

The “No ‘I’ in Team” Awards Dinner

sponsored by

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



“To foster and promote the game of baseball”

June 9, 2019

6:30 p.m.

**Monticello’s Restaurant
S. Broad St., Meriden**

EAST SHORE TRAVEL LEAGUE would like to congratulate all the recipients of the **2018 NO I 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, Esq.
Pledge of Allegiance Ed Klinkhammer
Invocation..... Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*
History of SCDC/Introductions..... Sam Burrell Jr.

DINNER

Guest Speaker Dan Gooley, *Quinnipiac University*
Presentation of Whitey Piurek Award Recipients..... Ned Burt, Esq.
**Presentation of the George Klivak
Team of the Year Award** Burt Leventhal
Acceptance Mike Lussier, Coach of Cheshire H.S.
**Presentation of the Sam Burrell Jr.
Coach of the Year Award** Sam Burrell Jr.
Acceptance Mike Lussier, Cheshire H.S.
Closing Remarks Rose V. Mentone, *Executive Director, SCDC*
Benediction..... Rev. Owen Sanderson

COMMITTEE

Rich Altieri	Mike Lamberti	
Chris Borelli	Burt Leventhal	Rose V. Mentone
Sam Burrell Jr.	Ron Luneau	Tony Notarino
Ned Burt	Joe Mattei	Fred Norman
Dan Gooley	Frank Mentone Jr.	Vin Virgulto
Ed Klinkhammer	Matthew Mentone	Lynair Walker

TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER

DAN GOOLEY

Our speaker tonight is an SCDC Hall of Famer and completed his final season as head baseball coach at Quinnipiac University in 2014.



Dan Gooley was hired as Quinnipiac's 10th head baseball coach on June 7, 2001. Gooley, who coached the Bobcats from 1977-1987 and is its all-time leader in coaching victories, replaced Joe Mattei, who retired in May 2001 after five seasons.

In 27 years as a head coach at Quinnipiac and the University of Hartford, Gooley accumulated an impressive 507 wins. He coached former major leaguers Turk Wendell (Quinnipiac) and Jeff Bagwell (Hartford).

In his first tenure as head coach at Quinnipiac, Gooley led the Bobcats to a 203-122-5 record in 11 seasons, including five 20-win campaigns, three NCAA Division II regional appearances (1979, 1983, and 1984) and the school's lone College World Series appearance (1983). In a three-year span from 1982-84, Gooley's team totaled a 72-25-1 mark (.740).

Gooley then moved to the University of Hartford and served five seasons as the head coach of the Hawks' Division I program. From 1988-1992, Gooley compiled a 101-90-1 (.529) record and led the Hawks to two appearances in the ECAC Division I Championships.

In 1988, Gooley was named the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Coaches Association's Coach of the Year after leading the Hawks to a outstanding 29-12 record and a runner-up finish in the ECAC Championships.

For three years before his return to coach the Bobcats, Gooley served as Quinnipiac's director of athletic development, spearheading corporate and alumni support for the University's three-year Division I athletic program. Prior to his arrival at Quinnipiac, Gooley spent six years as the director of team services/major league baseball for the Starter Corporation in New Haven.

A member of the Quinnipiac Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame, Gooley had a storied playing career for the Bobcats. The school's career strikeout leader (316), Gooley ranks second with 20 victories and a 2.47 earned run average. After graduation, Gooley served six seasons as an assistant baseball coach at Quinnipiac.

In 2004, he guided the Bobcats to a 23-21 overall record, 16-7 in Northeast Conference play. Quinnipiac finished second in the league during the regular season and advanced to the NEC Playoffs. He was named the Northeast Conference Coach of the Year and the Connecticut Baseball College Coach of the Year.

In 2005, the Bobcats finished 26-24 and captured their first-ever NEC regular season and tournament championships. Gooley's Quinnipiac squad improved in each season since his return. The 26 wins matches a high for wins in a single season at Quinnipiac. The 1988 club went to a Division II regional after posting a 26-8-1 record. In addition, the 2005 squad advanced to their first-ever Division I NCAA Regional at the University of Texas. 2007 was a banner year for the Quinnipiac baseball team. The Bobcats took the Northeast Conference Championship and were seeded No. 1 in the NEC Championship Tournament. The Bobcats also tied the 1988 team for the most wins in a season while also setting the Division I mark at Quinnipiac.

Gooley's 2008 team featured four players who would go on to play professionally in Pat Egan, Tim Binkoski, Randy Gress and Wilson Matos.

Gooley, who holds a B.S. in marketing from Quinnipiac and a master's degree in sociology from Southern Connecticut State University, resides in Hamden with his wife Susan and daughter Bree.

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 selected 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 Board of 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 is the community outreach coordinator for the Yale athletics department. He is a co-founder of the SCDC and was placed in its Hall of Fame in 1990. He resides in Hamden.

AWARD WINNERS

AMITY REGIONAL HS

COACH: SAL COPPOLA A.D.: ERNIE GOODWIN

ATHLETE: LOGAN CORRIS POS: C

Varsity member for two seasons....Said Coach Coppola,"*We do not have a player in the program as selfless as Logan. Logan sat most of his junior year because he played behind Connecticut's Gatorade Player of the Year, Pat Winkel. This year he suffered an arm injury which has placed him in a limited pinch hitting role on our team during games. However, the effort he continues to give in practice is priceless for our team. He spends hours each week helping to develop our pitchers in the bull-pen even if it means having a player throw the ball back to the pitcher for him.*" Coppola added,"*He also proved to be a leader during the pre-season in the weight room from October until the start of our season. Logan wouldn't miss a day setting an example for our younger players. He encompasses everything this award is about.*"

ANSONIA HS

COACH: PATRICK LYNCH A.D.: TOM BROCKETT

ATHLETE: JOHN PICHECO POS: OF/2B/3B

Captain for baseball and football...Volunteer Council...Student Ambassador... 2018 Baseball Spirit Award

BRANFORD HS

COACH: STEPHEN MALAFRONTI A.D.: JAKE PALLUZZI

ATHLETE: ANTHONY BURZYNSKI POS: IN

Coach Malafronte commented, "*Anthony has shown throughout his 4 years of high school baseball that he will always put what is best for the team before what may be best for himself. Anthony is respected by all his teammates and was elected to be a captain his senior year. He has proven to be a dedicated leader both on and off the field. As a junior Anthony had an injury to his shoulder and took on whatever role the team needed whether it was to DH or to step in from time to time in the infield for the varsity baseball team. As a senior he was moved around in the infield playing mostly second base but did spend some time at short stop as well. Anthony has never questioned any of these decisions stating that if this is what is best for the team then this is the role I need to take on. Every time a move has been made Anthony has answered the call and played with energy and determination always looking to do the best he can. Anthony's determination and will have helped to pick up many players who have been down throughout the year. While he may not be the most vocal leader his lead by example philosophy continues to rub off on his teammates who have developed a sincere admiration for him. Anthony's work ethic in the classroom and on the ball field make him excellent choice for this award. Anthony truly goes above and beyond on a daily basis.*"... will be attending UConn next year.

AWARD WINNERS

CANTERBURY SCHOOL

COACH: TODD MATHEWSON

A.D.: D WILSON

ATHLETE: GREG MCKENNA

POS: OF

Said Coach Mathewson, *“Greg epitomizes the term “There is No I In Team”. He is a selfless individual who cares more about the team than himself. After starting most of the year, Greg didn’t start one game and was up on the fence supporting his teammates the entire game. He is an unbelievable young man, who will be successful in life”... Valedictorian at Canterbury.. Greg will be attending Notre Dame next year.*

CHESHIRE HS

COACH: MICHAEL LUSSIER A.D.: STEVE TRIFONE

ATHLETE: PATRICK MURPHY POS: P

Three-year member...Coach Lussier explained, *“Patrick was selected for this outstanding award because of his selfless dedication and commitment to the baseball program. His determination and perseverance has allowed him to achieve his academic and athletic goals.”...will continue his education at URI.*

DERBY HS

COACH: STEVE BAINER

A.D.: M. BRADSHAW

ATHLETE: ALEX HICKEY

POS: P/OF

Four-year varsity player...captain... Coach Bainer said, *“Alex has grown into a great leader, helping his teammates however he possibly can, from making sure all the players can get to school and practice, to being the first one to provide a positive message to his teammates at practice or during games. He continued, “Alex has become one of the most reliable players in the program, and consistently puts the team before himself, which epitomizes the recognition this honor carries.”*

EAST HAVEN HS

COACH: BUTCH JOHNSON

A.D.: ANTHONY VERDERAME

ATHLETE: GIRO ESPOSITO

POS: 2B

Coach Johnson said, *“Giro is an outstanding young man that always puts the team first. He is the first to arrive and the last to leave. He does whatever is needed to put our team in a position to win. Giro has never missed a workout, game or practice in his four years.”*

AWARD WINNERS

FAIRFIELD PREP

COACH: RUDOPH MAURITZ IV

A.D.: TOM CURRAN

ATHLETE: ANDREW CHAGLASIAN

POS: P

2019 marked Andrew's first season on the Varsity team at Fairfield Prep. According to Coach Mauritz, "Andrew has been in our program for three years, this is the first year I have really gotten to know him. Andrew has worked as a relief pitcher for us and has demonstrated an ability to get us out of some tough spots. Andrew is a tough competitor, but is also the consummate teammate. I found this out two weeks ago when Andrew was unable to get us out of a tough spot. I made the trip to the mound, Andrew was upset, I asked him what he was thinking, he responding by saying that he was upset that he was "unable to help the team." It became clear to me in that moment that Andrew would be our "No 1 in Team" representative."

FORAN HS

COACH:

GARRETT WALKER A.D.: ANTHONY VITELLI

ATHLETE: JACK GREENSPAN POS: P

Four year member of the baseball program.... has worked his way into being an impact pitcher on the Varsity staff the last two seasons... Jack is an outstanding young man. Coach Walker said, "He works tirelessly on his craft and always put his team's success ahead of his own. Whatever Jack could do to help his program was always a priority for him. He has been a pleasure to coach and will be missed."

GUILFORD HS

COACH:

BRIAN HAYDEN

A.D.: JAKE JARVIS

ATHLETE: JACK STRAND

POS: P/OF

4 year varsity starter... current Captain... Jack has an outstanding career at Guilford which includes 10 wins on the mound and career batting average over .300. Coach Hayden remarked, "Jack was nominated for this award because he defines what it is to be a true team first guy. Jack was slated to be our starting right fielder his junior year but was unable to play because he tore his right labrum during football season. Jack never let the injury affect his enthusiasm for his teammates. He was a true leader in the dugout and was a major contributor on the mound helping Guilford reach the State Semi-Finals. Jack is a true leader and has a bright future ahead of him."... will attend the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.... Recipient of a National ROTC scholarship through the U.S. Navy. Upon graduation from college, Jack will be commissioned as an Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

AWARD WINNERS

HAMDEN HALL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

COACH: JOHN SLUSARZ A.D.: DAVID DOYLE

ATHLETE: JAIME WALKER POS:

Coach Slusarz said, *"He has embodied this award during his time at Hamden Hall. He shows up to practice every day with positive energy and a team first attitude. The coaching staff has come to rely on Jamie to do anything the team needs to improve. While he helps the team on the field he has also mentored the underclass players. No one is more deserving of this award than Jamie Walker."* ... heading to UConn in the fall.

HAMDEN HS

COACH: CHRIS BORELLI A.D.: TOM DYER

ATHLETE: JULIAN VIVENZIO POS: OF

Four year member of the Hamden High School baseball team who epitomizes every positive characteristic of a team player. Coach Borelli explained, *"There isn't a single thing Julian wouldn't do for our program. That selfless, team first approach is the gift and legacy he will leave our program. Julian also excels in the classroom as a member of the National Honor Society and he will continue his education this fall at the University of Connecticut."*

DANIEL HAND HS

COACH: TRAVIS LAPOINTE A.D.: CRAIG SEMPLE

ATHLETE: JAKE SALUTARI POS: P

Said Coach LaPointe, *"Jake has given him selflessly to the team and goes above and beyond for his teammates every day at our practices and at our games."*

HILL REGIONAL CAREER HS

COACH: CHIP PORTO Ath. Facil.: ERIK PATCHKOFISKY

ATHLETE: XAVIER BURGOS POS: SS

Said Coach Porto, *"Xavier Burgos was a pleasure to coach this year holding down the short stop position. Xavier plays stellar defense and his batting average of .450 is in a very tough SCC Division. Xavier is always the first one on the field at practice and the last one to leave. His dedication and commitment are beyond expectations. His academic record proves that he not only excels on the field but off as well."*

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HILLHOUSE

COACH: RJ VOELKER

Ath. Facil.: ERIC PATCHKOFSKY

ATHLETE: HOWARD JONES

POS: OF

Coach Voelker said, *"Howard is a 4-year player from Hillhouse High School who is a kid at the ball park. He always has a smile on his face and is ready to play everyday. He enjoys the game of baseball and enjoys being around his teammates. He is an absolute teammate and tremendous competitor."*

HOPKINS SCHOOL

COACH: ROCCO DEMAIIO

A.D.: ROCCO DEMAIIO

ATHLETE: JORDAN SHAND

POS: OF/2B

Two sport athlete who started on the baseball and football teams.... Coach DeMaio commented, *"He is the epitome of the word teammate. His positive attitude and charisma are infectious. He was awarded the Jordan Sebastian award at Hopkins for his selfless and relentless style. He hit home runs in both rivalry league games against Brunswick this season."...* Will attend and play at Haverford next year.

JONATHAN LAW HS

COACH: GREG SIMLER

A.D.: VJ SARULLO

ATHLETE: VINNY SCHULTE

POS: C

Three year starter...leads by example and is a great teammate. Said Coach Simler, *"He always puts the team first. Vinny shows tremendous respect for his coaches, teammates, opponents, fans and officials. He is a great example that there is no I in team."*

MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL

COACH: MIKE GRANT

A.D.: KEVIN RAYEL

ATHLETE: AJ FRITZ

POS:CF

Four year starter...captain...Said Coach Grant, *"AJ is always first to practice and last to leave, making sure all equipment is put away and secured. AJ is our best player this year, playing center field leading off for us and bringing a 410 batting average to the plate. He always plays games hard and shows great sportsmanship in victory and defeat."*

AWARD WINNERS

NORTH BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

COACH: BILLY MITCHELL A.D.: LORI CONNOLLY

ATHLETE: **NICK MANCINI** POS: OF

Nick truly epitomizes the "No I in Team" award. Said Coach Mitchell, *"After sustaining an injury after four games, he missed the next eight games in which he worked extremely hard to get back into the lineup, which he did. During this time he never missed a practice and always encouraged and helped his teammates improve. His hard work paid off as he was named first team All-Shoreline Conference. Nick was a three sport captain at North Branford and is one of the best athletes that I have ever coached at the school."* Coach added, *"Nick is a gentleman on and off the field and shows tremendous respect to anyone who crosses his path. I am truly confident that he will be a success in whatever he chooses to do in life. It has truly been an honor and privilege to have coached Nick the past four years."*

NORTH HAVEN HS

COACH: BOB DeMAYO A.D.: STEVEN BLUMENTHAL

ATHLETE: **BEN SBABO** POS: P

... Pitcher for 4 years, the last two as a varsity performer....Cross country...ranked 12th in class...Coach DeMayo said, *"His unselfish commitment to the team concept has made him a very popular teammate. Ben's outstanding work ethic, outlook and supportive attitude has certainly been a positive influence on all the younger players. He is ready and willing to do anything to help the team. Ben has been a joy to coach and always leads by example."*...will attend

Northeastern in the fall to study mechanical engineering.

NOTRE DAME HS

COACH: DON MARTONE A.D.: J. SHEA

ATHLETE: **AUSTIN ORMROD** POS: IF

Said Coach Martone, *"Austin defines this award. Austin gives unselfishly everyday in practice and is a positive role model in the dugout while seeing limited playing time. Teams win and stay together because of the selfless "team first" climate Austin creates every day in our program."*

AWARD WINNERS

PLATT HS

COACH: TIM REDICAN A.D.: RICH KATZ

ATHLETE: PEYTON THIEL POS: 2B

Four year member of the Panthers... two year letter winner. Coach Redican said, *"His positive attitude radiates throughout the field and into the classroom. Peyton works hard in practice daily and there isn't a practice when he doesn't end up full of dirt or sweat. He is full of energy and school spirit. Peyton is a great teammate who is able to positively interact with everyone on the Panther roster at all levels of play. In the classroom he garners a 3.5 grade point average and spends time as a school representative to the Board of Education in Meriden."*... For his performance this year he earned All-Record Journal team honors... Peyton will attend the University of Rhode Island.

PLATT TECH

COACH: GEORGE BAGLINI A.D.: SUSAN MURPHY

ATHLETE: JAGGER ART POS: RF

According to Coach Baglini, *"Jagger did not make the team his freshman year but returned the following year determined to make the team. Not only did he make the team, he leads by example and gives everything he does his best effort. He's always positive and is the first to do whatever needs to be done on and off the field. He is a great example of what a great teammate is and does."*

SHEEHAN HS

COACH: MATT ALTIERI A.D.: CHRIS DAILEY

ATHLETE: EVAN WILKINSON POS: OF

Coach Altieri said, *"Evan is the consummate player. He is hard-working and loyal to his teammates. He is a very mature young man who is well respected by his teachers, peers and the*

AWARD WINNERS AWARD WINNERS

entire Sheehan community”....will attend Post University.

SHELTON HS

COACH: SCOTT GURA A.D.: JOHN NISKI

ATHLETE: HUDSON MEYER POS: OF/IF

“Hudson was the prototypical utility player. Hudson played many positions this year for us. He was a consummate team player that accepted any role given to him. He was a perfect example of hard work that paid off. He continued to set goals all year and achieved those by becoming a solid number 2 hitter in our lineup,” said Coach Gura.

SOUTHINGTON HS

COACH: CHARLIE LEMBO A.D.:G. FERRY

ATHLETE: BRENDAN KAVANAGH POS: P/IB

Captain....Coach Lembo said, *“It is my pleasure to recommend Brendan Kavanagh to be a recipient of the Whitey Piurek “There’s No I In Team Award”. Brendan had a disappointing start to his Senior season when an injury sidelined him for a few weeks. When he was not able to participate on the field his positive attitude and true character was on full display as he demonstrated a willingness to support his team and teammates during the peaks and valleys of the high school season.”* Coach added, *“Brendan’s leadership contributions were instrumental in the successes that our team was able to enjoy. I truly believe that Brendan epitomizes the spirit of the “There’s No I In Team Award” and The Blue knights Baseball family will miss him when he graduates.”* ... will continue his academic career at UConn this Fall

WESTBROOK HS

COACH: DEREK HANSSEN A.D.: TEG COSGRIFF

ATHLETE: TAVISH ERNST POS: SS

Four year player...Said Coach Hanssen, *“Tavish embodies the ideals of The Whitey Piurek Memorial “There is no I in Team” Award. In the last two seasons Tavish has put the team’s interests before his own in many ways. When faced with adversity Tavish has always held his head high done anything he could do to help his team be successful. In this, his senior season, Tavish suffered a leg injury which has cost him a significant amount of time. Nevertheless he has continued to help his teammates through his support and advice and show the true spirit of a team player. It is because of his positive attitude, team first mentality, and overall work ethic that Tavish*

AWARD WINNERS

truly deserves to be honored with the "There is no I in Team" Award."

WEST HAVEN HS

COACH: RON LUNEAU

A.D.: JON CAPONE

ATHLETE: DEREK BAKER

POS: OF

Coach Luneau said, *"Derek was one of the greatest team players that I've ever been around in 30 years of coaching both baseball and football. He always had the West Haven baseball program as his first priority and his teammates and coaches were very important to him. I am honored to have coached a player of Derek's integrity and honor. Derek is a member of our school's National Honor Society and is also ranked in our high school's top 10 with a 4.3 grade pt. average" ... will be attending Fairfield Univ. next fall.*

WILBUR CROSS HS

COACH: ANGEL RAMOS

ATHLETIC FAC: ERIK PATCHKOFISKY

ATHLETE: ANDREW MARRERO POS: P

6 wins, 2 losses and 1.95 era with 68 strikeouts

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

COACH: NICK CERRETA

A.D.: TONY JASKOT

ATHLETE: JOHN LASKO

POS: OF

Coach Cerreta comments, *"John 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 John when it comes to sports. John is the perfect example of a team player. It is never once about him and he always puts others first. The humility John displays is so rare these days among his generation. John has a love for the game that I admire, and plays with passion every single pitch. Whenever our team needed a spark this year John gave it to us." Coach continued, "When he gets into a game the momentum always switches our way because of the heart he brings to the field. John is a coach's dream because he is loyal, hard-working, energetic, kind-hearted, responsible, trustworthy, intelligent, humorous, and genuine. John 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 4 years. John is truly the type of player that comes around once in a lifetime. If I had a team full of John's I would rarely lose a game. He is the heartbeat of the Xavier baseball program."*

**COACH OF THE YEAR -
MIKE LUSSIER, CHESHIRE H.S.**

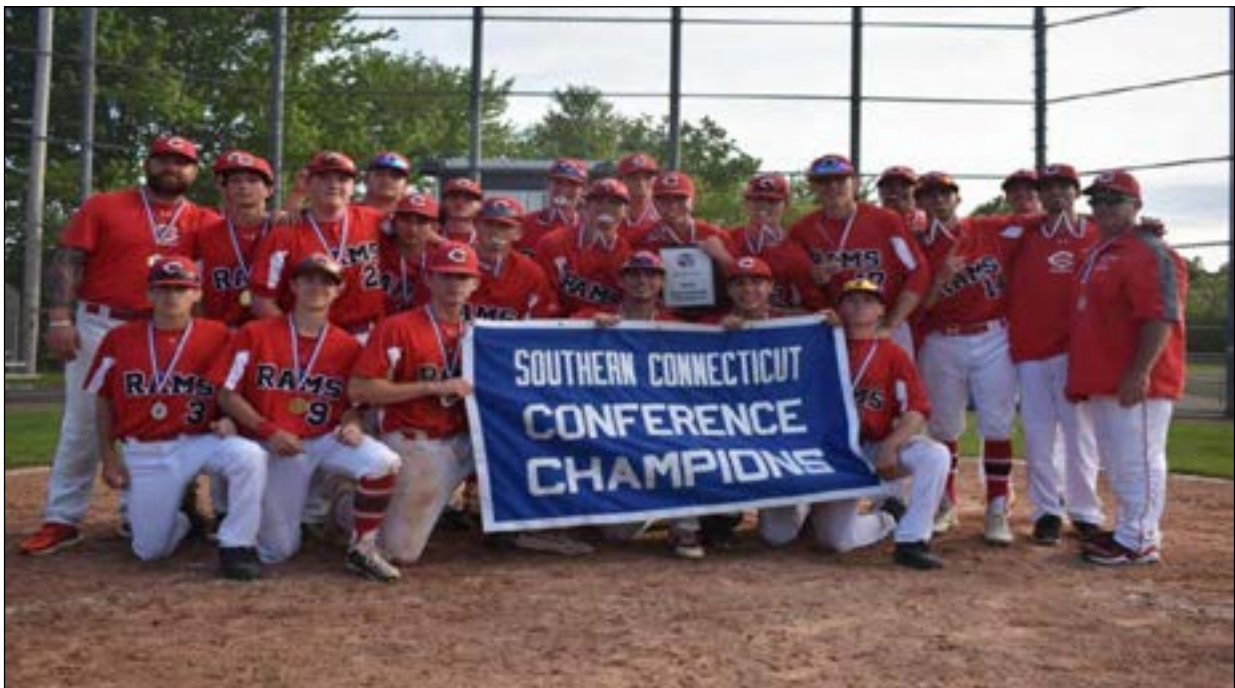


Michael Lussier has been on the coaching staff at Cheshire High School for 21 years. He was part of the 2011 SCC Tournament champion team, and also coached the 2019 SCC Tournament champs. In 2018, the team was ranked number one in the state. He was also named the 2019 SCC Coach of the Year in addition to the 2019 SCDC's Coach of the Year.

Lussier played baseball at Western New England College and earned a BSBA degree in management. He went on to earn an MBA and MAT degrees from Quinnipiac University before acquiring a 6th year in instructional studies in science from Southern CT State University as well as an administration degree.

Lussier has served as a baseball camp coach and counselor for more than 25 years and currently teaches mathematics at North Haven Middle School.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR -
CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL**



Last year the Cheshire High School baseball team won the Class LL State Title. This year their plan was to repeat with the returning starters from the previous year and some new comers to the varsity squad. The Cheshire High School Baseball team finished the regular season with a record of 19-1. They lost a tough first game of the 2019 season to Amity 1-0 in a pitchers dual. The team went on to record 19 straight victories.

Since that time, the team has won 3 additional games that took place in the SCC tournament. In the championship game against Amity, the team claimed the championship by scoring 3 runs in the bottom of the seventh for a 4-3 victory and their 22nd win in a row. The Rams are currently trying to repeat a State Championship.

**PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS
"NO I IN TEAM" AWARD**

2005

Amity - Pat McKenna
 Branford - Edward Bethke
 Cheshire - Bobak "Bob" Emamian
 Choate - Brian Marcus
 Cross - Rich Rivera
 Hand - Nick Brettingen
 Derby - Michael Smith
 East Haven - Ryan DaCorte
 Foran - Mike Dooling
 Guilford - Stuart Campbell
 Hamden Hall - Jon Swirsky
 Hamden - Kevin Stanford
 Hill Career - Luis Gaston
 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 RTVS - Chris Smith
 Platt - Nick Culver
 Platt RTVS - Pat Dixon
 Sheehan - B.J. Senna
 Shelton - Brian Marsegua
 West Haven - Steve Alves
 Westbrook - Chris Lombardozi

2006

Amity Regional - Brian Paturas
 Branford - Doug Papuga
 Cheshire - Matt Cesca
 Choate - Michael Cecchi & Timothy Brettinger
 Derby - Jason Devonshuk
 East Haven - Casey Tyler
 Foran - Corey Lydixsen
 Guilford - Anthony Callegari
 Hamden Hall - Sam Eldrich
 Hamden High - Justin Chabot
 Hand - Travis Gulick
 Hill Career Regional - Tom Hauburger
 Hopkins - Chris Santopolo
 Hyde - T.Q. Gray & Jesse Camacho
 Hillhouse - Danny Burke
 J. 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 RVTS - Mike Bereza
 Sheehan - John Gumkowski
 Shelton - Mark Garamella
 Westbrook - Justin Lawrie
 West Haven - Steve Carden
 Wilbur Cross - Rob Tammaro

2007

Amity Regional - Kyle Birdsall
 Branford - Brian Maturo
 Cheshire - Thomas Sirois
 Choate - Mark Beaudoin, Jr.
 Derby - Mlichael Matosian
 East Haven - Joe Lucibello
 Eli Whitney RVTS - Luis Garayua
 Fairfield Prep - Kevin Collins
 Foran - Cody Quinn
 Guilford - Nick Hahn
 Hamden Hall - Jackson Arpine
 Hamden High - Richard DeMatties
 Hand - Kevin Korwek
 Hill Career Regional - Austin Edwards
 Hillhouse - Brandyn Wright
 Hopkins - Sam Schrieber
 Hyde - Tiquentes Gray
 J. Law - Chris Kochiss
 Lyman Hall - Paul Thurston
 Lyme-Old Lyme - Eddie Freeman
 Morgan - Adam Taylor
 North Branford - Greg Remyey
 North Haven - Jeff Gaudioso
 Notre Dame - Michael Biondi
 O'Brien RVTS - Peter Jankauskas
 Platt - Jim Wielgosz
 Platt RVTS - Tom Green
 Sheehan - Mike Dean
 Shelton - Tom Lindberg
 Westbrook - Matt Trasacco
 West Haven - John Wezenski
 Wilbur Cross - James Shapiro
 Xavier - Will Hendel

2008

Amity Regional- Steve Siena
 Branford - John Ahern II
 Hill Career Regional - Otis Brown
 Cheshire- Dan Feldshon
 Choate - Ben Pascale
 Derby - Tim Geer
 East Haven - Stephen Pelliccia
 Eli Whitney RVTS - Tylor Wetmore
 Fairfield Prep - Peter Eason
 Foran - Ben Besket
 Guilford - Mike Pavelko
 Hamden Hall -Alessandro Gasparro
 Hamden - MJ Lombardozi
 Hand- Chris DiMarco
 Hillhouse -Danny Burke
 Hopkins - Keith Bolles
 Hyde - Bobby Coleman
 J. 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 RVTS - John Gromotskie

**PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS
"NO I IN TEAM" AWARD**

Old Saybrook - Frank Eucalitto
 Platt - Raymond Thayer
 Platt RVTS - Nick Dudek
 Sheehan - Ben DiTota
 Shelton - Marek McCormack
 Westbrook - Ryan Riggio
 West Haven - Mike Carden
 Wilbur Cross -Elvin Rodriguez

2009

Amity Regional - Ryan Adams
 Branford - Justin Giddings
 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
 Hill Career Regional - Aaron Perry
 Hillhouse - Leon Davis Jr.
 Hopkins - Thomas Driscoll
 Hyde - Jordan Green
 J. Law - Mike Nelson
 Lyman Hall - Lloyd Jacques
 Lyme-Old Lyme - Mike Smith
 Morgan - Mitch DeMazza
 North Branford - Jeff Rivellini
 North Haven - Frank J. Barbiero
 Notre Dame - Eric Romano
 O'Brien RVTS - Gary Britto
 Old Saybrook - Jon Palmer
 Platt - Patrick Bruenn
 Platt RVTS - 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
 Cheshire -Mike Severino
 Choate -Kyle McDonough
 Cross - Edinson Rodriguez
 Derby - Ryan Skelly
 East Haven - Paul Spadacenta
 Eli Whitney RVTS - Brian Aquino
 Fairfield Prep - Andrew Fitzsimmons
 Foran - Dan Geier
 Greens Farms Academy - Gerard Connelly
 Guilford - Craig Schlitter
 Hamden Hall -Jordan Kubilus
 Hamden -Will Hindinger
 Hand - Jeff Buck
 Hillhouse - Reno Dunkley

Hill Regional Career - Sheldon Poole
 Hopkins - Ryan D'Souza
 Hyde - Noelio Espinal
 J. 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 RVTS - Shane Sweeney
 Old Saybrook - Ken Henry
 Platt - Jake Wolf
 Sheehan - Reid Nelson
 Shelton - Eric Christnsen
 Westbrook - Dane Pallotto
 West Haven - John Ascenzia
 Xavier - Brandon Sullivan

2011

Amity Regional – Anthony Faggiana
 Ansonia - Alex Chosczyk
 Branford – Joe Massey
 Cheshire – Greg Leonetti
 Derby – Adam Greenhill
 East Haven – Adam Poulin
 Fairfield Prep – Alex Heiman
 Foran – Steven Polito
 Greens Farms Academy - Spencer Traver
 Guilford – Austin Bramann
 Hamden Hall – Marco Gasparro
 Hamden High – Don Pfeiffer
 Hand – Brian Heflin
 Hill Career Regional – Juliano Nieves
 Hillhouse – Lazaro Barrios
 Hopkins – Matt Luciani
 Hyde – Will Nieves
 J. 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 RVTS – Nick Ascencao
 Old Saybrook – Joe Ferrantelli
 Platt – Daniel Mroczka
 Platt RVTS – Peter Brauer
 Sheehan – Mark Brennan
 Shelton – Dan McCue
 Westbrook – Cody Forrest
 West Haven – Jeff Hill
 Wilbur Cross – Neftali Arroyo
 Xavier – Steven Lockman

2012

Amity Regional – Rob Rosner
 Ansonia - Vincent Bonaparte
 Branford – Travis Krause
 Cheshire – Jordan Kubilis
 Derby – Brian Dobek

**PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS
"NO I IN TEAM" AWARD**

East Haven – Joe Gioia
 Fairfield Prep – Matt Beck
 Foran – Ryan Manning
 Greens Farms Academy - Brandon Velez
 Hamden Hall – Nick Strada
 Hamden High – Erin Moskal
 Hand – Matt Girardi
 Hill Career Regional – Adam Olszyk
 Hopkins – Darren O'Brien
 Hyde/Hillhouse - Kahlil Morant
 J. Law – Michael Spadaro
 Lyman Hall – Matt Moran
 Morgan – Robbie Lee
 North Branford – Matt Scavo
 North Haven – Jake Scafariello
 Notre Dame – Jacob DeRosa
 O'Brien RVTS – 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

2013

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

2014

Amity Regional – Mike Tavalacci
 Ansonia - Darwin Elias
 Branford – BJ Massey
 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 High – Tyler Mitchell
 Hand – Andrew Card
 Hill Career Regional – Kamil Wielechowski
 Hopkins – Jim Martino
 Hyde/Hillhouse – Calvin Riley Jr.
 J.Law – Rich Dow
 Lyman Hall – Ben Miller
 North Branford – Evan Pollick
 North Haven -Patrick Mikos
 Notre Dame – Arden Burton
 O'Brien RVTS – 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 Regional – Jake Smith
 Ansonia - Larry Cafaro
 Branford – Dom Acquarulo
 Canterbury School – Richie Barrella
 Cheshire – Connor Gunnesom
 Derby – Michael Koval
 East Haven – Anthony Pepe
 Eli Whitney - Devaunie Dacres
 Fairfield Prep – John Carroll
 Foran – Joe Radecki
 Guilford – Tyler Donlon
 Hamden Hall – William Rhone
 Hamden High – Marc Masciantonio
 Hand – Matt LoStocco
 Hill Career Regional – Alex Bunnell
 Hopkins – Johanan Knight
 Hyde/Hillhouse – Terence Cooper
 J. 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 Regional – Matt Tomei
 Ansonia - Michael Rhodes
 Branford – Bryce Baker
 Canterbury School – Jrstin Proteau
 Cheshire – Troy Rtchmond
 Derby – Jake Finnucan
 East Haven – Matt Coyle
 Eli Whitney – Michael DeMatteo
 Fairfield Prep – Jack Oricoli
 Foran – Michael Howell
 Guilford – Connor Peters
 Hamden Hall – Luke Wilcox
 Hamden High – Brendan Berube
 Hand – Pat Nelson
 Hill Career Regional – Tyler Osborne
 Hopkins – Billy McGrath
 Hyde/Hillhouse – Jon Williamson
 J. 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 Gawlak
 Shelton – Craig McNamara
 Westbrook – Chris Benzi
 West Haven – Kalan Morgillo
 Wilbur Cross – Reynaldo Duprey
 Xavier – Dennis Beaudry

2017

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

2018

Amity Regional – TED CRISCUOLO
 Ansonia - JAMES BROWN
 Branford – ROBERT BARBASH
 Canterbury School – JORDAN PEREZ
 Cheshire – MICHAEL PEPE
 Derby – MATTHEW OLIWA
 East Haven – SALVATORE BUFFONE
 Fairfield Prep – DAN FALLACARO
 Foran – MATTHEW KENNEDY
 Guilford – MATT DONLAN
 Hamden Hall – JOSEPH LIUCCI
 Hamden High – ROBERT LYON
 Hand – CHRIS HARTMANN
 Hill Career Regional – ISAIHA BAEZ
 Hopkins – LIAM DAY
 Creed/Hillhouse – DAN CASTILLO
 J. 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

**THE SAMUEL A. BURRELL, JR.
COACH OF THE YEAR**

2007 - Pete Civitello, Guilford H.S.
2008 -Ed Marocco, Shelton H.S.
2009 - Mike Anquillare, West Haven
H.S.
2010 - Steve DiCrosta, Hyde Leader-
ship
2011 - Billy Mitchell, North Branford
2012 - Scott Gura, Shelton
2013- Rich Magner, Xavier
2014- Greg Simler, Jonathan Law
2015 - Chris Borelli, Hamden High
2016 - Jeff Farrell, Wilbur Cross High
School
2017 - Brian Hayden, Guilford H.S.
2018 - Travis LaPointe, Hand H.S.

**THE GEORGE KLIVAK
TEAM OF THE YEAR**

2007
Amity - SCC
Lyme-Old Lyme - Shoreline
Hopkins - Independent
2008 - Guilford HS.
2009 - Jonathan Law HS
2010 - Amity Regional HS
2011 - Branford HS
2012 - Derby HS
2013 - Xavier HS
2014- Jonathan Law HS
2015 - Fairfield Prep
2016 - Hamden HS
2017 - Amity Regional HS
2018 - Fairfield Prep



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL AWARD WINNERS
from**

**Gert and Sam Burrell
Founder, Diamond Club**

“The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don’t play together, the club won’t be worth a dime.”

-- BABE RUTH, former American Legion Baseball consultant



**CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST OF LUCK**

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CONGRATULATIONS PATRICK!



We are so proud of you!

**LOVE.
MOM, DAD & RYAN**

**CONGRATULATIONS!
to
CHESHIRE H.S
and
COACH LUSSIER
from
SCDC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

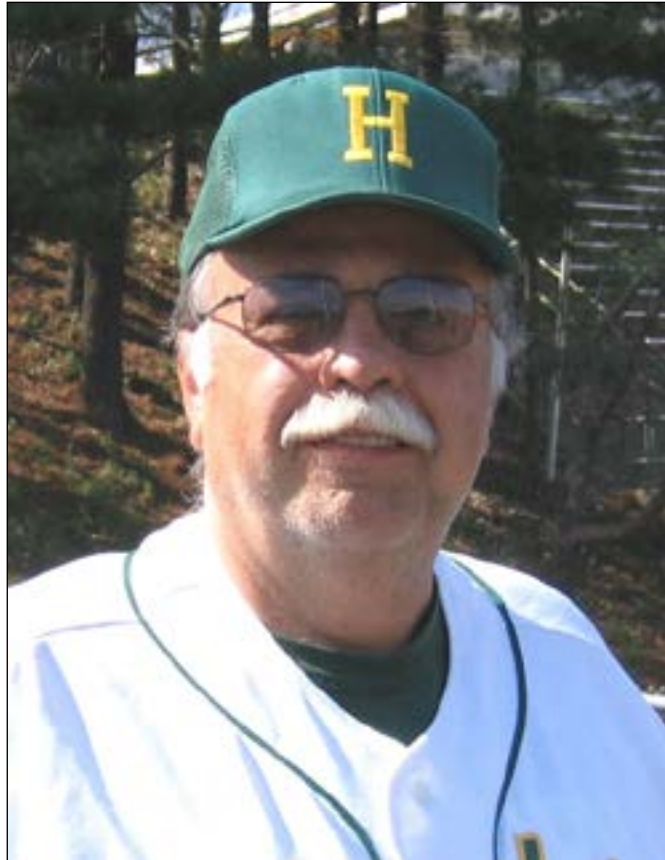


**GET INVOLVED WITH THE
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB**

www.southernctdiamondclub.org

**For photos of tonight's dinner, go to
*www.diamondclubbaseballdinners.shutterfly.com***

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANTHONY F. MENTONE



NOVEMBER 9, 1945 - OCTOBER 20, 2009



- Volunteer baseball coach for Hamden High School
- Assistant district administrator for CT District 4 Little League
- Former treasurer and rules interpreter for CT District 4 Little League
- Member, Greater New Haven Umpires Association since 1963
- Former president, GNHBUA
- Sub-varsity assignor, GNHBUA
- Former umpire-in-chief for Hamden Fathers' Baseball Assoc.
- Member, National Babe Ruth Umpires Association
- Former vice president of Greater New Haven Diamond Club
- Recipient, Andrew Gassira Umpire of the Year Award
- Umpired at the Eastern Regional Little League Tournament in Bristol, CT



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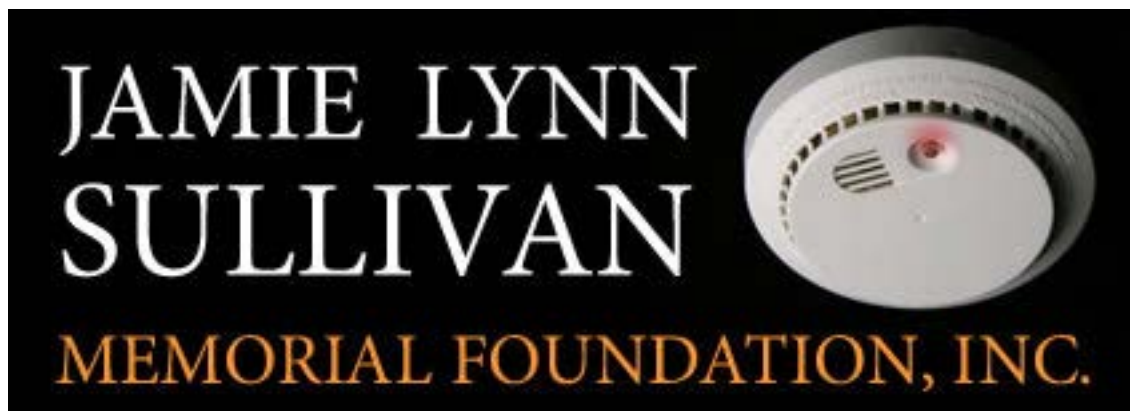
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TO ALL AWARD WINNERS
FROM
TONY NOTARINO**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HONOREES
ESPECIALLY
AHS STUDENT ATHLETE
*John Picheco***



**GO CHARGERS!
ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

2018 NO I IN TEAM BANQUET



Award recipients at 2018 dinner

ECHO*EXMARK*FERRIS*FRADAN*HUSQVARNA*LITTLE-WONDER
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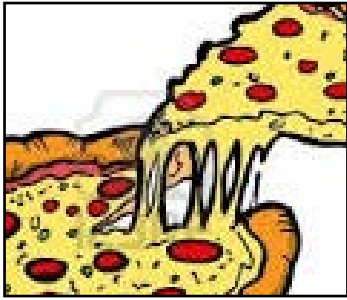
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Joseph R. Cappetta

**The North Haven
Tomahawk Club would
like to congratulate**

BEN SBABO

**for receiving the
"No 'I' in Team" Award**



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CONGRATULATIONS Vinny!
from your friends and family
of LAW BASEBALL

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL HALL OF FAME DINNER

OCTOBER 17, 2019

TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE, GO TO OUR WEBSITE
SOUTHERNCTDIAMOND CLUB.ORG

CONGRATULATIONS JULIAN VIVENZIO!



No I in Team Award



WE'RE PROUD TO CALL YOU A DRAGON!

Best wishes at UCONN!

Hamden Baseball Diamond Club

Congratulations to DEREK BAKER
on receiving the
2019 "NO I IN TEAM" Award

"Always proud to be a Westie"

– The West Haven High School
Dugout Club

Xavier High School

congratulates

John Lasko

Southern Connecticut Diamond Club

Whitey Piurek

"There is no I in Team Award"

2019

The SCDC has been involved in numerous community outreach efforts, including youth skills clinics, sponsorship of events, and award dinners. You can review the links of the Hall of Fame dinner and the High School Awards Night for more information on those events on our website: *southernctdiamondclub.org*

All of our board members are volunteers, and proceeds are donated back to the community.

Here are some of the organizations and initiatives that have been supported:

American Legion Baseball, donations to support local Posts.

Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League Teams

DonorsChoose.org campaigns related to baseball

Hamden Education Foundation - (For a yearly scholarship awarded to a senior baseball player)

Local Athletics Halls of Fame

Local Little Leagues

March of Dimes

New Haven Register Fresh Air Fund

Various Foundations

Various Scholarship Funds

Various local charitable baseball tournaments

West Haven Twilight League

**Congratulations to all of
tonight's recipients and
best wishes for your futures.**

*Thanks for making the game
fun for us, too!*



**The Greater New Haven
Baseball Umpires Association**

Cheshire High Athletic Department



"Home of the Rams"



Congratulates

Cheshire High Baseball Team

2019 Diamond Club

"Team of the Year"

And

Head Coach Mike Lussier

2019 Diamond Club

"Coach of the Year"

