



Athletes of the Week



Erin Saucier

Southington High School indoor track

Class: Senior

Reason: Cleared 10 feet, 1 inch to set a new school record and CCC meet record in the pole vault.

With no major threat in the pole vault, Erin Saucier had a decision to make. Start low and win a conference title or raise the bar and push for a school record. Saucier shrugged her shoulders at her coach. Take it easy and go for the title.

"She didn't really have to worry about what everybody else was doing since there weren't a lot of pole vault entries," said Coach Andy Whyte. "She was more relaxed and focused

on what she had to do."

Saucier cleared her first vault, a nine-foot practice leap, and was posed with another dilemma. What next?

"She had already won the meet, but she had the option of where she wanted them to put the bar," said Whyte. "She told them to put it at 10'1". She hadn't cleared 10" during indoors, so she figured... why not? She was feeling good. Let's move it right up to 10'1'."

It took two tries, but Saucier cleared the pole to

the cheers of the crowd. The vault set a new school record and a new conference meet record. It was the culmination of hard work and talent.

"It's a vault, and it involves moving your body through the air under control," said Whyte. "She has a gymnastics background, and that's something that's definitely going to help you in this event."

For her outstanding athletic accomplishments, Saucier is our highlighted female athlete of the week.



Tim Brown

Southington High School indoor track

Class: Junior

Reason: Scored in 1000m race and as a member of two relays at the CCC championship meet.

Tim Brown grabbed the baton and broke into a sprint. He raced past one opponent on the straightaway, another at the end of the second turn, and nearly caught a third at the finish line.

Brown helped rally the Knights to a third place finish in the 4x800m relay. His final lap heroics helped break a school record in the process. It was the first of many school records set by the Knights at the con-

ference championships.

"That was a great effort," said Blue Knight coach Andy Whyte. "He's really come on a lot for us this year, and he's only a junior. He's improved greatly, so we'll be excited to see where he ends up. He's already close to [Jim] Rosenberger's times from a few years ago, and we know where he ended up. It will be interesting."

Brown, a former soccer player, has become a central figure for the Knights. At the CCC meet,

he was the only Knight to score in three events with a seventh place finish in the 1,000m race and a top eight finish in two relays.

"He's got a little bit of that natural ability, and he's been working hard," said Whyte. "He ran cross country in the fall, so he's got that base. He's a pretty good, natural runner, and the more work he gets the better he's going to be."

For his outstanding athletic accomplishments, Brown is our highlighted male athlete of the week.

TOP FEMALE PERFORMANCES

• Val Mazrek,

SHS girls basketball team:

Scored 18 points with 12 rebounds during a 57-33 win over Rockville on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

• Toni Penta,

SHS gymnastics team:

Led the meet on vault (9.0), bars (9.1), and the all-around competition (34.5) during a win over South Windsor.

TOP MALE PERFORMANCES

• Doug Fontaine,

SHS wrestling team:

Went 3-1 last week to earn his 144th career victory to set a new school record for varsity wrestling wins.

• Kyle Nitz,

SHS boys swimming team:

Won the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, and placed second as part of the 200 freestyle relay in a 91-89 loss to Simsbury.

The week ahead in Southington High School sports...

Unforeseen schedule changes or weather conditions may cause a change in the schedule. You may call (860) 628-3229, ext. 425 to check the status of a contest. For afternoon contests, call after 1:30 p.m. and for evening contests, call after 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Boys Basketball vs. Conard (FR-3:45, JV-5:30, V-7:00). Boys Swimming at Manchester (VIJV-3:45). Girls Basketball at Conard (JV-5:30, V-7:00).

SATURDAY

Ice Hockey vs. Newtown (V-1:00 @ Veteran's Rink, West Hartford). Wrestling at Middletown (V-8:00).

MONDAY

No games scheduled.

TUESDAY

Boys Basketball at Northwest Catholic (FR-3:45, JV-5:30, V-7:00). Girls Basketball vs. Northwest Catholic (JV-5:30, V-7:00).

WEDNESDAY

Wrestling vs. New Britain (VIJV-6:00).

THURSDAY

Indoor Track at Class L championships (V-4:00 @ Hillhouse HS, New Haven). Ski Racing at Mt. Southington (VIJV-4:45).

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