



From left in front row, Rocco Davino, Dylan Reynolds, Matt Millea and Douglas Schaffer; second row, Michael Purcell, Daniel Lawler and Michael Acampora; in rear, head-coach Paul Cambra and coach Dan Lawler.

Connecticut Naturals named sports team of year for Northeast

The Connecticut Naturals, a baseball team coached by Paul Cambra, received the highest award presented by Triple Crown Sports at an annual banquet recently in Wading River, N.Y.

Triple Crown Sports runs nationwide sports tournaments.

Grant Stannis, Triple Crown Sports director, announced the Naturals as Triple Crown Sports team of the year for 2006 for the Northeast. More than 720 teams from the region participate annually in Triple Crown tournaments in the Northeast, and each year the organization recognizes the best team in each age category.

The Connecticut Naturals were awarded best 10 and under team for 2006.

Also, Triple Crown Sports awards the top honor to that team, which establishes itself as the best performing team during the baseball season.

The Connecticut Naturals beat out all the other age category winners to be recognized as the best performing team of the year.

The Connecticut Naturals compiled a record of 47-3. The Naturals won three, 10 and under,

Triple Crown tournaments.

On top of the team's accomplishments in these tournaments, finishing with a third-place national ranking by Triple Crown Sports, the Connecticut Naturals won the AABC Connecticut State Championship.

The team then won the North Atlantic Regional tournament with five straight wins, hitting 12 home runs in that tournament to five for the other seven teams combined.

The team was flown by the American Amateur Baseball Conference to Puerto Rico to compete in the AABC World Series, which was eventually won by Puerto Rico.

The team is composed of players from towns in South Central Connecticut and was formed last winter by Cambra. Team members are Jonathan Rizzo, Matt Millea, Michael Purcell, Daniel Lawler and Rocco Davino of Cheshire; Michael Acampora of North Haven; Dylan Reynolds of Hamden; Brandon Wynn and Nicki Lamberti of East Haven; Michael Demartino and Douglas Schaffer of New Haven.

Cambra is proprietor of Ultimate Sports, a sports training facility, which recently moved from North Haven to Wallingford.