



2017 NEWSLETTER

# A MIDEAR REVIEW

The Fairfield County Sports Commission is a 501c (3) non-profit, educational and charitable organization dedicated to developing, implementing and supporting community programs designed to promote and educate our youth on fitness, nutrition and an active, healthy lifestyle as well as personal development through sports. The Commission's Chelsea Cohen Fitness Academy is the primary umbrella vehicle for these programs.



## CHELSEA COHEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



BELLA BEAN



SARAH ST. SURIN

The first winners of the Chelsea Cohen Memorial Scholarship were announced in mid-May as our Scholarship Selection Committee named Isabella Bean of Brien McMahon High and Sarah St. Surin of Norwalk High. The scholarship recognizes female senior scholar athletes from Norwalk's high schools with a \$2,500 financial award to each toward their higher education.

Bean, who will be attending the University of Virginia, is a four-year high honor roll student and was a two-year captain of the lacrosse team and captained the soccer side her senior year. St. Surin, who is headed for UMass Boston, was a four-year starter for the basketball team and captain as a senior. She is also a talented musician.

The scholarship is awarded to the person that best exemplifies the spirit and qualities of the late Chelsea Cohen, a graduate of NHS who passed away in 2006 and whose name is memorialized through our annual Courage Award.

## EVENING WITH TINA CHARLES

Thanks to the New York Liberty, FCSC was able to spend an evening with the team's star player Tina Charles on April 11 at UConn Stamford to help raise funds for the Commission. From the proceeds, a donation will be made to the UConn Stamford student scholarship fund. The former UConn women's standout and two-time Olympic Gold medal winner participated in a pre-event meet and greet with a number of young women from the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford and FCSC sponsors (photos 1 & 3). She then did a Q&A session with the large audience that attended. Tina received a surprise visit during the Q&Z from one of her fellow Husky players Ashley Battle (photo 2, from left, Battle, FCSC Exec. Director Tom Chiappetta, Charles and FCSC board member Terry O'Connor.



1



2



3

# HALL OF FAME PLAQUES HANGING CEREMONY

The ceremony to hang the plaques for our Class of 2016 Hall of Famers took place April 5. **1-** Gary Liberatore, member of the Class of 2008, points to the plaque of fellow New Canaan native the late Wilky Gilmore, who Liberatore represented at the event. **2-** Group shot in front of the Hall of Fame wall includes from left Tom Prichard, who came for his friend the late Manute Bol, Liberatore, 2016 honoree Bill Steinkraus, 2016 inductee Mike Walsh and John Marinelli, whose father Lou was unable to attend. **3-** From left, FCSC Executive Director Tom Chiappetta poses with the Hall of Fame banner along with Liberatore, Steinkraus and Walsh.



## 6 PM CLUB NETWORKING EVENT

FCSC launched its “6 PM Club” quarterly networking series March 30 at Workpoint in Stamford. The event drew a crowd of professional business people, primarily from the sports industry to hear an expert panel speak about what’s trending in that world and what areas of growth are spawning job opportunities. The panel (photo 2) provided lots of answers to those questions, while the attendees enjoyed making some new friends and a food and beverage reception (photo 3) prior to the program. The panel and FCSC marketing committee members (photo 1) posed together after the event. From left FCSC’s Richard Matthews, Octagon Marketing’s Mary Lobbestael, Terry Lefton of the Sports Business Journal, Dave Torromeo of Manhattanville’s Sports Business Management Masters program, FCSC Exec. Director Tom Chiappetta along with board member Scott MacLeod.



## WHAT’S NEW WITH FCSC

Our annual SportsNight awards dinner will have a new home this year as we are moving to the Stamford Marriott. The new venue for the 13th annual event will give us a fresh look and we are looking forward to working with the Marriott on Monday, Oct. 16 at 6 pm. We want to thank the Hyatt Regency Greenwich for the many years it hosted SportsNight.

FCSC will be starting its own weekly radio show on AM1400 WSTC broadcasting out of Stamford. The one-hour show is titled “Fairfield County Sports Central” and will air Saturdays from 1-2 pm through the start of August. The program will allow FCSC to keep the entire county regularly informed on all that’s going in the sports community as well as all the Commission is doing to support the area’s youth and sports world. The show debuts Saturday, May 20 and you can directly connect to listen live through the following link <http://tunein.com/radio/WSTC-1400-s22986/>. TUNE IN AND CHECK IT OUT!

**Marriott**  
STAMFORD HOTEL & SPA

**AM1400**  
**WSTC**  
Fairfield County's Favorite Radio

## FCSC IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2016, FCSC donated a total of \$45,000 to 14 different youth organizations or individuals to support their efforts to grow and sustain health and wellness programs throughout the county. Here's the list of those who received that financial support and are currently utilizing it to make progress toward their goals in 2017.

### BRIDGEPORT

- Cardinal Shehan Center- Fitness For Life program
- McGivney Center- Cooking and healthy food education programs expansion
- Bridgeport Middle Schools- Middle school track and field program
- Bridgeport Field of Dreams Foundation- Summer camp soccer program expansion
- Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse-Donald Wilson



One of our new beneficiaries is the Bridgeport middle school track & field program. Chris Johnson, the city's AD, poses with boys and girls from the Winthrop and Blackham teams, 2 of the 5 schools in the program, while a shot putter from JFK Campus readies for a long toss. Close to 200 children participated in 10 different events.

### NORWALK

- Carver Center- Girls Youth Development program expansion
- Chelsea Cohen Memorial Scholarship- Norwalk and McMahon High female student athletes
- Ponus Middle School-KIDS FANS nutrition program
- World Masters Games Athlete-Mary Roman



FCSC has continued to support Stamford Health's KIDS FAN'S (Fitness & Nutrition Services) program in Stamford. This spring the Commission's financial donation helped the new elementary school curriculum to be taught at 4 schools, including Westover Magnet where KIDS FAN'S Manager Ilaria St. Florian instructs 3rd grade children in photos above & below.

### STAMFORD

- Stamford Hospital KIDS FANS- Four elementary schools
- Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County- KIDS FANS Pre-K program
- Yerwood Center-Fundamentals of Life mentoring program
- Stamford Boys & Girls Club-Healthy Habits program
- Stamford Youth Foundation-Scholarship participation aid



## DANNI KEMP TRIBUTE



Our 2016 Chelsea Cohen Courage Award recipient Danni Kemp passed away on March 10 at age 19 from an inoperable brain tumor. Photo above is from the CT Sportswriters' Alliance's dinner, which honored her with a photo card on this plate and an empty chair at the dais. Our deepest condolences go out to the Kemp family.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

We would like to thank all of those that made donations to support us in the annual Fairfield County Giving Day in March. We were able to raise more than \$4,000.

And a very special thanks goes to the Fairfield County Community Foundation for creating this 24-hour fundraising opportunity for all the non-profits in the county. This was our third year participating and we have raised over \$12,000 from this terrific program.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### JUNE

Look for our next 6 PM Club quarterly networking event - Date/Place TBD  
Announcement of our Class of 2017 Hall of Famers at UConn Stamford  
19th: Lou Ferraro Golf Tourney, Tamarack CC, Greenwich (FCSC is a beneficiary)

#### AUGUST

7th: 27th Annual Tim Teufel Celebrity Golf Tournament - Tamarack CC, Greenwich

#### SEPTEMBER

9th: Our first charity road race - Norwalk (Details to come)

#### OCTOBER

16th: 13th Annual SportsNight, Stamford Marriott, 6:00 PM

For more information contact Tom Chiappetta 203-984-4806

