

Baseball reunites Fedeli brothers

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

Shadowed by their father Frank Fedeli's popularity in southwest Connecticut, Owl's pitcher and infielder Chad Fedeli, a senior and his younger brother infielder and outfielder Ryan Fedeli, a sophomore, carry the lineage of playing the sport they aligned with in their youth.

"Our father was head baseball coach at Weston High School, so we kind of grew up on the field," Ryan said. "We were always at practice with dad and with the older guys taking swings."

Frank is a former catcher at Sacred Heart University and a renowned high school baseball coach in the Southwest Conference where he made a stop at Staples High School in Westport prior to his 13 seasons at Weston High School. During his 13 years at Weston, he turned the program into a perennial postseason team by clinching a spot in the state tournament in 11 of his 13 years, only watching Chad play once.

"He would bring us to the practices sometimes, we'd be able to go on the bus with the high school team and be kind of a part of the team," Chad said. "Seeing the fun that he brought to the sport for those kids, he brought the same thing for us and we just fell in love. And nothing's changed since."

Like their dad, they started out in little league as catchers. Induced with a gritty skillset when they were young from playing at the lowest levels to the high school seasons to summer ball flourishing off the field and onto the



Infielder and pitcher Chad Fedeli, a senior, poses with his brother infielder and outfielder Ryan Fedeli, a sophomore, after the team's senior day ceremony.

gridiron in the fall. For Chad, playing baseball as long as he could, would be ideal. As a rising junior at Masuk High School, he described an exceptional summer season playing travel ball. And in February of 2019, he worked out with university assistant coach Ed Bethke. On the drive home, he was ecstatic that he got an offer. "It was on the way

home, I called him and said I wanted to come here because it was a good fit for me academically," Chad said. Choosing the university over other programs, even in the NE10 was easy. Though, when he officially committed in the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, little did he know Ryan, a freshman at the time, was right behind him. Watching

his younger brother go through the same process a few years later meant a lot. Chad highlights Ryan visiting campus for the first time, not knowing Ryan's ultimate decision. "Coach Shea texting the whole team, being like, 'Hey guys. Just wanted to let you guys know we have a new recruit. Ryan Fedeli, just committed to Southern,'" Chad said. "Ryan called me. 'He's like,

I'm coming. And I'm like, what do you mean?' I just remember going crazy because I wanted this to happen."

Standing at five feet eight inches tall, Chad who is one of the smaller players on the team, is not your stereotypical makeup for a pitcher. Even as a mainstay in the blue and white over the last four seasons, he was projected as a key piece of the middle infield, mound and batter's box for 2025.

"I was lucky to be in a position to get noticed, but at the same time, I worked for it at that point and I have been overlooked a lot," Chad said. "I had coaches tell me that I am too small to play. I take it as a grain of salt, adds a little chip on the shoulder, but I do not think there is a size you need to be to be successful in the game."

The gritty blue-collar work ethic distinguishes him from others and did not go unnoticed, even as a junior in high school. Acknowledging the first thing coaches are going to notice is that he is at a disadvantage physically, however, being in the right position at the right time and with the bonus of being a coach's kid is you are more prepared for opportunities that arise. Including winning a competition for starting shortstop in 2022.

"He represented an athletic, versatile, very talented baseball player. Those kinds of kids you can kind of put anywhere you want. That's why I fell in love with Chad as a player, because of his athleticism to do multiple things," Head Coach Tim Shea said.

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Column: NBA Playoffs



By Matt Cain
Contributor

As the 2025 NBA Playoffs get underway, storylines are already erupting across both conferences — from dominant top seeds to unexpected surges, clutch performances and stars battling injury. The intensity is rising and we are only just getting started.

In the Eastern Conference, the Cleveland Cavaliers have picked up right where they left off in the regular season, storming to a 3-0 series lead over the Miami Heat. Donovan Mitchell has been electric, especially in game two, where he dropped 17 of his 30 points in a commanding fourth-quarter takeover. With Defensive Player of the Year, Evan Mobley, anchoring their defense and Coach of the Year Kenny Atkinson leading the charge, the Cavs look every bit like a final's contender.

Not far behind, the Boston Celtics are also flexing their playoff muscle. Despite missing Jayson Tatum in game two due to a wrist injury, Jaylen Brown erupted for 36 points to guide Boston past the Orlando Magic, taking a 2-0 series lead. Sixth Man of the Year Payton Pritchard has added steady support, while coach Joe Mazzulla's quirky approach continues to yield results — and headlines leading 3-1 in the best of seven.

Meanwhile, the New York Knicks are locked in a much tighter battle with the upstart Detroit Pistons. After splitting the first two games, the Knicks narrowly edged game three behind Karl-Anthony Towns' 31-point effort. Detroit, led by Cade Cunningham and the Thompson twin, Asur, has proven they are no fluke, snapping a playoff win drought dating back to 2008. The Knicks narrowly edged the Pistons in game four, 94-93.

The Indiana Pacers have surprised many by jumping out to a 3-1 lead over the Milwaukee Bucks. Tyrese Haliburton has been the catalyst, posting a double-double in game two while igniting a Pacers squad that is playing with purpose and passion. Tensions are rising in this series, with Haliburton even declaring, "We don't like them." Damian Lillard, still recovering from injury, has yet to make the impact Milwaukee desperately needs.

Out west, the Oklahoma City Thunder are putting on a clinic. MVP favorite Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and rising star Jalen Williams have the Thunder just one win away from sweeping the Memphis Grizzlies. After a historic 51-point win in Game one, the young Thunder are proving they are not just regular-season darlings — they are postseason threats.

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LAX sets program record with 10 wins

By Avery Martin
Contributor

The Women's lacrosse team broke the program record for most wins in a season on Wednesday April 23, when they won their 10th game of the year securing a seventh seed in their first NE10 tournament.

Head Coach Kevin Siedlecki characterized the season as one of development, after nearly the entire starting lineup graduated in 2024.

"We graduated almost the entire starting lineup, so this season wasn't so much about learning and adjusting from last year as it was building a completely new team, with different personnel and a different style of play," Siedlecki said. "The message to each individual was not to try to replace the seniors who graduated, but to play like yourself. We put together a very different team and a different kind of game plan and execution that worked with the team we have this year."

The Owls started the season with four successive wins in February and March. The rest of the season was up and down, with seven losses and six wins down the stretch. However, the games that were won were often by large margins, with multiple Owls scoring goals.

"The best thing about all of our high-scoring games is that a lot of people score goals. We haven't run any scores up by having our top few scorers score 6-7 goals in a game. We have a lot of offensive weapons,"



Attack Allie Palmer, a junior, tries to score against Adelphi University on April 22.

Siedlecki said. Wins have been high scoring, including 26-3 against American International College on April 23, 25-1 versus St. Thomas Aquinas College, 20-5 against Franklin Pierce University on April 5, 24-0 against Warner University on March 19 and 22-3 against Holy Family University on Feb. 26.

Lost games have been closer, including 12-14 to Assumption University on April 14 and 8-7 against St. Anselm College on March 13.

"The biggest takeaway from this season is that we really can compete

with everyone. We were very competitive in all our losses - we just lost focus or had lapses and gave up runs over a short period of time that were the difference in the games," Siedlecki said.

The Owls won 27-4 against Caldwell University in March, breaking the program record for most goals in a game. Of the 27 goals, four belonged to midfielder Abigail Nolan and attack/midfielder Macy Vail and three to midfielder Bailey McDermott, all juniors. Attack/midfielders Taryn Ugrin, Anna Meserve, sophomores, Sofia Zumbunn, a freshman,

midfielders Amelia Mansfield, a senior, Hannah Hathway and Rebecca Sibley, freshmen, scored two goals each. Attacks Jordan Fisher, a senior, Allie Palmer, a junior, midfielder Allie Welder, a sophomore and attack/midfielder Maddox Burton, a sophomore, all had one.

"Maddox has taken on a huge role as a sophomore and has developed her confidence as the season went on. She takes a lot of pride in seeing things as they develop and getting the ball in the right place to set her teammates up for success," Siedlecki said. Burton who is one of

the returners, has had a breakout season breaking the record for the most assists in one game with seven against St. Thomas Aquinas on April 22.

"Going into the playoffs, we're the seventh seed, so certainly not the favorites," Siedlecki said. "But we really believe that we can beat anybody if we play disciplined and execute our style of lacrosse."

On Saturday April 26, the team played in the NE10 conference tournament for the first time in program history, entering as the seventh seed against Adelphi University where they fell 22-9.