

## Scholarship winners honored

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STAMFORD -- The John "Sharkey" Laureno Memorial Baseball Tournament at Cubeta Stadium has a long and rich history over its 26 years.

But the most important part of the two-week tournament came late Saturday night as the Sharkey Laureno Scholarship Fund honored 12 scholarship award recipients between games of the 14-15-year-old wooden bat doubleheader.

Each scholarship award is into four figures and runs on a three-year cycle for each recipient.

Finishing their three-year scholarship cycle in 2012 are Chris LoRusso and Anthony Pandone.

Beginning the second year of their scholarship cycle are Charles Kiernan, George Murphy, Nate Newhall, Carl Battinelli III, Andrew Masi and Mitch O'Meara.

First-year recipients for 2012 are Trevor Kane, Tom McIntosh, Joe Osburn and Stanley Paul.

"From age 13-15 I played in the Sharkey Laureno tournament. I was always here for the scholarship ceremony," McIntosh said. "I knew then I wanted to be one of those kids on the scholarship list."

McIntosh enters his sophomore year at Pace University where he was a setup guy in the bullpen for the Pace baseball team. Stamford natives Alex Rough (catcher) and Bobby Horne (shortstop) are also on the Pace squad while Tyler Collins just graduated.

"The tuition at Pace isn't cheap. Whether you're in-state or out-of-state. College isn't cheap anywhere," McIntosh said. "It's nice to be able to count on scholarship help like this. It's a great boost."

O'Meara, a former Stamford High pitcher, is currently playing club baseball at UConn in Storrs.

"It's nice to see that the Laureno scholarship awards have continued. As a senior, this award really comes in handy. I'm so appreciative to the organizers."

Kane, who also played for Stamford High, now enters his sophomore year as a transfer student at Mount St. Mary's College in Newburgh, N.Y.

"This is a tremendous honor. Especially when I look at all the names of the scholarship winners from the past. A lot of them I looked up to when I was sitting in the stands here at Cubeta watching games," Kane said. "The way college is now every scholarship award means so much. You don't know how important help like this is."

The Sharkey Laureno Baseball Tournament at Cubeta continues Sunday with semifinal round action in both the 14-year-old and 15-year-old divisions.

The championship finals are set for 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Monday night at Cubeta -- weather permitting.