

# SPORTS

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The Hour



Hour photo/MATTHEW VINCI  
Cal Ripken's Leo Andriuk, right, scrambles back to first base ahead of the tag by Norwalk Little League's Paul Salata during Tuesday night's Kinlock Memorial tournament game at Tim Devine Field. The Little Leaguers wrapped up the tourney title with a 5-2 victory.

## Little League claims Kinlock crown

**NORWALK**  
By MIKE MADAR  
Hour Correspondent

The Norwalk Little League all-stars rallied for five runs in the bottom of the fifth to defeat the West Norwalk Cal Ripken all-stars 5-2 and capture the Kinlock Tournament championship at Tim Devine Field Tuesday.

"It's a great accomplishment," Norwalk Little League head coach Mike Newcomb said. "The other teams have kind of had their way with us the last couple years but we battled back."

Things didn't look good for Little League (4-1) which trailed 2-0 heading to the bot-

**KINLOCK TOURNAMENT**

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tom of the fifth while managing just one hit off Cal Ripken starter Mikey Terzian. However, Terzian would not register an out in the fifth.

After Jared Smith reached on an error, Trey Newcomb singled and Kevin Love walked.

Ryan Evans then walked to force in a run and Sean Welch followed with a bloop single to right, scoring a pair and giving

Little League a 3-2 lead.

"It was a hit here and a walk there," Newcomb said of the fifth inning rally. "I think Mikey just got tired."

After Brendan Hanzlik walked to re-load the bases, Christian Lengyel came on in relief of Terzian.

After a strikeout, Lengyel walked Edward Petrillo and Alex Scallion to force in a pair of runs as Little League extended its lead to 5-2. Lengyel pitched out of further trouble when he got Smith to ground into a 4-4-3 inning-ending double play.

Paul Salata pitched around a single and an error in his

see LITTLE LEAGUE B4

## Pitino says he paid for abortion

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino told police he had sex and paid for an abortion for the woman accused of trying to extort him for \$10 million, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on its Web site that Pitino told police he had been drinking in a Louisville restaurant and had sex with Karen Sypher in August 2003. The police report said he denied allegations by Sypher that he raped her after the restaurant closed and at another time somewhere else. He said later he gave her \$3,000 for an abortion.

Sypher went to police to report the rape allegations last month. A Kentucky prosecutor said the complaint she filed with a police sex-offense unit wouldn't be prosecuted because it lacked supporting evidence.

Sypher has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of trying to extort money up to \$10 million from Pitino and lying to the FBI.

Pitino's lawyer, Steve Pence, said the story is about Sypher and not his client.

"Karen Sypher is indicted for extortion," Pence said. "The commonwealth's attorney has said she is void of any credibility on these 6-year-old allegations she has made."

Sgt. Andy Abbott, the commander of the police department's sex offense unit, asked Sypher during one interview why she waited until after she was indicted on the extortion charge to report her allegations.

She gave varying see PITINO B4



Hour photo/ALEX VON KLEYDORFF  
James Hilaire, center, was announced Tuesday as the 2009 recipient of the Fairfield County Sports Commission's Chelsea Cohen Courage award. He is flanked by Larry Cohen and Barbara Rittner, the parents of the Norwalk High soccer star for whom the award is named. Chelsea Cohen succumbed after a tenacious battle against a rare form of cancer. Hilaire is a goalie at the University of New Haven who suffered a traumatic brain injury in September.

## Kurimai earns special recognition

**STAMFORD**  
By GEORGE ALBANO  
Hour Staff Writer

Back when he was playing soccer at Brien McMahon High School more than four decades ago, Mark Kurimai already showed signs of someone who would someday make an impact on other people's lives.

Even back then people could see he had leadership qualities written all over him.

"He was my captain and then he was a captain at UConn," legendary coach Ralph King recalled Tuesday afternoon after he heard the Fairfield County Sports Commission had selected his former player as the 2009 Special Olympics Sports Person of the Year.

"And then he came back as a teacher in Norwalk and did a lot

of good things working with kids," King added.

Like in 1980, when Kurimai founded the Norwalk Special Olympics Program, serving as its local coordinator for the past 29 years.

In fact, in 1999 he received a Coach of the Year Award from Connecticut Special Olympics while his team was honored with the "Best Local Program" award.

Now, 10 years later, Kurimai is being recognized once again for his selfless dedication.

But the announcement of his award was only half the big news



to come out of the press conference held in the lobby at the University of Connecticut Stamford campus, where the Commission's Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame is housed.

With New York Rangers captain and 2008 inductee Chris Drury in attendance, Executive Director Tom Chiappetta also announced James Hilaire of Stamford as the 2009 recipient of the Chelsea Cohen Courage Award.

The award is named after the former Norwalk High School soccer player who lost her battle with CNS Sarcoma, a rare form of nervous system cancer, and passed away Aug. 2, 2006, less than two months after her graduation from NHS and only 18 days shy of her 18th birthday.

Cohen was the first recipient

see KURIMAI B3

## Woods has new perspective

**CHASKA, MINN.**  
By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

Tiger Woods used to say it was only a great year if he won a major. He has one shot left at the PGA Championship, yet he already has rendered his verdict.

"It's been a great year either way," Woods said Tuesday.

He already has five victories on the PGA Tour, pushing his career total to 70 last week at a Firestone. His timing could use some improvement, for Woods arrived at Hazeltine having already completed the "Pre-Slam" — winning all four of his tournaments before a major.

His reference point is the PGA Championship a year ago, when he was home in Florida just learning to walk again after surgery on his left knee to rebuild the ligaments. Woods knew that he would play again. He just wasn't sure what to expect.

Five victories? A scoring average that is a full stroke better than anyone else?

"For me to come back and play, and play as well as I've done and actually win golf events ... to be honest with you, I don't think any of us would have thought I could have won this many events this year," he said.

It's not as though he is abandoning thoughts on winning at Hazeltine and joining Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with five victories in the PGA Championship. For the first time, Woods is end-

see WOODS B4

## Keller working to become complete tight end

**CORTLAND, N.Y.**  
By DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

Dustin Keller knows he has the skills to be one of the game's top pass-catching tight ends.

Brett Favre told him so.

So, it bothered the New York Jets' second-year tight end when he was pulled off the field at times last season because his blocking left a lot to be desired.

"When I'd go out there last year, more times than not, teams would know that if I'm out there, I'm going out for a route," Keller said Tuesday. "But this year,

I'm going in there and they'll have no clue."

That's because Keller is working hard at becoming a complete tight end, something the Jets believe will help an offense expected to rely heavily on the run.

"He's too athletic not to be a good blocker," coach Rex Ryan said. "He's competitive, he's athletic. Does he have the size of some of these good blockers? No, but you can beat guys with your athleticism and he's working hard at that right now."

When the Jets drafted the 6-foot-2, 248-pound



Keller out of Purdue in the first round last year, they envisioned him being able to create matchup problems with linebackers because of his superior speed.

That was the case for much of last season, when he caught 48 passes for 535 yards and three touchdowns. Favre even paid him the ultimate compliment when he said, "I wish I had you when I was younger."

"That was huge for me and for him to say those things and speak that way about my ability, on one hand, it was definitely flattering to

hear," Keller said. "On the other hand, it just means I've got to go out there and work that much harder at my craft and figure out how to be the best player I can."

More often than not, when the Jets were running the ball, it was Chris Baker who handled blocking duties. Baker is gone now, signing with New England, so Keller is the clear-cut starter and must be at least adequate at blocking to stay in the game — especially because the Jets are struggling to find a back-up tight end.

"For us to be as good as we can be, he needs to see KELLER B4



AP photo  
Tight end Dustin Keller catches a pass during a drill at the New York Jets training camp. Best known as a pass-catcher, Keller is working to improve his blocking.