

# THE LIVING ROOM TIMES

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## Connecticut's best NHS softball team ranked #1 in the state

Newington High School's unbeaten softball squad is the best team in Connecticut, according to the new *Hartford Courant* coaches' poll released this morning.

The Indians (11-0, 7-0 CCC South) barely edged fellow undefeated Westhill of Stamford (13-0, 10-0 FCIAC) and last week's #2 team, Coginchaug of Durham (10-1 8-1 Shoreline), beating Westhill by 2 points and Coginchaug by 3 on the vote "points" scale of 20-18-16-14-12-11-10-9-8-7. Newington actually received just two first-place votes, one less than Westhill's three — but made up for it with lower-place votes to become #1 anyway.

The #1 Indians rose to the top by virtue of their undefeated record — one of just five unbeaten teams left in the state — and their first-ever victory over then-#12 Southington, now ranked #15, last Monday, as well as an impressive 14-1 trouncing of Manchester on Wednesday and a 17-0 five-inning shutout of Maloney Friday.

Newington was #3 in last week's coaches' poll, released one day after the Southington game but tabulated before that game was played. Westhill was #5 in that poll; Coginchaug was #2. Norwich Free Academy, the #1 team last week with a record of 10-1, fell all the way to #7 this week thanks to their 2-1 loss Wednesday to ECC rival East Lyme — a team the Indians will play in their regular season finale May 25.

NFA's loss opened the door for Newington, spurring much talk among team members last week that they could move up to #1 this morning. They did — but it will be a battle to stay there, with two teams lurking within just three points of the #1 position. Coginchaug is likely to drop, however, after losing 3-2 yesterday to unranked Old Saybrook in a game which was not completed in time to be included in this morning's poll.

Newington starts its reign as the state's top-ranked team this afternoon at New Britain (3-7, 2-6 CCC South) in a game which begins at 3:30 PM.

### STATE COACHES' POLLS (first-place votes in parentheses)

#### WEEK 1: April 27

1. Hale-Ray, 8-0	104
2. NFA, 6-1	99
3. N. Branford, 8-0 (2)	95
4. Coginchaug, 6-0	84
5. Seymour, 7-1 (1)	76
6T. Westhill, 7-0 (2)	67
6T. Amity, 7-1 (1)	67
8. Morgan, 6-1 (1)	63
9. Newington, 6-0 (1)	56
10. Fitch, 5-0	53

#### WEEK 2: May 4

1. NFA, 10-1 (3)	130
2. Coginchaug, 8-1	97
3. Newington, 8-0 (1)	93
4. Seymour, 9-1	87
5. Westhill, 11-0 (1)	74
6. Amity, 9-1 (1)	70
7. Hale-Ray, 9-1 (1)	68
8. N. Branford, 9-1	51
9T. Fitch, 8-1	49
9T. Lewis Mills, 9-1	49

### WEEK 3: May 11

1. Newington, 11-0 (2)	124
2. Westhill, 13-0 (3)	122
3. Coginchaug, 10-1 (1)	121
4. Seymour, 12-1	101
5. N. Branford, 12-1	91
6. Amity, 12-1 (1)	75
7. NFA, 12-2 (1)	64
8. Fitch, 10-2	61
9. RHAM, 11-0	40
10. Luralton Hall, 14-1	39

NOTE: *The Hartford Courant* incorrectly reported Coginchaug's point total as 93. *The Living Room Times* believes, based on calculation of the total possible points, that 121 is the correct total.



Above: Before every game, Sandy Ramos leads her team in a countdown of "9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2..." Now, the Indians really are #1 in Connecticut.