



Tolland High School Senior and Avon High School Field Hockey Team Named 2026 Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport Award Honorees

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Cam Soucy Tolland High School Senior



Cam Soucy, a Tolland high school senior and boys soccer co-captain, and the Avon High School field hockey team are both recipients of the 2026 Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport Award. Soucy and Avon Field Hockey become the 17th and 18th recipients of the distinguished yearly award. The Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport Award seeks to recognize individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics. The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or an activity of longer duration. This is the first time in the award's history that multiple honorees will be recognized in the same year.



[View CIAC Video Feature Profile of Cam Soucy](#)

Cam Soucy, who along with his Tolland High teammates won a second consecutive CIAC Class M Boys Soccer State Championship in the fall of 2025, is a pediatric cancer survivor and inspiration to those who know his story. In 2013, just before his fifth birthday, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 neuroblastoma with metastasis. Neuroblastoma is a cancer of the nervous system. Cam's tumor was on his adrenal gland and at time of diagnosis the cancer had metastasized throughout his body. The prognosis was bleak. Cam's mother Jessica Soucy shares that on a neuroblastoma rating scale of zero to 30, "Zero indicating being cancer free and 30 being end of life care, Camden was a 28 at diagnosis."

Receiving treatment in both Hartford and Boston, Soucy had surgery to remove the tumor, underwent chemotherapy, antibody therapy, and radiation therapy, underwent a bone marrow transplant and needed two years of a maintenance drug to keep him cancer free. Tolland Head Boys Soccer Coach Michael Caccomo says, "To be able to look at Cam and call him our captain, and call him our leader, and to call him a state champion, I think it means the world."

Avon High School Field Hockey Team



The Avon High School Falcons' field hockey program has set an example for inclusion, kindness and opportunity. The fall of 2025 saw Avon senior Kaylie Murphy complete her fourth and final season as a player in the program and in August she was named a team captain. A particularly notable accomplishment because Kaylie has autism.



Avon Field Hockey Coaching Staff

She joined the field hockey team in the fall of 2022 and almost immediately began to leave an impression. Her story gained attention that fall when, through kind collaboration with Avon opponent East Catholic High School, Kaylie scored a goal late in a game. That was just the beginning. Kaylie's dedication to the program, she often has her mother practice with her on team off days, is a testament to the power of inclusion, friendship and what it means to have teammates. Captain Kaylie & The Falcons have set an example for the rest of us to live up to.

Kaylie's mother Michelle says that the viral video of the goal vs. East Catholic led to a level of celebrity for her daughter, "Three years later people still see it. We were traveling (flying out at the airport) and they were like 'Is that Kaylie Muprhy? She's the field hockey player from Avon!'"

Longtime Avon field hockey head coach Terri Ziemnicki notes what a difference Kaylie's inclusion in the program has made, "I think back if she had never played field hockey, what would have been the opportunity where it just clicked? It's magical." Kaylie came to have "40 sisters" on the team, and Avon Field Hockey sent a message across Connecticut, and beyond, that inclusion can be a hallmark for measuring impact and success in education-based high school athletics.

The CIAC's video feature Captain Kaylie & The Falcons includes details on the poster that Kaylie designed to express her interest in becoming a team captain, video of the moment Kaylie was announced as a captain, and video of a heartfelt senior night tribute to Kaylie from one of her Falcon teammates.



[View CIAC Video Feature Profile of the Avon High School Field Hockey Team](#)

The Avon field hockey team, and Tolland's Cam Soucy, will be formally honored at the CAS-CIAC 43rd Annual Scholar-Athlete Banquet on May 3, 2026.