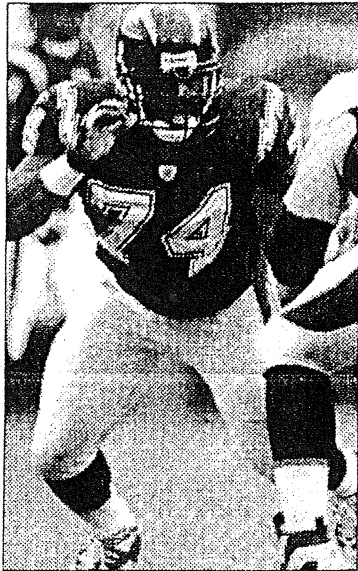


Former SCSU Standout Signs Contract With Chargers

Jacques Cesaire, a former Division II All-American football player at Southern Connecticut State University, recently agreed to a new five-year contract with the San Diego Chargers.

His current contract was due to expire this month, which would have meant that he would become a Restricted Free Agent.

"I'm just excited about the fact that I'm going to be in San Diego for at least the next five years," said Cesaire. "I know the place, the team, the coaches and everyone there. I'm excited about being able to come back and continue to get better and help this team win a championship."



Jacques Cesaire, a former Division II All-American football player at Southern Connecticut State University.

After Cesaire's senior year at Southern, he was not selected in the NFL draft, but the Chargers still gave him a shot at pro football. He earned a roster spot and developed a great sense of gratitude towards the team.

"This is the team that gave me a chance in the first place," said Cesaire. "Coming out of a small Division II school, you don't get a lot of opportunities. The Chargers invited me to camp and gave me a chance to become a professional. I'm eternally grateful for that as well as the team's loyalty to me now."

Due in large part to the Chargers' dedication to winning, Cesaire had no desire to test the waters of free

agency this spring. He stated that his strong relationship with defensive line coach Wayne Nunnely also played a key role in his desire to remain in San Diego.

Over the past two seasons, Cesaire has started in 17 of 32 games and stood strong against the run. In 2005, he played a key role in the NFL's top-ranked rushing defense.

"I'm just happy that they want me around to try to help them as much as I can," said Cesaire. "There are a lot of players that come and go. It makes me feel secure and it makes me want to work harder to prove to myself and to everyone else that the Chargers made the right choice."

For more information visit www.chargers.com. ♦

Vista's Starlight Benefit Ball 2006

On Friday, April 21, Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center will be hosting their annual Starlight Benefit Ball. The festivities will take place from 7-11 p.m. at Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook.

Sponsored by Citizens Bank, the evening will feature dinner and dancing. The Master of Ceremonies for the celebration will be Billy Bush, co-anchor of NBC's *Access Hollywood*, the daily television news magazine.

The Shiny Lapel Trio will perform classic swing jazz that is sure to keep you dancing throughout the night. The event is an elegant, semi-formal evening filled with great fun, entertainment and socializing.

Reservations for the event are \$75 per person. Volunteers are also needed for auction gift solicitation and ads, decor and event set-up, publicity and registration. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact Nola Battipaglia, event chair at 203-318-1875 or Thelma Coomes, donations & advertising chair at 860-669-7409.

Water's Edge Resort is located at 1525 Boston Post Road in Westbrook. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets call 203-318-5240. ♦

Yankees to Use Milford's ProBatter System

ProBatter Sports in Milford recently sold its breakthrough pitching simulator to the New York Yankees. The ProBatter Professional Baseball system combines the latest proprietary computer and video technology to almost perfectly duplicate the experience of facing live pitching.

"We are thrilled to be working with the New York Yankees, one of the most storied franchises in sports," said Jim Cummings, president of ProBatter Sports. "We consider their acquisition of the ProBatter system to be a testament to its value as the ultimate training tool for hitters."

The Yankees are currently using the simulator in their facility in Tampa for spring training. It will later be moved and installed at Yankee Stadium to be used during the regular season.



The ProBatter Professional Baseball system allows a hitter to face the life-sized image of an actual pitcher winding up (or throwing from a stretch) and delivering a pitch on a video screen. An actual ball is thrown through the screen by a computer-controlled pitching module, which is capable of delivering any pitch that a human pitcher can.

The batter is thus challenged by an endless variety of real pitches — fastballs, sinkers, cutters, curves, sliders, change-ups, etc. — at speeds up to 100 mph. Pitch velocity can be varied in increments of two mph and thrown to predetermined locations inside and outside the strike zone with pinpoint accuracy.

For more information visit www.probatter.com. ♦