Alex Chosczyk
Branford.....	Joe Massey
Career.....	Juliano Nieves
Cheshire.....	Greg Leonetti
Derby.....	Adam Greenhill
East Haven.....	Adam Poulin
Fairfield Prep.....	Alex Heiman
Foran.....	Steven Polito
Greens Farms.....	Spencer Traver
Guilford.....	Austin Bramann
Hamden Hall.....	Marco Gasparro
Hamden.....	Don Pfeiffer
Hand.....	Brian Heflin
Hillhouse.....	Lazaro Barrios
Hopkins.....	Matt Luciani
Hyde.....	Will Nieves
Law.....	Max Nowicki
Lyman Hall.....	Billy Graeb
Lyme-Old Lyme.....	Wyatt Stanland
Morgan.....	Nate Calini
North Branford.....	Taylor Gamache
North Haven.....	Brian Sica
Notre Dame.....	Matthew Biondi
O'Brien Tech.....	Nick Ascencao
Old Saybrook.....	Joe Ferrantelli
Platt.....	Daniel Mroczka
Platt Tech.....	Peter Brauer
Sheehan.....	Mark Brennan
Shelton.....	Dan McCue
Westbrook.....	Cody Forrest
West Haven.....	Jeff Hill
Wilbur Cross.....	Neftali Arroyo
Xavier.....	Steven Lockman

2012

Amity.....	Rob Rosner
Ansonia.....	Vincent Bonaparte
Branford.....	Travis Krause
Career.....	Adam Olszyk
Cheshire.....	Jordan Kubilis
Derby.....	Brian Dobek
East Haven.....	Joe Gioia
Fairfield Prep.....	Matt Beck
Foran.....	Ryan Manning
Greens Farms.....	Brandon Velez
Guilford.....	Austin Bramann
Hamden Hall.....	Nick Strada
Hamden.....	Erin Moskal
Hand.....	Matt Girardi
Hopkins.....	Darren O'Brien
Hyde/Hillhouse.....	Kahlil Morant
Law.....	Michael Spadaro
Lyman Hall.....	Matt Moran
Morgan.....	Robbie Lee
North Branford.....	Matt Scavo
North Haven.....	Jake Scafariello
Notre Dame.....	Jacob DeRosa
O'Brien Tech.....	Chad Sweeney
Old Saybrook.....	Justin Beal
Platt.....	Pasquale Silvia
Sheehan.....	Andy Mazzone
Shelton.....	Bryan Kondor
Westbrook.....	Tyler Shamas
West Haven.....	Dan Chambrelli
Wilbur Cross.....	Jonathan Tirado
Xavier.....	Ryan Verdi

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2013

Amity.....	Nick Ceneri
Ansonia.....	Ryan O'Connor
Branford.....	Dylan Carlton
Career.....	Jose Matos
Cheshire.....	Kevin Miranda
Derby.....	Dillon McMahon
East Haven.....	Thomas Moore
Eli Whitney Tech.....	Jaury Santiago
Fairfield Prep.....	Michael Carter
Foran.....	Christopher Yee
Greens Farms.....	Brian Dexheimer
Guilford.....	Dante Parisi
Hamden Hall.....	Christopher Salaway
Hamden.....	Andrew Calabrese
Hand.....	Corey Smith
Hopkins.....	Simon Mathews
Hyde/Hillhouse.....	Jerell Baines
Law.....	David Pingarron
Lyman Hall.....	Kevin Naimoli
Morgan.....	Robbie Lee
North Branford.....	Chris Caron
North Haven.....	Andrew Iovanna
Notre Dame.....	Zachary Korwek
O'Brien Tech.....	Justin Rochon
Platt.....	Gage Forney
Platt Tech.....	Angelo Genovasi
Seymour.....	Mike Conlon
Sheehan.....	Rob Sprafke
Shelton.....	Tyler Tice
Westbrook.....	Chris Dahl
West Haven.....	Tyler Gambardella
Wilbur Cross.....	Thomas Mieles
Xavier.....	Jason Schaff

2014

Amity.....	Mike Tavolacci
Ansonia.....	Darwin Elias
Branford.....	B.J. Massey
Career.....	Kamil Wielechowski
Cheshire.....	Kyle Waldron
Derby.....	Jordan Larue
East Haven.....	Tyler Gaudino
Fairfield Prep.....	Austin Crane
Foran.....	Christopher June
Guilford.....	Ricky Williams
Hamden Hall.....	Joe Lord
Hamden.....	Tyler Mitchell
Hand.....	Andrew Card
Hopkins.....	Jim Martino
Hyde/Hillhouse.....	Calvin Riley Jr.
Law.....	Rich Dow
Lyman Hall.....	Ben Miller
North Branford.....	Evan Pollick
North Haven.....	Patrick Mikos
Notre Dame.....	Arden Burton
O'Brien Tech.....	Kyle Bertanza
Old Saybrook.....	Adam Seegart
Platt.....	Scott Dargan
Platt Tech.....	James Cowry
Sheehan.....	Brian DeMaio
Shelton.....	Pat Murphy
Westbrook.....	David Hermansen
West Haven.....	Ricky Balzano
Wilbur Cross.....	Carlos Diaz
Xavier.....	Daniel Lawler

2015

Amity.....	Jake Smith
Ansonia.....	Larry Cafaro
Branford.....	Dom Acquarulo
Canterbury.....	Richie Barrella
Career.....	Alex Bunnell
Cheshire.....	Connor Gunnesom
Derby.....	Michael Koval
East Haven.....	Anthony Pepe
Eli Whitney Tech.....	Devaunie Dacres
Fairfield Prep.....	John Carroll
Foran.....	Joe Radecki
Guilford.....	Tyler Donlon
Hamden Hall.....	William Rhone
Hamden.....	Marc Masciantonio
Hand.....	Matt LoStocco
Hopkins.....	Johan Knight
Hyde/Hillhouse.....	Terence Cooper
Law.....	Mac Taylor
Lyman Hall.....	Tucker McClure
North Branford.....	Jason Quido
North Haven.....	Hunter Iacobelli
Notre Dame.....	Jon David Cascio
Old Saybrook.....	Ethan Casberg
Platt.....	Jaelin Highsmith
Sheehan.....	Pete Abate
Shelton.....	Paul Salley
Westbrook.....	Dylan Engels
West Haven.....	Jake Kelly
Wilbur Cross.....	Sean Ranz
Xavier.....	Jacob Corrone

2016

Amity.....	Matt Tomei
Ansonia.....	Michael Rhodes
Branford.....	Bryce Baker
Canterbury.....	Justin Proteau
Career.....	Tyler Osborne
Cheshire.....	Troy Richmond
Derby.....	Jake Finnuan
East Haven.....	Matt Coyle
Eli Whitney Tech.....	Michael DeMatteo
Fairfield Prep.....	Jack Oricoli
Foran.....	Michael Howell
Guilford.....	Connor Peters
Hamden Hall.....	Luke Wilcox
Hamden.....	Brendan Berube
Hand.....	Pat Nelson
Hopkins.....	Billy McGrath
Hyde/Hillhouse.....	Jon Williamson
Law.....	Frank Mucciacciaro
Lyman Hall.....	Kyle Shea
North Branford.....	Matt Chamberlain
North Haven.....	Joseph Balzano
Notre Dame.....	Joe Morris
Platt.....	Andrew Abrahante
Platt Tech.....	Justin Candido
Sheehan.....	Jake Gawlek
Shelton.....	Craig McNamara
Westbrook.....	Chris Benzi
West Haven.....	Kalan Morgillo
Wilbur Cross.....	Reynaldo Duprey
Xavier.....	Dennis Beaudry

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2017

Amity.....	Josh Crow
Ansonia.....	Jordan Jones
Branford.....	Trevor Brown
Canterbury.....	Dan Brady
Career.....	Angel Mendez
Cheshire.....	Ryan Mostoller
Creed/Hillhouse.....	Jonathan Browne
Derby.....	Jon Dytko
East Haven.....	Dominic DeBasso
Fairfield Prep.....	Matt Zeffino
Foran.....	John Leckteig
Guilford.....	Logan Hitchcock
Hamden Hall.....	Tim Bradley
Hamden.....	Mark Durwin
Hand.....	Matt Sampson
Hopkins.....	Ryan Meury
Law.....	Mitchell Smith
Lyman Hall.....	Zach Blier
North Branford.....	Gio Tirollo
North Haven.....	Dom Onofrio
Notre Dame.....	Brad Zsampar
Platt.....	Devyn McCarty
Platt Tech.....	Michael Hernandez
Sheehan.....	Sam DeMaio
Shelton.....	Jason DeSeo
Westbrook.....	Matt Gallagher
West Haven.....	Mario Kiaunis
Wilbur Cross.....	Omar Diaz
Xavier.....	Kevin Canne

2018

Amity.....	Ted Criscuolo
Ansonia.....	James Brown
Branford.....	Robert Barbash
Canterbury.....	Jordan Perez
Career.....	Isaiah Baez
Cheshire.....	Michael Pepe
Creed/Hillhouse.....	Dan Castillo
Derby.....	Matthew Oliwa
East Haven.....	Salvatore Buffone
Fairfield Prep.....	Dan Fallacaro
Foran.....	Matthew Kennedy
Guilford.....	Matt Donlan
Hamden Hall.....	Joseph Liucci
Hamden.....	Robert Lyon
Hand.....	Chris Hartmann
Hopkins.....	Liam Day
Law.....	Nathan Merchant
Lyman Hall.....	Russell Edeen
North Branford.....	Jeff Jablonski
North Haven.....	Nathaniel Zalegowski
Notre Dame.....	Charles Rhodes
Platt.....	Cameron Germe
Platt Tech.....	Evan Mazako
Sheehan.....	Austin Lee
Shelton.....	Will Ciccone
Southington.....	Dan Topper
Westbrook.....	Jack Hayes
West Haven.....	Mark Basta
Wilbur Cross.....	Brian Pettway
Xavier.....	Matthew Bjorklund

2019

Amity.....	Logan Corris
Ansonia.....	John Picheco
Branford.....	Anthony Burzynski
Canterbury.....	Greg McKenna
Career.....	Xavier Burgos
Cheshire.....	Patrick Murphy
Derby.....	Alex Hickey
East Haven.....	Giro Esposito
Fairfield Prep.....	Andrew Chaglasian
Foran.....	Jack Greenspan
Guilford.....	Jack Strand
Hamden Hall.....	Jaime Walker
Hamden.....	Julian Vivenzio
Hand.....	Jake Salutari
Hillhouse.....	Howard Jones
Hopkins.....	Jordan Shand
Law.....	Vinny Schulte
Morgan.....	A.J. Fritz
North Branford.....	Nick Mancini
North Haven.....	Ben Sbabo
Notre Dame.....	Austin Ormrod
Platt.....	Peyton Thiel
Platt Tech.....	Jagger Art
Sheehan.....	Evan Wilkinson
Shelton.....	Hudson Meyer
Southington.....	Brendan Kavanagh
Westbrook.....	Tavish Ernst
West Haven.....	Derek Baker
Wilbur Cross.....	Andrew Marrero
Xavier.....	John Lasko

2020 No Banquet

2021

Amity.....	Justin Roche
Ansonia.....	Matthew Blackwell
Branford.....	Dominic Bonanno
Canterbury.....	Jake Elston
Cheshire.....	Nick Valente
Derby.....	Bryce Cotter
East Haven.....	Sam Cronk
Fairfield Prep.....	Matthew Flynn
Foran.....	Nathan Chen
Guilford.....	Niko Targagni
Hamden Hall.....	Mike Coggins
Hamden.....	Michael Nista
Hand.....	Danny Carbone
Hillhouse/Career.....	Angel Lugo
Hopkins.....	Chris Wanat
Law.....	Luke Pleimann
Morgan.....	Ryan Ingles
North Branford.....	Anthony Raffone
North Haven.....	Jason Mazzaro
Notre Dame.....	Ryan Cannon
Platt.....	Andrew Romano
Sheehan.....	Anthony Romano
Shelton.....	Shawn Smith
Southington.....	Jake DellaVecchia
Westbrook.....	Nicholas Palumbo
West Haven.....	Michael Boni
Wilbur Cross.....	Cal Melendez
Xavier.....	Evan Eichhorn

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2022

Amity.....	Christian Dastous
Ansonia.....	Brendan Palmer
Branford.....	Tyler Jarvis
Canterbury.....	Will Granata
Cheshire.....	Phoenix Kasinkas
Derby.....	Aaron Grammatico
East Haven.....	Marcello Proto
Fairfield Prep.....	A.J. Preisano
Foran.....	Brayden Walker
Guilford.....	Aiden McBrierty
Hamden Hall.....	Anthony Aceto
Hamden.....	Daniel Moore
Hand.....	Will Bazenas
Hillhouse/Career.....	Donte Carter and Johnny Guaraya
Hopkins.....	Matthew Spenner
Law.....	Kian McEnerney
Morgan.....	Garrett Garbinski
North Branford.....	Ryan Nuzzo
North Haven.....	Michael Brandt
Notre Dame.....	Matt Prete
Platt.....	Tucker Sperry
Sheehan.....	Andry Guy
Shelton.....	Ryan Blakeslee
Westbrook.....	Charles Schneider
West Haven.....	Damian Gazzaneo
Wilbur Cross.....	Alberto Rivas
Xavier.....	Jake Gesse



Past winners of the SAMUEL A. BURRELL JR. COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD and the GEORGE KLIVAK TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Year	Coach	Team
2007	Pete Civitello, Guilford HS	SCC: Amity Regional HS Shoreline: Lyme-Old Lyme HS Independent: Hopkins School
2008	Ed Marocco, Shelton HS	Guilford HS
2009	Mike Anquillare, West Haven HS	Jonathan Law HS
2010	Steve DiCrosta, Hyde Leadership School	Amity Regional HS
2011	Billy Mitchell, North Branford HS	Branford HS
2012	Scott Gura, Shelton HS	Derby HS
2013	Rich Magner, Xavier HS	Xavier HS
2014	Greg Simler, Jonathan Law HS	Jonathan Law HS
2015	Chris Borelli, Hamden HS	Fairfield Prep
2016	Jeff Farrell, Wilbur Cross HS	Hamden HS
2017	Brian Hayden, Guilford HS	Amity Regional HS
2018	Travis LaPointe, Daniel Hand HS	Fairfield Prep
2019	Mike Lussier, Cheshire HS	Cheshire HS
2021	Chris Borelli, Hamden HS and Ron Luneau, West Haven HS	Hamden HS and West Haven HS
2022	Nick Cerreta, Xavier HS	Amity Regional HS

IN MEMORIUM

In remembrance of members of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Executive Board who have passed away since the SCDC's inception in 2005.



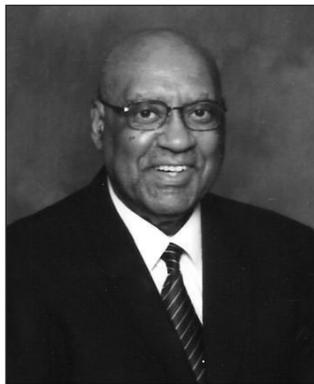
Tony Mentone
1945-2009



Mel Zeidenberg
1925-2018



Ed Rapuano Sr.
1937-2021



Sam Burrell
1932-2022

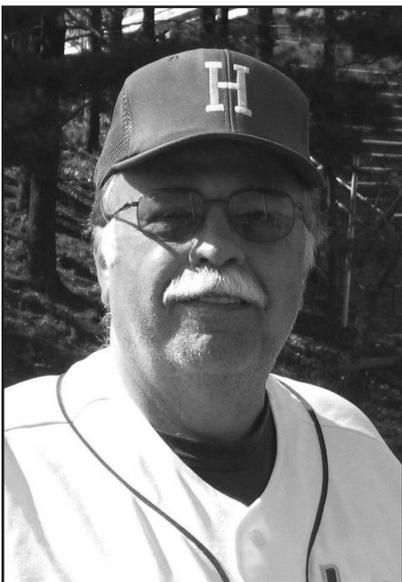


Vin Virgulto
1941-2023

In Loving Memory of **ANTHONY F. MENTONE**

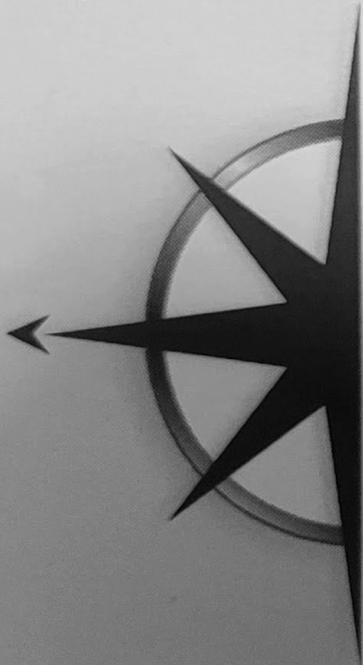


November 9, 1945 -- October 20, 2009



- * Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, Hamden High School
- * Assistant District Administrator, Treasurer, and Rules Interpreter, Connecticut District 4 Little League
- * Member, Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association 1963-2009. Served as President and Sub-Varsity Commissioner
- * Umpire-in-Chief, President, League Director and Coach, Hamden Fathers Baseball/Softball Association
- * Member, National Babe Ruth Umpires Association
- * Vice President, Greater New Haven Diamond Club
- * Recipient, 1991 GNHDC Andrew Gassira Umpire of the Year
- * Selected to umpire at 1998 East Regional Little League Tournament in Bristol, Conn.
- * Inducted into SCDC Hall of Fame, 2010

**Congratulations
to all
award recipients
from
Hill & Hill, LLC!**



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Thomas A. Virgulto

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tvirgulto@hill-hill.com

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Congratulations to all the award recipients at this year's "No I In Team Dinner" and best wishes on continued success in the future!



Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association

Interested in becoming an umpire?
Sign up by visiting our website and we will provide the
training and knowledge to get you game ready!

www.gnhbua.com
www.facebook.com/gnhbuaumps

What do you get when you combine a Falcon with a Thunderbird?



**You get a tremendous young man who is worthy of the 2023
Southern Connecticut Diamond Club
No "I" in Team Award.**

Congratulations to
Nico (Falcon) Falcioni
North Branford High School

Good luck in everything you do.
Fly High & Soar with the Eagles!

Coach Mentone

Congratulations

North Branford High School's

NICO FALCIONI

on receiving the
2023

Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club
"No 'I' In Team" Award

With all of our support,
*The North Branford High School
Diamond Club*

NICO FALCIONI
North Branford High School

Congratulations!
We are so proud of you.

-Love,
Mom, Dad and Lexi



XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

congratulates

RYAN SANTELLO

Southern Connecticut Diamond Club

Whitey Piurek

"There is no I in Team Award"

2023



Where friends and family like to meet . . .

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**The North Haven
High School Booster Club
would like to congratulate**

STEVEN VINCENT

**for receiving the
“No ‘I’ in Team” Award**

**Congratulations to
Westbrook High School's
Tyler Prisley!**



**May the lessons you've learned playing the game
carry into all aspects of your life,
and may your passion for baseball never diminish.
-Your WHS Athletic Department Family**

**The Notre Dame
Athletics Department
congratulates**

WILL PANZA

Working smoke detectors save lives.



Don't let your dreams go up in smoke.

The West Haven High School baseball team
would like to congratulate all honorees, especially our
senior captain and center fielder

K.J. Harp

on his No I in Team Award

– The West Haven High School
Dugout Club



Congratulations



COACH NICK MERULLO

Southern Connecticut Diamond Club

COACH OF THE YEAR

The Guilford High School community

celebrates you and your successful

2023 season!



Congratulations to the



2023 GHS BASEBALL TEAM



Southern Connecticut Diamond Club

TEAM OF THE YEAR

You've represented the Guilford Grizzlies with pride and distinction.

The Guilford High School Community

congratulates you on your successful

2023 season.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL AWARD WINNERS**

FROM

TONY NOTARINO

**SCDC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2013**

**BEST WISHES TO
ALL
AWARD WINNERS**

**WESTVILLE
BASEBALL
INC.**

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AND BEST OF LUCK**

**LAW OFFICES OF
Edward C. "Ned" Burt, Jr.
M. Christine Burt**

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NEXT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT
DIAMOND CLUB EVENT –
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Ticket information available soon!
All are welcome to attend – coaches,
umpires, players, parents, fans.

OCTOBER 12, 2023

5:30 P.M.

THE WOODWINDS
BRANFORD, CONN.

To make a nomination, please e-mail
rmentone@comcast.net or visit
southernctdiamondclub.org

For a list of past inductees, see
southernctdiamondclub.org/hall-of-fame