

# Shinton quickly smitten by Yale tradition

Posted Tuesday, December 18, 2007



Scott Shinton holds three individual school records at Newark High, in addition to two relay records. Shinton will swim at Yale next year. [\(Buy photo\)](#) Special to The News Journal/EMILY VARISCO

When Newark High senior swimmer Scott Shinton visited Yale University on a recruiting trip in September, there wasn't a football game that weekend.

But Shinton did get to see the Yalies take part in a women's volleyball match, and he caught the Yale spirit immediately.

The first intercollegiate athletic event in U.S. history, according to the Yale University sports Web site, was an 1852 -- yes, more than 150 years ago -- men's crew race between Yale and Harvard. The two schools also are known to play football against each other from time to time.

"There is just so much tradition involved in all sports there," Shinton said, "and they hold sports in such high-esteem. The Ivy League schools treat their athletes well, especially Yale, and attending a volleyball match didn't sound like fun. But all the students there had so much school spirit, it was a great experience."

Shinton, the defending state champion in the 100-yard butterfly and the 500 freestyle, learned last Friday night that he has been accepted to Yale, and Shinton said Monday he will attend the New Haven, Conn., school next year.

"I didn't want to say I might be going there and then not get in," Shinton said about inquiries of where he would swim in college.

Shinton also made official visits to Brown, Duke and Penn, all of them coming after his Yale visit. None of those trips left the impression Yale did.

"They're among the most national championships in the nation," Shinton said about the Yale swim team. "They may have been back in the 1940s and '50s, but they are still really competitive in Division I and have had decent finishes [the past two years] in the Ivy League. They're improving, and maybe we'll beat Harvard and Princeton."

Shinton has three individual school records at Newark, in the 100 butterfly, 500 freestyle and 200 individual medley, and his name also is on the board for school records in the 200 medley and

400 freestyle relays. The year-round swimmer also competes with Team Delaware and was a finalist with that team last spring at junior nationals in the 200 butterfly.