

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1999 ISSUE 11 OF SEASON 6 ISSUE 363 SINCE DEC. 27, 1993

## A GOOD KNIGHTS SWEEP

## Softball clinches first CCC South title with second win over SHS

Until this year, Newington's softball team had never beaten Southington in school history. Now, it's becoming a habit.

The Indians - ranked \#1 in the Connecticut, \#2 in New England, and \#25 in America - clinched their first CCC South title in school history with their second win over the Blue Knights in school
Westhill loses first, page 2 year - 6-1 on Friday.
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## Indians baseball team stuns \#2 Blue Knights <br> NHS hands Southington its first loss, 4-2, on Newbold grand slam in sixth

Friday's issue of the Meriden Record-Journal declared that the Southington baseball team, then 13-0, was "on track for the No. 1 ranking the state."
Apparently, nobody told that to Brian Newbold.
Newbold hit a grand slam in the bottom of the sixth inning Friday to lift Newington's baseball team to a stunning 4-2 upset of previously undefeated Southington, which had been
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## Newington softball \#25 in nation Indians, \#1 in state and \#2 in region, debut on USA Today poll

On May 11, they were voted the \#1 team in Connecticut. On May 18, they were picked as \#2 in New England. Now, it seems that all of America is watching.
Newington's undefeated softball team debuted on the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll in the \#25 spot late last week, becoming the first Connecticut team to make an appearance in the Top 25 this season and the only New England team to receive any votes in the poll this week.
The poll is "compiled by NFCA high school representatives throughout the nation," according to the NFCA website which features the Top 25 list. The latest poll covers all games through last Sunday, May 16.
The USA Today/NFCA poll is rather volatile, as evidenced by the movement from last week's Top 25 to this week's poll. Fifteen of the twenty-five teams ranked now in the Week 5 poll were not in the Top 25 for Week 4, last week.
Bullard High School of Fresno, California is \#1 in the nation with a record of 35-1-1. Foothill of Santa Ana, California is \#2 with a 27-3 mark. Many of the ranked teams from highly competitive states like California, Florida,
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Awards Day: Loy, Colpitts win big in morning, Estanislau owns the night; Vasil \#1 in junior class - page 2

# NHS baseball stuns \#2 Knights Southington's first loss of season is to Newington, 4-2 

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ranked \#2 in the state last week and would have been likely to take over the top spot in tomorrow morning's new coaches poll if not for the loss to the Indians. \#1 Stamford lost Monday to \#15 Wilton for its first defeat of the season, opening the door for the Knights.
But Brian Newbold slammed the door shut on Friday. Dave Estanislau opened the sixth inning with a leadoff single, Eric Urciuoli added a single of his own, and Joe Serfass walked, loading the bases for Newbold - who smashed the first pitch of his at-bat over the left-field fence to give Newington, which had trailed 2-0, a 4-2 edge heading into the top of the seventh.

Joe Serfass, who earned the win for Newington, stranded a runner on second base in the seventh to preserve the Indians' win.
Southington's runs came in the top of the third and the top of the sixth, on a solo home run by Jason Maule and a Brian Mascaro RBI single.
The Knights' loss, coming three days after Stamford's first loss, leaves \#5-ranked North Branford (15-0, 12-0 Shoreline) as the only undefeated team left in the state. North Branford is one of Connecticut's two remaining undefeated teams in either baseball or softball - the other being Newington's own \#1-ranked softball team (18-0).

## AWARDS DAY '99

## Editor Boy, Colpy are big morning winners

Colpitts introduced as '99 valedictorian; Loy wins 4 prizes, including Senior Cup

A valedictorian, a possible future valedictorian, and an "Editor Boy" named Loy stole the show at Thursday morning's schoolwide awards assembly, each taking home three or more prizes for their achievements in various school activities.
Sara Colpitts was formally introduced to the whole school as the valedictorian of the Class of '99, then proceeded to win a total of three awards for her success in mathematics and theater. Rakhee

## MULTIPLE WINNERS

Brendan Loy 4 Sara Colpitts 3 Rakhee Mishra 3 Nathan Emerson 2 Claudio Gualtieri 2 Brynna Johnson 2 Joanna Kornafel 2 Stephanie Lehmann 2 Beth Milewski 2 Marel Nasinnyk 2
Note: Counts do not include introduction of valedictorian, co-salutatorians, and student council president.

Mishra, \#2 in the junior class, also took home three awards | - one each |
| :--- |
| for science, |
| English, and |
| (Cont. on p. 3) |
| List of |
| who won the |
| "big prizes" |
| — page 3 |



Above: Sara Colpitts steps forward to be officially introduced as NHS valedictorian. Below: Brendan Loy and Karyn Bacinskas celebrate after winning the Senior Cup


## Estanislau cleans up

## Wins five scholarships; Vasil \#1 in junior class

The first presenter to award her with a scholarship had trouble pronouncing her name. By the time the evening was over, everyone in the room knew how to say "Idalina Estanislau."
"The next young lady has worn a path up here already tonight," noted Bruce Fairclough as he prepared to announce Estanislau's fourth scholarship of the evening. She would wind up with five.
"She's pursuing a career in elementary education, and has a long record of community service and school activities," Fairclough added.
That long record of involvement in the town and the school would help Estanislau dominate the evening awards ceremony at the NHS auditorium Thursday night, tying the mark Dawn Miller
(Continued on page 3)

## MULTIPLE WINNERS

 Idalina Estanislau 5 Sara Hamilton 4 Natalie Chavez 3 Claudio Gualtieri 3 Brynna Johnson 3 Kristin Vasil 3
## Seventeen tied at 2

 Note: Includes winners of all book awards and Boys \& Girls State awards as well as scholarships.
## Loy wins most awards at morning assembly

## Gets 4 prizes; Colpitts, Mishra win 3 each

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social studies.
But it was Brendan Loy — \#14 in his class through the end of last year - who took home the most prizes: two for English, one for his $2 \frac{1}{2}$ years as editor of the official school newspaper, Scribe, and one for his "enthusiastic" participation in the music department. That final prize, the so-called "Senior Cup," was won jointly by Loy and Karyn Bacinskas, proclaimed by Loy as "my favorite Florida friend" after the recent music tour of Walt Disney World.
"The cup is given to those who drive the program through their infectious enthusiasm, their desire for the groups to succeed, and their work to make it so that they are examples and they are accessible," music director Josef Treggor said as he prepared to announce the winners of the Senior Cup. "While we all want that, these two have achieved it - and I know it's going to make one of them extraordinarily happy," he added, referring to Loy, who he often teases for constantly flirting with Bacinskas.
While it was the surprise felt by Loy and Bacinskas that made the and Bacinskas that made the
presentation of the Senior Cup a memorable moment Bacinskas came on stage with her jaw hanging open, and there was a seemingly endless series of joyful hugs between both winners and Mr . both winners and Mr.
Treggor as the cup was presented - there were no surprises early on as Colpitts,


Above: Valedictorian Sara Colpitts rolls her eyes in embarassment as Mr. Hoey reads the list of AP/UConn classes which she has taken.

## THE BIG PRIZES

Bausch and Lomb Science Medal - Kristin Vasil
French Award - Joanna
Kornafel
Italian Award - Claudio Gualtieri
Spanish Award - Natalie Chavez
Latin Award - Liz Janelle
Norman J. Schmitt Writing Prize - Brendan Loy
1999 Co-Artists of the Year Marel Nasinnyk and Kim Pina
Neighbors Helping Neighbors Award - Jeff Cultrera and Idalina Estanislau
William P. Ward Humanitarian Prize - Jaimie Kwassman Outstanding Math 4 Years Sara Colpitts
Social Studies Award Nathan Emerson John Philip Sousa Award Beth Milewski
Director's Award (Band) Brynna Johnson
Senior Cup (Music) - Karyn Bacinskas and Brendan Loy C. Stephen Ludlow Award Sara Colpitts Claudio Gual-tieri, and Sean Vivier were introduced as the class's valedictorian and co-salutatorians, respectively. Both had known for weeks that they would be the Class of '99's honorees. But nevertheless, their introduction marked the first time the whole school has been officially told who this year's graduation speakers will be.

Colpitts, standing alone on stage as Principal Paul Hoey read a list of her accomplishments, smiled graciously - but rolled her eyes (Continued on page 4)

> Estanislau takes home 5 scholarships
> "Wears a path" on stage at evening awards ceremony

(Continued from page 2)
attained last year - five awards - and edging out Sara Hamilton, who won four awards, for the most prizes this year.
While Estanislau and Hamilton got the big numbers, the big money went to Carrie Ripley, Todd Stigliano, and Bindee Chokshi. Ripley and Stigliano each took home \$2,000 from the Newington Student Assistance Fund, while Chokshi won the Rotary Club's four-year, \$1,000-per-year scholarship.
But perhaps the biggest news of the night came very early in the program, when the junior book awards were presented. Kristin Vasil received the Yale Book Award, which is specifically given to the \#1-ranked student in the class, according to presenter Judy Igelski. Rakhee Mishra, a good friend and tennis teammate of Vasil's, received the Harvard Book Award, given to the student ranked \#2 - thus setting up the race for Class of 2000 valedictorian.
Other than that tidbit of information, the evening was largely rather monotonous. There were a few memorable moments, however.
Seconds before presenting her organization's awards to Ripley and Stigliano, Anna Eddy said that the $\$ 2,000$ scholarships were given "on behalf of the Newington Student Assistance Fund Board of Directors, and a very good year in the stock market."
"If you stick around later, she'll give you the name of her broker," Principal Paul Hoey joked as he returned to the microphone to introduce the next presenter.
Hoey later provided for a few laughs with a mistake he made introducing the scholarship set up in honor of former band director John Mills, who retired last year. Hoey mistakenly called the award the "John Mills Memorial Scholarship" - then introduced Mr. Mills to present it. "What did Mark Twain say?" Mills quipped.
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## Estanislau gets five evening awards

## (Continued from page 3)

Other light moments were provided by the students recieving the awards - like Jeff Brunetti, who tripped over the stairs on his way up to the stage, then leaped over them in one bound on his way back down, or Kelly Laskowski, who "raised the roof" when she received one of the NHS Alumni Scholarships late in the program.
Jaimie Kwassman drew widespread giggles by cheering for Eric Burns, her boyfriend of nearly three years, when he won a Newington Kiwanis/Key Club Scholarship; after everyone else's applause had died down, she yelled in a barely audible, immeasurably cute voice: "Yay Eric!"
Popular math teacher Lou Ruggiero was met with hoots, cheers, and enthusiastic applause when he walked on stage to present the U.S. Marine Corps Excellence Award. He acknowledged the crowd with a silly face, but then turned serious as he made his presentation. "Those of us who have so proudly served in the United
 States Marine Corps understand fully the meaning of patriotism. We heard the call and we answered," said Ruggiero, a Vietnam veteran. Introducing the award winner, he stated, "I believe that the spirit of the United States Marine Corps rests within the heart and mind of Edward Meeker."
The presenters of the two awards given to Jason Martin created confusion when they introduced Martin by his real first name: Andrew. Some friends who have always known Martin-whose full name is Andrew Jason Martin-as "Jason" vowed that they would call him "Andrew" or "Andy" for the rest of the year.
A student's name presented problems again when Warren Hall, presenting Idalina Estanislau with the Charles Bowes Award - her first award of the evening

- stumbled over the pronounciation of her last name. The scholarship, he said, goes to "Idalina eh... stahn... uh... slau."
Lisa Hoisl, sister of Class of 1976 NHS salutatorian MaryLou Fancher, provided a tear-jerking presentation when she recounted the life of her sister, who was killed


Above: Sara Hamilton accepts a bouquet of flowers from Lisa Hoisl, presenter of the Mary Lou Fancher Memorial Scholarship. in a car accident in July 1993. "She had the heart of an angel," Hoisl said. "Every star-filled night and every sunny day, every kind act, I remember Mary Lou. I hope you will too, after these words. To the two recipients of the awards tonight, I wish you peace, I wish you happiness, and I wish you the courage to show a kind heart." The scholarships went to Sara Hamilton and Natalie Chavez, the third award of the night for each.
Hamilton would win her fourth award of the evening, moving within one of Estanislau's lead, with the Francis D. Murphy Memorial Scholarship - an especially meaningful award this year, when the so-called "Murphy Tree" outside Mr. Ludlow's room is being threatened by impending school construction.
As the program wound up, neither Estanislau nor Hamilton received any more awards, keeping the "leaderboard" steady at 5 to 4 . But the suspense increased as parents wondered whether their kids would be getting any more money; Donald King seized on the tension when he arose to present the last two scholarships: "The anxious applause for the last presenter," he said. "What Mr. Hoey neglected to tell you is that there are more awards this evening. As soon as I'm done, he's going to be passing out an insert to put inside this, so we can finish."
There was light laughter from the audience. "Tough crowd," King said.

## Loy wins 4, Colpitts and Mishra 3 in morning

## (Continued from page 3)

when he started reciting her littany of AP/UCONN classes, of which there were five.
Gualtieri, dressed in a shirt and tie, and Vivier, dressed in a t-shirt and jeans - he had not received a letter informing him that he would be honored at the ceremony - also stood placidly as their accomplishments were read. The only visible reaction from either came when Hoey mistakenly stated that Vivier had participated in all the musical productions at
(Continued on page 5)

Right: Co-salutatorian Sean Vivier, right, shrugs and looks at fellow co-salutatorian Claudio Gualtieri after Principal Paul Hoey mistakenly implied that he was in "Guys and Dolls."


## Morning awards assembly crowns Loy, Colpitts, Mishra, many others

## (Continued from page 4)

NHS during his four years; Vivier, who chose not to be in Guys \& Dolls this year, said "Not all," looked at Gualtieri, and shrugged.
The announcement of the graduation speakers came just shortly after what was arguably the most remarkable moment of the whole assembly: eight seconds in which Newington High School's entire student body was almost completely quiet. Principal Hoey asked students to observe a moment of silence to mark the one-month anniversary of the tragic shootings at Colombine High School, and students complied completely, falling - with the exception of a few coughs - literally into total silence.
After that somber observance, it was on with the show. "It's not easy to get all of us into the auditorium for an assembly," Hoey noted, "but it's important that we come together this morning to honor and recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the students here at Newington High School with their peers."
After the graduation speakers were announced, the science awards were presented - with Fran DiOrio Biology award winner Sara Hamilton, Rensselear Medalist Rakhee Mishra, and Bausch and Lomb Science Medalist Kristin Vasil capturing perhaps the most prestigious prizes.
Next came the foreign lanuguage awards; Joanna Kornafel, Claudio Gualtieri, Natalie Chavez, and Liz Janelle took home the awards for their respective languages. In addition, Matt Ripley was honored for getting just one problem wrong on the Latin I exam, and Kaat Harbeson's second-highest score in Connecticut in the State Latin Contest - out of 2,000 test-takers from 40 Connecticut schools participating - was also duly noted.

Rakhee Mishra became the first repeat winner when she


Above: Mr. Linde (left) and Mr. Margolis (center) award Kim Pina (lower right) and Marel Nasinnyk (upper right) the title of co-Artists of the Year. (upper risht)

Above: Rakhee Mishra, a junior in AP Biology, hugs
Mrs. Mastrocola after recieving the Rensselear Medal.


Sara Colpitts became the second individual to win consecutive awards when Math Department Chairman David Pouliot gave her the Outstanding Mathematics for 4 Years award followed immediately by the AP Calculus award. Like Loy earlier in the program, Colpitts stood up, sat down, then stood back up again to receive her back-to-back prizes.
Nathan Emerson won two of the next three awards, one from the math department and one from the social studies department. After the second of his two awards, a boy in the audience yelled, "I love you Nate!", drawing laughter from the crowd.
(Continued on page 6)

## Loy wins 4 awards; Colpitts, Mishra get 3

## Continued from page 5)

When Jerry O'Connell came to the microphone to announce the U.S. History award, he quipped in classic O'Connell style, "This year's recipient will be awarded a lovely set of colored pencils. Certainly very welldeserved." The colored pencil prize - actually a book award - went to Rakhee Mishra, her third win of the morning.
One of the highlights of the assembly came when Jason Rose won one of the Bake Shoppe awards. He was greeted with a rowdy audience reception, which he acknowledged by making a muscle-man pose on stage. Sharon Kain, the presenter, then encouraged Rose to show off the Café Internacional t-shirt which he was wearing, increasing the applause from the crowd.
When Mrs. Joann Vasil and Mrs. Kain had finished, computer teacher Bonnie Stone had her turn. She gave the Computer Applications award to Eileen Sandelli,


Above: Jason Rose, who recieved one of the loudest ovations from the crowd, shows off his "Café Internacional" $t$-shirt, at the bidding of presenter Sharon Kain. Rose won one of the Bake Shoppe awards. then presented the Scribe Book Award to Brendan Loy


Above: Bonnie Stone presents the Scribe Book Award to $21 / 2$-year editor-in-chief Brendan "Editor Boy" Loy. - Loy's third prize of the day, and the one that drew the biggest audience response. "This year's recipient has all the qualities of a good high school journalist," said Mrs. Stone. "He has a tape recorder, a camera, and a desire to report the news." At that, before Loy's name had even been mentioned, Stone was interrupted by cheers for the anticipated winner, and Loy had to acknowledge the crowd with a wave. "I will miss the journalistic prowess, the dedication, and the laughter of this year's Scribe Book Award winner" - Stone concluded, sounding perhaps a bit choked up - "Brendan 'Editor Boy’ Loy."
For anyone keeping score, the tally was now Mishra 3, Loy 3. Colpitts was one of several students with two awards.
The music department was up next, starting with Mr. Kenneth Bell presenting the "people's choice" John Philip Sousa band award to Beth Milewski. Bell gave his own Director's Award to Brynna Johnson. Bell then introduced choir and orchestra director Josef Treggor, who presented the National Choral Association and National Orchestra Association awards, then introduced Ars Music Young Artists of the Year Beth Milewski and Mike Martocchio. Martocchio, whose popularity as a performer was greatly boosted by his spectacular performance in the Jesus Christ Superstar portion of Dine-Off Broadway in January - and who will likely become a popular composer as well when his "senior song" is sung at graduation - received a standing ovation from most of the Ars Musica chamber choir, all of whom were on stage.
After the Senior Cup was awarded to Bacinskas and Loy, the music production awards were given out, with the big prize - the C. Stephen Ludlow award for "the highest degree of acting" - going to Sara Colpitts. Prizes were also awarded to Sara LeFoll, Liz Rubasky,


Above: Mike Martoccio gets a standing ovation from his fellow chamber choir singers after being named an Ars Musica Young Artist of the Year. and "techie" Scott Bartley.
The final set of awards was presented by retiring AV Club advisor Neil Gordes, who paid a heartfelt tribute to each of his five club officers from this year, three of whom are graduating in June.
Dr. Perlini closed the ceremony with, as always, a word of caution, asking students to have a safe summer. Outgoing student council president Brynna Johnson passed the gavel to incoming president Kristin Vasil, and the latest edition of the Newington High School morning awards ceremony was officially closed.
Final count: Loy 4, Colpitts 3, Mishra 3.

## Softball Indians top Blue Knights again, clinch CCC South

## (Continued from page 1)

Lindsay Windish pitched a one-hitter for the Indians, who improved their record to 18-0 (13-0 CCC South) with the win. Newington is the only undefeated team left in Connecticut after Westhill-Stamford's loss Thursday.
Windish improved her personal record to $15-0$, throwing 50 strikes in a 68-pitch outing and striking out six - including the final out of the game, the " $K$ " which gave Newington the "W" and the conference championship.
As in the first game against the Knights, the Indians fell behind early. But unlike that May 3 contest, when Newington rallied from a 6-0 fifth-inning deficit to win in dramatic fashion, 9-6, Southington only managed to build a 1-0 lead Friday - and they lost it quickly. By the top of

| CCC South standings |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| x-Newington | 13-0 | 18-0 |
| Southington | 11-2 | 1-4 |
| Bristol Central | 8 -3 | 13-3 |
| Pl | 6-7 | 9-8 |
| Maloney | 4-8 | 5-11 |
| New Britain | 4-10 | 5-11 |
| Bristol Eastern | 3-10 | 6-11 |
| Bulkeley | 0-12 | 1-13 |
| $\mathbf{x}$ - clinched conferen |  |  | third, Newington had tied it up, and by $\mathbf{x}$-clinched conference title the fifth inning, the Indians led 4-1. All-State third baseman Jenn Castelhano drove in two runs and scored another to account for the Indians' three-run fifth.

Castelhano gave credit to the Indians' much-heralded "whirling dervish" on the mound. "Lindsay pitched a remarkable game," she told The Hartford Courant.
Windish's only real problems came very early. She hit the first Southington batter of the game, Heather Brousseau, with her first pitch of the game, and allowed Brousseau to score on a Stacey Shreder triple with two out. From there, it was smooth sailing for Windish.
In addition to Castelhano's two-run double in the fifth, Jessica Fortuna and Sandy Ramos also had two RBI's each for Newington.
When the game was over, according to the Meriden RecordJournal, Ramos asked her teammates, "Do you guys realize what we just did?"
"It was like my whole life, waiting to beat Southington," Windish told the Record-Journal. "I'm still shocked."
Two wins over the Knights. Fifteen years of frustration wiped away against the Knights. One conference title clinched by defeating the Knights.
No more shocks. Newington is for real.
"By far, they were the better team today," Southington coach Joe Piazza told The Hartford Courant. "They deserved it."
The Indians will finish their regular reason undefeated if they can win at unranked giant-killer East Lyme on Tuesday and then defeat conference foe Bristol Central for the second time this year on Wednesday, Senior Night, at Volunteer Field. The Rams are third in the CCC South, behind Newington and Southington.

## Westhill loses first; Newington is state's only unbeaten team

\#2 Westhill-Stamford was upset by unranked FCIAC rival Staples-Westport on Thursday, leaving \#1 Newington as the only undefeated team left in the state of Connecticut.
The loss by Westhill, which had been 18-0, creates the possibility that Newington could be a near-unanimous \#1 pick in tomorrow's Week 5 coaches poll. Newington received four firstplace votes in last week's poll; Westhill received three. \#4 Amity-Woodbridge received one firstplace vote.
Staples (13-6, 12-4 FCIAC) fell behind 2-0 in the third inning, but rallied with one run in the bottom of the fifth and two in the bottom of the sixth. The Wreckers took the lead on a single by pinch hitter Caroline Karoczkai in the sixth, scoring Heather Hightower for the 3-2 edge.

Staples, which is second to Westhill in the FCIAC Central division, has won 11 of its last 12 games, according to the Connecticut Post.

## Indians ranked \#25 in America

(Continued from page 1)
Arizona, and Texas have a relatively high number of losses - as many as ten, in one case - and most have played thirty games or more, presumably thanks to warmer climates which allow for longer seasons. Newington is one of just six undefeated teams in the Top 25, one of just eight to have played in twenty games or less, and one of just seven located north of the MasonDixon line.
Below are the current Top 25 teams:

1. Bullard (Fresno, CA), 35-1-1
2. Foothill (Santa Ana, CA), 27-3
3. Sarasota (Sarasota, FL), 28-7
4. Mountain Pointe (Tempe, AZ), 30-6-1
5. South Florence (Florence, SC), 33-0
6. Flowing Wells (Tucson, AZ), 29-6
7. Naples (Naples, FL), 31-3
8. Fairfield (Fairfield, CA), 31-0
9. Katy (Taylor, TX), 26-7
10. Richland Hills (Fort Worth, TX), 31-10-1
11. Princess Anne (Virginia Beach, VA), 20-0
12. Hoover (North Canton, OH), 23-1
13. Northern (Portage, MI), 25-1
14. West (Belleville, IL), 23-1 15. Nacogdoches (Nacogdoches, TX), 28-4-2
15. Clovis (Clovis, CA), 30-5-1
16. Palm Harbor Univ. (Palm Harbor, FL), 29-6
17. Portage (Portage, IN), 19-1
18. Alexander Central (Taylorsville, NC), 24-4
19. St. Mark's (Wilmington DE), 16-1 21. James Madison (Vienna, VA), 18-1 22. South Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI), 18-0
20. Maple River (Maple River, MN), 17-0
21. Northern (Owings, MD), 18-1
22. Newington (Newington, CT), 12-0
records shown are through Sunday, May 16
