

# **2021 WINTER SPORTS AWARDS**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Somers High School would like to acknowledge our winter sports teams and athletes in lieu of our annual winter sports awards night. While the winter restrictions for large indoor gatherings limiting any type of award ceremonies, our winter sports student athletes deserve the recognition and acknowledgement for their sports accomplishments over this past season.

This past winter season, we had (79) athletes participating in (4) sports, but unfortunately wrestling was not allowed to participate due to CIAC and state restrictions. Up until March, indoor track athletes could only condition in areas allowed by schools (including outdoor practices). Our boys and girl's basketball team schedules were limited to only regional NCCC opponents during the regular season, while ice hockey played in the CCC in a shortened season. The basketball post-season experience did include a limited playoff format for the entire league, while the CCC provided a similar experience for ice hockey.

Post-season honors were awarded to (5) All Conference athletes. Both of our varsity basketball teams advanced to the NCCC final 8 as the East and West Divisions were allowed to play each other, but both teams lost their first round games before closing their season with home wins in the consolation bracket. Somers High School would also like to recognize our (1) All State athlete Brady Palazzesi for boy's basketball.

Once again, we would like to thank our trainer Kade Redman and school nurse Monica Willemain who were involved daily in keeping our athletes and coaches informed and healthy through all of the many challenges required for playing sports through this past year. With the many challenges involved in hosting winter basketball games with no fans allowed to attend for most all of the season, we want to thank our worker staff Andrew Slater, Tenley Stoltz and Scott Gamble who provided the support needed to help our

visiting teams play in a safe manner. We would like to especially thank Paul Campagna, Chris Flynn, and Daryn Deveau for their dedicated work at the score table for all of our home basketball games.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our coaches and student athletes who committed to the playing their winter season under the COVID restrictions that were required to safely play indoor sports. Our basketball tams were able to complete almost 90% of all scheduled regular games, while Tri-Town hockey was able to play a little over half of their regular season games. Being able to safely finish the winter season would also have not been possible with the daily support of our parents and community, and our entire winter sports program is proud to have represented Somers during the restricted play of the winter sports season in Connecticut.

Thanks,  
Alan Walker  
SHS Athletic Manager

### ***PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE***

Hello Winter Athletes and Families,

I never would have thought that an awards program would be done in this format, but our new normal is still upon us for the time being. I just wanted to say that it was great to see many of you participate in your respective sport this past season. Our winter teams were excellent and conducted themselves with poise and grace during this restrictive environment. Regardless of the scores or playoffs, you got the opportunity to play the games and display your Spartan athleticism. I would like to send a big thank you to our coaches, team captains, players, custodians, and fans. You are awesome!

Go Spartans!

Principal Gary Cotzin

# **GIRL'S BASKETBALL**

Varsity Coach: Alan Walker

Assistant Coach: Michelle Dalessio, Pasquale Dematteo

Assistant Coach: Anika Vanhoenacker



Team Captains: Halle Raina, Ella Deveau, Hannah Renzoni

## **TEAM SUMMARY**

With (27) girls signing up for basketball, a girl's freshman team was formed for the first time in school history. The JV team's schedule allowed for freshman games to be played with Ellington and Rockville, as all (3) schools worked together in trying to allow as much playing time as possible for all players. Despite losing a couple of opponents due to health issues, the JV team ended up with a record of 7 wins and 3 losses. The freshman team was able to play (5) games and ended up winning (2) games against two of the largest schools in the NCCC.

With a veteran team that included most all of last year's roster and led by seniors Ella Deveau, Halle Raina, and Hannah Renzoni, the girl's varsity basketball team started the season with (5) wins out of their first (6) games including home wins over Bolton and Ellington. With all of the NCCC East teams having young and talented teams, the competition throughout the league was evident each night. After needing to re-schedule a couple of games due to health reasons, the team was forced to play (3) games in (3) days where the Spartans lost two close away games. After a home win vs. East Windsor, the team lost a close 41-44 senior day game to Coventry where the girls played their first

home game in front of our home fans. After qualifying for the upper playoff bracket, the team traveled to Suffield to play the NCCC West #1 seed Wildcats. Despite the loss, the Spartans played well and pushed the eventual playoff champion well into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The season ended on a high note, with the team then defeating Ellington for the second time in the consolation bracket.

Overall, the girls basketball program was able to complete most all of it's reduced season schedule while continuing to develop young players in hopes of returning to a full schedule next year. Congratulations to our (3) seniors!

**ALL NCCC:** Hannah Renzoni, Eliana Wood

## VARSITY LETTERS

**SENIOR CAPTAINS:** Ella Deveau, Halle Raina, Hannah Renzoni



**JUNIORS:** Mollie Burns, Madison Hinkley, Anna Majowicz, Grace Majowicz



**SOPHOMORES:** Shea Cassidy, Deidre Dalessio, Devon Dalessio, Raya Davis, Erin Donohue, Kiana Kalman, Halle Watt



**FRESHMAN:** Melea Wolters, Eliana Wood



### JV CERTIFICATES

**FRESHMAN:** Taylor Illuzzi, Grace McGuiness, Dara Salka



### FRESHMAN CERTIFICATES:

Alexa Damboragian, Kate Gebo, Chloe Gowdy, Grace Kelleher-Slocum, Genevieve Neiman, Brooke Novak, Faith Denault (not available)



### VARSITY MANAGERS:

Madison Gebo, Tyler Gowdy, Kristo Karajo, Grace Lessard



## BOY'S BASKETBALL

Varsity Coach: Tony Palazzesi  
JV Coach: Chris Boucher  
Freshman Coach: Kyle Kipfer

### *SENIOR NIGHT*



**Team Captains:** Brady Palazzesi, Tyler Watt, Colin MacLeod

### TEAM SUMMARY

The boy's varsity basketball team completed their entire (12) game regular season schedule while finishing with a record of 8 wins and 4 losses. Highlights of the regular season included a come from behind overtime victory over Stafford, then followed by a (4) game winning streak including (2) road wins at Bolton and Coventry. The regular season ended on senior night vs. Ellington, where the team played in front of their parents to honor our (9) seniors.

By finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NCCC East Division, the team qualified for the upper playoff bracket and a 1<sup>st</sup> round game vs. #2 seeded Canton from the NCCC West Division. After the 60-66 loss at Canton High School, Coach Palazzesi's team played Granby in the consolation bracket at home and ended the 2021 season with a thrilling 57-56 win.

Both the boy's JV and freshman basketball teams were able to complete their entire (12) game schedules, and both teams finished with a record of 7 wins and 5 losses.

Congratulations to both Brady and Cody Palazzesi in earning ALL NCCC honors, with Brady also being awarded DV All State honors.

**All NCCC:** Brady Palazessi, Cody Palazzesi

**DV ALL STATE:** Brady Palazzesi

## VARSITY LETTERS

### SENIORS:

**Top Row:** Caleb Duff, Colin MacLeod, Brady Palazzesi, Paul Pennell, Ryan Prucker,

**Bottom Row:** Loanky Rivera, Tyler Watt, Niccolai Williams, Terieze Naylor



**JUNIORS:** Kevin Huss, John Zapolski, Cody Palazzesi, Thomas Lafayette



**SOPHOMORES:** Trent Beggs, Colby McCormick



**FRESHMAN:** Troy Maia



**JV CERTIFICATES:**

**Junior:** Sean Croken



**SOPHOMORES:** Trevor Gentile, Connor Marchi



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**FRESHMAN:** Braden Davis, Alex Deveau, Dylan Doody, Cody Ferrero, Jayden Lynch, Alex Maia



**VARSITY MANAGERS:** Emily Lawlor, Caroline Colton, Sadie Vesco, Amelia Carenzo



## TRI-TOWN ICE HOCKEY

Varsity Coach: Kyle Fijalkowski  
Assistant Coach: Bryan Anderson



## TEAM SUMMARY

The Tri-Town ice hockey team started their winter season in CCC play by splitting their first (2) games with Housatonic-NW-Wamogo-Torrington (win) and Wethersfield (loss) before losing in overtime to Woodstock. Tri-Town then won their next (2) games with a 4-3 win over the Enfield-East Granby-Stafford and a 3-1 win over Suffield-Granby-

Windsor Locks. With a 3-2 record just before entering March, the team unfortunately had to quarantine for the next two weeks. With the reduced winter sports season scheduled to end March 27<sup>th</sup>, Tri-Town played only two more regular season games against Enfield-East Granby-Stafford (a 3-1 loss) and Hall Southington (a 5-2 loss). With a 3-5 regular season record and missing (4) games due to quarantine, the Tri-Town hockey team prepared for their 2-game post-season experience for the last week of the season. The team avenged their earlier loss to Hall-Southington with a 3-1 win to advance to their CCC divisional final against the Newington Co-op team. Despite the 5-0 loss in the CCC divisional finals, Tri-Town was able to complete the season on a positive note.

### **VARSITY LETTERS**

**JUNIORS:** Matthew Fleischman, Gavin Rauza, Vincenzo Rumore, Lazaros Vasiliadis  
**Sophomores:** Michael Croyle, Alexander Douglas, Cole Ferro, Camden Fickett, Kyle Provencher

**ALL LEAGUE:** Kyle Provencher

**VARSITY MANAGERS:** Mackenzie Bridge, Kendal Terry

### **INDOOR TRACK**

Ellington HS Indoor Track Coach: Peter Corbett & Adam Zylberman



### **VARSITY LETTERS**

Jonathan DuPerre, Colin Donovan, Douglas Suter, Olivia Suter, Sarah St. Germain, Rachel St. Germain

## **TEAM SUMMARY**

Due to the year-long seasonal restrictions due to COVID mitigation that eliminated much of the indoor space for gatherings, multi-team invitational meets for the indoor track season were not scheduled despite the pushed back January 19<sup>th</sup> start date for winter sports. Somers had (6) athletes sign-up for indoor track, and all athletes participated with Ellington High School in conditioning sessions allowed by the CIAC. With some of the mitigation restrictions were relaxed in March, the Ellington indoor team was able to compete in several single opponent outdoor meets against East Windsor, Coventry and Tolland.

## **WRESTLING**

Coach Scott Zachary

Due to the winter sports and seasonal restrictions due to COVID mitigation guidelines, wrestling was postponed for most of the complete winter season. While limited training was allowed by March, Somers High School opted not to have conditioning and training for a competitive season that was ultimately canceled. Coach Scott Zachary and his wrestling team is looking forward to the 2021-22 wrestling season, with well wishes to graduating wrestlers Dominic Zuzzalo, Tanner Hammond and Jeremy Frazier who missed their ae3nior seasons.

## **SOMERS BOOSTER CLUB**

[HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/SOMERSCTBOOSTERCLUB/](https://sites.google.com/site/somersctboosterclub/)



**BOOSTER CLUB PRESIDENTS**  
**Debbie Paulo & Jacqui Symington**

With the continuing state and district guidelines restricting the use of the high school concession stand, the Boosters were not able to continue their long tradition of providing refreshments at home basketball games. Somers High School would like to again thank the Booster Club for continuing to sponsor the Athlete of the Month Awards and 1<sup>st</sup> time varsity letters. The Booster Club also continues their tradition of presenting our seasonal sports videos, with a special thanks going to Stacey Colton for her continued hard work and dedication to our student athletes.



**ATHLETES OF THE MONTH**  
***SPONSORED BY THE SOMERS BOOSTER CLUB***

The following student athletes were nominated by their respective coaches for their outstanding accomplishments during this past winter season.

**JANUARY**

Boys Basketball: Cody Palazzesi  
Girls Basketball: Devon Dalessio  
Tri-Town Hockey: Vincent Rumore  
Boys Indoor Track: Jonathan DuPerre  
Girls Indoor Track: Sara St. Germain

**FEBURARY**

Boys Basketball: Brady Palazzesi

Girls Basketball: Eliana Wood  
Tri-Town Hockey: Kyle Provencher  
Boys Indoor Track: Douglas Suter  
Girls Indoor Track: Rachel St. Germain

### MARCH

Boys Basketball: Colin MacLeod  
Girls Basketball: Grace Majowicz  
Tri-Town Hockey: Lazaros Vasiliadis  
Boys Indoor Track: Colin Donovan  
Girls Indoor Track: Olivia Suter

## **1ST TIME VARSITY LETTER WINNERS *SPONSORED BY THE SOMERS BOOSTER CLUB***



**CRITERIA:** The following student athletes have earned their first career varsity letter while participating in a varsity sport during this past fall.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Melea Wolters  
Eliana Wood  
Madison Gebo-Manager

Tyler Gowdy-Manager

**BOY'S BASKETBALL**

Caleb Duff  
Ryan Prucker  
Loanky Rivera  
Niccolai Williams  
Trent Beggs  
Colby McCormick  
Troy Maia  
Sadie Vesco-Manager

**TRI-TOWN HOCKEY**

Michael Croyle  
Alexander Douglas  
Cole Ferro  
Camden Fickett  
Kyle Provencher

**INDOOR TRACK**

Colin Donovan

**NCCC ALL ACADEMIC HONORS**



Somers High School and the NCCC would like to recognize our student athletes who have qualified for the NCCC Scholar Athlete award by qualifying with either high honors or honors during the fall sports season.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Halle Raina  
Hannah Renzoni  
Madison Hinkley  
Anna Majowicz  
Grace Majowicz  
Mollie Burns

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

John Zapolski  
Caroline Colton  
Kevin Huss  
Thomas Lafayette  
Emily Lawlor  
Colby McCormick

Grace Lessard  
Erin Donohue  
Madison Gebo  
Shea Cassidy  
Raya Davis  
Kiana Kalman  
Kate Gebo  
Chloe Gowdy  
Taylor Illuzzi  
Dara Salka  
Eliana Wood  
Alexa Damboragian  
Faith Denault  
Grace McGuinness  
Genevieve Neiman  
Melea Wolters

Sadie Vesco  
Cody Ferrero

### **TRI-TOWN HOCKEY**

Matthew Fleishman  
Michael Croyle  
Cole Ferro  
Kyle Provencher

### **INDOOR TRACK**

Olivia Suter  
Colin Donovan  
Douglas Suter  
Rachel St. Germain  
Sara St. Germain

## ***SUMMARY***

Once again, Somers High School would like to everyone for all of the support and dedication to our winter sports student athletes during these difficult times, and all of our winter sports athletes and coaches are looking forward to next season as we anticipate a full winter sports schedule.