



Athletes of the Week



Anna Gregoire

Southington Lightning U-12 softball

Reason: Went 6-for-17 (.353) with 5 RBI and 6 runs scored to help the Lightning win the championship title at a Rhode Island PONY softball tournament.

Anna Gregoire never flinched. On Sunday, July 25, a softball skipped off the ground and smashed into Gregoire's face, sending a shower of broken glass onto the field. Most players would have called it a day, but not Gregoire. The Lightning player returned the next inning with a swollen eye, a few scratches, and a wobbly pair of glasses held together by tape. "As coaches we try to instill in our athletes to

never give up and fight to the finish," said Lightning coach Ed Beaupre. "If ever a player embodies that philosophy it is Anna." This past weekend, the Southington Lightning U-12 softball team rallied to their second PONY championship this season at a Rhode Island tournament, and Gregoire was a big reason why. She went 6-for-17 (.353) with five RBI and six runs. Not bad for a first-year player. "When she joined us last fall, coming from the

rec league, she struggled to catch up to the faster pitching, managing only two hits in eight games," said Beaupre. "She never got discouraged or gave up, spending all winter working with our coaches on her swing." Now, Gregoire is leading the way with a .442 batting average and a .650 slugging percentage. Hard work pays off. *For her outstanding athletic accomplishments, Gregoire is our highlighted female athlete of the week.*



Stephen Witte

Blue Knight Gameplan Football Camp

Reason: Nominated by coaches at the 2010 Blue Knight gameplan football camp for his outstanding focus, enthusiasm, and improvement.

Stephen Witte tipped the ball twice before pulling it to his chest. He never slowed or missed a step. He grabbed the ball, side-stepped a defender, and ran into the endzone. Coaches said it was a result of hard work and focus. "He was out here competing and working really hard all week," said Blue Knight football coach D. J. Hernandez. "He did really well, and he worked hard in all the drills. You could really tell that he works hard at

home, too, because the drills just seemed natural." Witte was one of dozens of players to test their limits at the Blue Knight Gameplan Football Camp. Under the direction of high school players and coaches, local youth studied the game of football. "They were all great," said Hernandez. "They were really energetic when they got here. They accepted the coaching, and they really, really improved. You could see them get better each and every day."

Hernandez hopes that campers will continue to work on their games like Witte did, competing in youth leagues, camps, and backyard games. "We want them to take the drills and the things they've learned here throughout camp, and bring them home with them," said the coach. "We want them to practice at home and get better." *For his outstanding athletic accomplishments, Witte is our highlighted male athlete of the week.*

TOP FEMALE PERFORMANCES

- **Taylor Lepage, Runner:** Placed second in her class at the Scottish Rite Freemasons 5K race in Newington on July 5 with a time of 25:15.
- **Kathleen Schassler, Triathlete:** Finished the Amica 19.7 Ocean Beach Triathlon in 2:34:11 on July 25 in New London.

TOP MALE PERFORMANCES

- **Alex Roger, Post 72 American Legion baseball team:** Scattered nine strikeouts with just two walks and two hits over nine innings in a 2-1 loss to Danbury.
- **Holland Florian, Runner:** Placed second overall at the Scottish Rite Freemasons 5K race in Newington on July 5 with a time of 18:45.

Legion baseball: early exit from the postseason

From page 19

that's where I normally play. I can throw hard, and that helps me to pitch."

A throwing error in the first inning put Southington in an 0-1 hole, but that was all they'd surrender at the start. Roger scattered nine strikeouts in nine innings on the mound. He allowed just two hits and two walks, and the deficit remained 1-0 until the locals came to bat in the bottom of the eighth.

"What a game. I would pay to watch this game. I really would. Two great pitchers," said Gugliotti. "We had to withstand their knockout punch in the very first inning, and then Alex settled down and pitched a great game. He threw just under 100 pitches, and I

thought he was never better than today."

Meanwhile, the offense struggled to find a chink in Danbury's armor. Kyle Lentini broke up the no-hitter in the fifth inning with a single. Roger reached base in the seventh inning when he was struck by an errant pitch. When Dylan Danko drew a walk with one out in the eighth inning, Southington finally got its chance.

Chris Lee advanced Danko to scoring position with a bunt, and Ben Nichols drove a 2-2 pitch into right field to tie the game, 1-1.

"He came out as a freshman last year, and we saw some good things," Gugliotti said about Nichols. "This year, he wanted to stay with us. He could have elected to

play with the junior legion team, but he wanted to stay with us. I'm glad he did. He made every play at third base, and that must have been the fourth or fifth big hit that he's had for us."

The celebration was short-lived. Danbury manufactured their second run in the ninth inning with a walk and two singles. Southington managed an early runner in their next at bat, but couldn't come around to score. Despite the 2-1 loss, Gugliotti was pleased with his team's performance.

"I'm proud of them," said the coach. "We made it to this round, and this is the first time in three years that we made it this far. I actually had fun coming to the ball park. I knew that they'd

show up when I showed up. We would battle. We'd play hard, and we'd have fun. That's exactly what we did this year."

The loss ended Southington's summer season at 15-13, but Gugliotti is already looking forward to next year. With a solid core of returning players and another year of experience, the coach hopes to build on this seasons' success.

After all, that's the purpose of summer baseball.

"The high school should be very strong next year," Gugliotti said. "They should have a heck of a team."

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

American Legion Baseball

Post 72 (Play-in Round)

Danbury 2, Southington 1

Tuesday, July 20
At Southington

DANBURY					SOUTHINGTON				
Player	ab	r	h	bi	Player	ab	r	h	bi
Deldebbio, lf	4	0	1	0	Govoni, lf	4	0	0	0
Cornelius, cf	4	1	2	0	Roger, p	2	0	0	0
Miller, p	3	0	2	0	Mazzamurro, ss	4	0	0	0
Santiago, 1b	4	0	0	0	Lentini, 2b	4	0	1	0
Berry, 3b	4	0	0	0	Thompson, 1b	3	0	0	0
Mott, rf	3	0	0	0	Burns, rf	3	0	0	0
Meerman, ss	4	1	1	0	Danko, cf	2	1	0	0
Geary, c	3	0	0	0	Lee, c	2	0	0	0
Heiman, 2b	4	0	2	1	Nichols, 3b	3	0	2	1
Totals	33	2	8	1	Totals	27	1	3	1

BB—Miller, Geary, Roger, Danko. HBP—Mott, Roger. SAC—Lee.

Danbury 100 000 001 — 2 8 0
Southington 000 000 010 — 1 3 2

PITCHING LINES

DANBURY	IP	H	ER	BBK	SOUTHINGTON	IP	H	ER	BBK		
Miller, W (5-1)	9.0	3	1	2	8	Roger, L (3-1)	9.0	2	1	2	9

Records—Southington, 15-3. Danbury, 16-2.

Full Plumbing and Carpentry Service
Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling is Our Specialty!
INSTALL, REMODEL & REPAIR
Call the Day, Night & Weekend Plumber
(860) 922-9976
Licensed & Insured
Lic. #282931 & #610298

N.J. ROMANIELLO Plumbing & Heating
Residential Specialists
No Job Too Small
• FAUCETS • TOILETS
• WATER HEATERS
Professional, Quality Workmanship
Senior Discount
860-620-0567
P1-00203341 6190809-05

CRIS IRRIGATION
203-879-2362
Commercial • Residential
INSTALLATION • SERVICE • FREE ESTIMATION
SUMMER SPECIAL
Located in Wolcott
CT Lic# 208911

The Window Man Of Ct
Installation Masters
www.installationmastersusa.com
Connecticut's #1 Certified HARVEY Specialty Dealer
INSULATING
HARVEY WINDOWS & DOORS
ThermaMAX VINYL SIDING
More Than Just Good Looking
"System "R" Thermal Installation Factor
860-747-8875
www.thewindowmanofct.com