

SPORTS

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POWER ON THE MOUND

DeMaio, defense spark Darien into semifinals

By Mike Levitt
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DARIEN — Christina DeMaio won't overpower you. She may not even throw it by you. But she will certainly get you out.

DARIEN	3	Behind
ROCKVILLE	1	their

Darien softball team beat Rockville 3-1 Saturday afternoon to advance to the Class L semifinals, thanks in no small part to DeMaio's brilliance.

"It has been probably the one single most important aspect of the season, having her out there doing the job she's doing," said Darien coach Nick DeMaio.

"I think that Christina has an inner calm that keeps her from getting too wound up in these tight situations. What happened today has been typical (for our season). We've had six or seven extra inning games with runners in scoring position late and she just focuses on her job and lets the players make the plays."

Up next for No. 2 Darien (20-4) is Tuesday's semifinals against No. 22 Guilford (13-10) at 7 p.m. at West Haven.

Rockville threatened virtually the entire game, getting runners into scoring position in all but two innings. But thanks to clutch pitching and exceptional defense, the Rams scored only once.

"When we talk to her, we



Christina DeMaio pitches for Darien High School in the state quarterfinals against Rockville High School on Saturday. Below, Darien's Jordan Capiello, left, rounds second base during the 5th inning as Rockville's Brie Levick waits for the ball.

talk to her about pitching." DeMaio said of Christina, his daughter. "We talk to her about the fact that by not being a power pitcher she has to work harder through the lineup, one through nine, and make those pitches to enable this strong defense that we have behind her to do the job."

"So you'll see her working in, working out. And what you see today, that one run on the board, its pretty much what she gives up. Teams will (hit her), but our defense is strong and she keeps her composure. And what we've seen lately, by being effective, by changing planes a little bit, she manages to get herself eight, nine, 10 strikeouts a game."

Darien jumped out to an early lead in the second inning. With runners on first and second and one out, Jordan Capiello worked the count full despite going down

0-2. After fouling off three pitches, she lined a single to right center, bringing in Malory Kahn from second and moving Michelle Piccaro to third. The next hitter, DeMaio, sharply hit a grounder to first, which was bobbled, allowing Piccaro to score, staking Darien a 2-0 lead.

"I was thinking I don't want to go back to the dugout and let the team down," Capiello said. "We had a runner out there and I just really wanted to get her in."

In the top of the fourth, Rockville got on the board with a two-out rally started with a Jess Bonneville single. Courtesy runner Kelly Falkowski proceeded to steal second, advance to third on a passed ball, and scored on a Nadia Garnett single to right. But that was it.

In the fifth, Darien added an insurance run when

Please see DARIEN on B8



KERRY SHERCK/FOR THE ADVOCATE

UConn waiting on NCAA inquiry

By Neill Ostrout
STAFF WRITER

The University of Connecticut has yet to receive an official letter of inquiry from the NCAA, a signal that the investigation into alleged recruiting violations by the men's basketball program is still in its early stages.

A Yahoo Sports story in March accused the Huskies of breaking rules in the recruitment of Nate Miles, a guard who was briefly enrolled at UConn but who never played in a game.

The story accused UConn of exceeding the maximum number of phone calls that can be made to a recruit and his family, and also said former UConn student manager Josh Nochimson — a one-time NBA agent — provided Miles with meals, transportation and other "extra benefits."

Although the NCAA has interviewed a handful of the current players and asked UConn for documents and other records, neither head coach Jim Calhoun nor his assistants have spoken to NCAA investigators formally.

A source close to the program said the school has yet to receive a letter of inquiry, which signals that a formal investigation by the NCAA has begun. Since the allegations were first levied, Calhoun has often referred to the look at UConn's practices simply as "a review," and it appears that terminology is for the time being accurate.

There is no timetable for such reviews by the NCAA. Typically a school receives a preliminary letter of inquiry as the NCAA tries to determine the nature of the potential violations. It is believed UConn received such a notice in March, soon after the Yahoo story was posted.

Under NCAA rules, these somewhat cursory investigations are supposed to take "a reasonable period of time," though they may last up to one year.

After the preliminary inquiry — assuming it uncovers likely violations — an official letter of inquiry is sent to the school.

The school and the involved parties, according to

Please see UCONN on B5

Walsh, Trinity Catholic continue postseason magic

By Dave Ruden
STAFF WRITER

TRUMBULL — Trinity Catholic will hold its graduation ceremonies this morning, but for the six seniors on the school's baseball team, their

TRINITY	4	high school
CAREER	2	careers will

continue for at least two more days.

And two juniors and a sophomore are the primary reasons why.

Ryan Walsh came through with another dazzling effort on the mound

after a rough opening inning Saturday, while Jayme Antonetti and Pat Murphy had back-to-back two-run hits during a four-run third inning that carried the 20th-seeded Crusaders to a 4-2 win over Career Magnet in the quarterfinal round of the CIAC Class S Tournament.

After giving up two runs in the first, Walsh, a junior, allowed just one hit the rest of the way. Walsh (8-3), with a breaking ball that slithered in and out like a snake to consistently keep the Panthers off

stride, finished with a complete-game four-hitter.

Walsh, who now has two wins and a save in the Crusaders' three postseason victories, retired the final 11 batters in order — the last six by strikeout — and 17 of the final 18.

In all, Walsh fanned 11 and did not walk a batter.

"Do I have the gutsiest pitcher in the state or what?" asked Trinity coach Tracy Nichols as he was approached by reporters after the game. "He wants to be out there. He

wants the big situation."

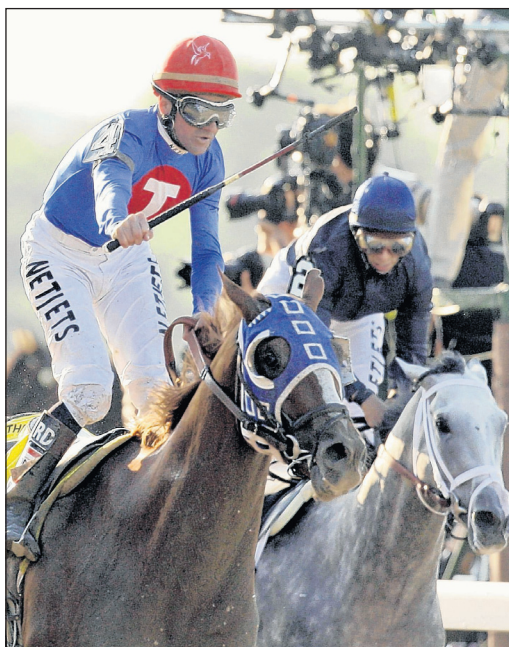
The Crusaders (13-10), who were the lowest seeded team among the final eight left heading into Saturday, are again taking advantage of a difficult regular-season schedule to make another run through the CIAC playoffs.

And Walsh is the major reason this time as he has developed into one of the state's best big-game pitchers.

"After a while I get down to doing

Please see WALSH on B8

Jockey Kent Desormeaux celebrates aboard Summer Bird after winning the 141st running of the Belmont Stakes Saturday in Elmont, N.Y. Dunkirk, right, ridden by John Velazquez, finished second and favorite Mine That Bird was third.



ROB CARR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The other Bird wins Belmont

Longshot Summer Bird storms past field at 11-1; Mine That Bird runs 3rd

By Tim Wilkin
HEARST NEWSPAPERS

ELMONT, N.Y. — For an instant, Calvin Borel was home free. He was going to become the first jockey ever to win all three legs of the fabled Triple Crown with two different horses.

Mine That Bird, the little horse who pleased the long-shot colony when he won the Kentucky Derby five weeks ago at odds of 50-1, was in the lead and the wire of the Belmont Stakes was getting close.

Belmont payoffs

4-Summer Bird	\$25.80	\$9.30	\$4.70
2-Dunkirk		\$5.40	\$3.60
7-Mine That Bird--			\$2.60
\$1 Exacta 4-2	\$60.50;	\$1 Trifecta 4-2-7	\$147.50;
\$1 Superfecta 4-2-7-6	\$426.00		

However, it didn't come soon enough. Mine That Bird, the 6-5 favorite in the \$1 million Belmont, got caught at the end of the long, intimidating, draining stretch of America's biggest race track.

It was another bird, this one named Summer Bird, who swooped in and grabbed the final act of the elusive Triple Crown in front of a crowd of 52,861.

Sent off at odds of 11-1, Summer Bird, ridden by Kent Desormeaux, luckless in the Belmont before Saturday, and trained by rookie Tim Ice, blew past Mine That Bird to win the race by a widening 2 3/4 lengths.

Dunkirk, a flop in the Kentucky Derby, also caught Mine That Bird and finished a neck in front of him in second place.

Borel, who had ridden Mine That Bird in the Derby and then jumped to the filly Rachel Alexandra in the Preakness, was back on Mine That Bird in the Belmont and he had guaranteed victory in the days leading up to the race.

And he almost came through. Mine That Bird, the confirmed

Please see SUMMER on B5

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