

## Our Athletes

# Track: records

From page 22

esting. Most people are proud of the records and want them to be unbroken, but she thought it would be cool if somebody would break them."

Whyte said that breaking records is a big motivator and helps to grow the program by raising the bar.

"It gives a goal with something to shoot for," said the coach. "It's a real motivator. For people that are into the sport, I think that it gives them something to challenge themselves."

That's why organizers feel that this project is so necessary and timely, but they still need to raise more money to reach their goal. Whyte shies away from

door-to-door fundraisers, but hopes that people will contribute to the project.

"People don't have to contribute hundreds of dollars," he said. "We're hoping that people might read about it and recognize friends or family. Maybe they'll want to contribute a few dollars in their names."

To donate money to the project, Whyte asks people to mail contributions to the high school, in care of the SHS Student Activities fund. Checks should be marked for "Track Record Boards" in the memo section.

Whyte hopes to inspire future athletes to aim high.

"Their names will be up there now," said Whyte. "How long will it be there? Who knows?"

# Giants: win 2009 town title

From page 21

scoreless tie with a game-winning run in their final at bat. Rose said that survival is the key to winning, and his Giants embraced it, going 14-2 in the regular season and winning the league tournament. The momentum carried into the town series where the Giants went 2-1.

"This year, we were just focused on playing every game from start to finish, and it was a very good season for the kids," said Rose. "Sure, winning the tournament's important, but we just took it one game at a time. The kids didn't look at what the next game was going to bring us. When the opportunity was in front of us, we just took advantage of it."

Rose said that the championship was a team victory.

June 18  
**West LL Cardinals 8**  
**North LL Pirates 7**

June 19  
**North LL Pirates 8**  
**South LL Giants 4**

June 20  
**South LL Giants 7**  
**West LL Cardinals 6**

June 21  
**West LL Cardinals 1**  
**North LL Pirates 0**

June 22 (7 Innings)  
**South LL Giants 7**  
**West LL Cardinals 6**

The Giants received contributions throughout the season and postseason from Quint, Tim Angell, Justin Blake, Jack Coyle, Tyler Smith, Jasen Rose, Antonio Martinez, Connor Crean, Kyle MacLean, Tom Birmingham, Brandon Birmingham, and Mitchel Nappi.

"They just had to go out and play," said Rose. "They knew what to do from top to bottom. Whether it was backing each other up or doing

the little things right, they did that detail work that's involved in baseball. They did a tremendous job all season long, and that final game was just a culmination of their hard work all season."

The Pirates went 18-1 in the regular season to set the stage for the North's postseason title. The Cardinals went 14-3 during the regular season to claim the top seed in

“  
The kids wanted to win the game, and they just went out and got it.

”  
Tim Rose,  
Little League coach

the tournament and a Southington West title.

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Goralski, email him at jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com.

# Governor's Cup: Connecticut wins

From page 21

together a good team, and they really put up a fight. I thought it was a really fun game."

Mella said that it was a good experience for the kids, as former rivals come together to play side-by-side. Cheshire quarterback Billy Ragone went 8-for-16 with 128 passing yards and one touchdown. Glastonbury running back Jordan Brown led the Connecticut rushing with 31 yards on nine carries.

"It's tons of fun, and that's what makes it so special," said Mella. "I get to work with kids that I rooted against for a week. Now, I get to root for them and get to call myself their coach for 10 days. It really is cool."

For Gemmill,

Roncaioli, and Duffy, it was an opportunity to finish their high school careers with a victory in their final contest.

"Those guys are just special kids. It was so great to see them succeed and to have them stand out like they did," said Mella. "It just means the world to me that they can have this kind of success on this field and leave their high school career with a positive image and a positive memory. I'm just glad that I could be a part of it."

Connecticut has won seven in a row and leads the annual series, 8-3. Two Blue Knight assistant coaches, Steve Angilletta and Matt Proffitt, joined Mella on the sidelines as Mella became the second Southington High School coach to win a Governor's

Cup contest.

Gemmill said that it was no mistake that he tracked down his coach on the sidelines after his game-changing play.

"He's been one of the biggest people that I look up to in life," he said. "He's helped me through high school and through my

whole, entire football career. He helped me get into college—into a good college. He's going to be one of the main reasons for me being successful."

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