

# NEWS RELEASE: The ECC Turns 90

The Eastern Connecticut Conference turns 90 years old during the 2024-25 academic year.

The ECC was first created back in 1934-35 with six schools - Bulkeley (of New London), Chapman Tech (of New London), Fitch, NFA, Stonington and Windham. Previously those schools competed in the Eastern Connecticut-Western Rhode Island League.

The "Founding Fathers" of the ECC included the athletic directors from the six schools - Bill O'Brien (Bulkeley), Jack Conway (Chapman Tech), Tom Callaghan (Windham), Mike Cronin (Stonington), Eddie Collins (Fitch), Howie Dickenman (NFA) and Moose Fabricant (Stonington).

In that first year (1934-35), the ECC had five varsity sports - cross country, football, basketball, baseball and outdoor track.

Now in 2024-25, the ECC has 19 member schools, whose geographical footprint reaches from the Massachusetts border to the Long Island Sound and from the Rhode Island border to just east of the Connecticut River.

The league sponsors 26 sports throughout the academic year with each sport culminating in a league championship. More than 5,000 student-athletes compete yearly in the ECC.

"The ECC looks to continue the success that the league has generated over its 90 years," ECC president Marc Romano said. "We look forward to highlighting the many outstanding moments, performances, teams, coaches and athletes over the next nine months to celebrate this milestone year."

Throughout the 2024-25 academic year, the ECC will post "historical" tidbits from the league's history through its social media channels and will utilize a commemorative 90-year logo.

## **ECC Member Schools – 1934 (6)**

Bulkeley (of New London), Chapman Tech (of New London), Fitch, Norwich Free Academy, , Stonington, Windham

## **ECC Member Schools – 2024 (19)**

Bacon Academy, East Lyme, Fitch, Griswold, Killingly, Ledyard, Lyman Memorial, Montville, New London, Norwich Free Academy, Plainfield, Putnam, St. Bernard, Stonington, Tourtellotte, Waterford, Wheeler, Windham, Woodstock Academy

## **ECC 90<sup>th</sup> Year Fun Fact**

**DID YOU KNOW:** The first state championship won by a ECC member school was Norwich Free Academy, which won the boys cross country "Open" division title in the fall of 1934.

