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FAIRFIELD COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME SELECTS FIRST HONOREES FOR UCONN WING

Chris Smith, Moira & Tara Buckley, Brian Usher To Be Feted at Reception on May 12

The Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame today announced the initial four honorees to be recognized in the Hall of Fame's University of Connecticut wing, which pays tribute to athletes from the county that went on to stellar careers at the state university. The FC Sports Hall of Fame is housed at the UConn Stamford Campus.

Former UConn athletes to be feted at a Saturday, May 12 reception from 5-7 pm at the Hall of Fame are men's basketball's Chris Smith (Bridgeport), women's soccer standouts Moira & Tara Buckley (Trumbull) and football's Brian Usher (Stamford). The reception, which is open to the public, is sponsored by People's Bank, one of UConn's primary supporters of athletics.

"Taking the next step in expanding our Hall of Fame to include UConn athletes was a natural progression with the Hall being housed at UConn Stamford," said Tom Chiappetta, executive director of the Fairfield County Sports Commission, Inc. which oversees the FC Sports Hall of Fame. "We have identified hundreds of athletes from the county that went on to outstanding achievement at UConn, and we will now recognize them here on their home turf."

Smith is still the all-time leading scorer in UConn men's basketball history with 2,145 points. The former Kolbe-Cathedral High graduate was the first key in-state recruit for Coach Jim Calhoun, and was one of the catalysts of UConn's subsequent incredible success run, starting with the Huskies' first Big East Tournament championship in 1990. As a sophomore that year, Smith was named MVP of the Big East tourney.

The Buckley twin sisters set the foundation for one of UConn's most successful sports programs—women's soccer. The Trumbull High grads played four seasons (1980-83) when the program had just been formed and their accomplishments are still the standards for players today. As a sweeper-back, Tara is the only four-time All-American in UConn women's soccer history and Moira is still the all-time leading points and goal scorer with 166 points on 63 goals and 40 assists.



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(Continued)

Usher's UConn ties are long and unique in that he was not only a star athlete, but a successful assistant coach and is now a UConn administrator. Usher, a Stamford High alum and former head football coach at Rippowam High in Stamford, was a three-year letter winner in football at Storrs from 1971-73, and was a starting linebacker on the Husky squad that won the '73 Yankee Conference championship with an 8-2-1 record. He also spent eight years as the school's defensive coordinator ('82-'89). He presently is associate director of admissions at UConn.

The Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame plans to recognize UConn athletes twice a year, with the next ceremony to take place at a date to be determined in the fall. The Hall of Fame is open six days a week from 9 am-5 pm Monday thru Friday and 9 am-12 noon on Saturday.

The Fairfield County Sports Commission is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate county residents, primarily the 110,000 school age children, to lead a healthy, active lifestyle, and to promote sports as a vehicle for personal development. For more information visit www.fairfieldcountysports.com or email to: tomc@fairfieldcountysports.com.

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