

# 2022 Ken and Beryl Knudtsen Memorial Spirit Award

## CHARLIE HOPKIE

### Trails West Wolves U15 BC 3 Red



Charlie's Head Coach, David Mazurkewich and Team Manager, Karen Connors submitted an outstanding nomination letter for Charlie. Here is an excerpt:



Charlie is a highly competitive athlete who loves the sport of hockey and when not practicing or playing with the team, can be found on the community ODR with friends, or fine tuning his shooting and dangling skills on his backyard ice surface. He is respectful to his teammates and coaches and arrives at practice focused, ready to learn, and always looking to improve.

Having been nominated by his teammates early in the season as an Alternate Captain Charlie has proven to be an excellent teammate and leader. As with most successful leaders he often leads by example allowing his actions to do most of the talking. When he does speak up his choice of supportive and positive comments have his teammates listening intently.

Charlie regularly plays centre but will step into any position and is equally capable as a winger or defenceman. His typical response when asked, "Sure coach, whatever you need." He forechecks with a singular focus and determination to eliminate the opponents time and space often creating turnovers and scoring opportunities. And then he continues with the same unforgiving drive on the back check to support his defence and goalie. When he gets to the bench it is clear he gave the team everything he had, but he recoups, catches his breath, and then prepares for the next shift.

Charlie's love of hockey and strong leadership comes from his family. They are the epitome of a true Canadian hockey family. Charlie is the 3rd of four Trails West hockey boys. His oldest brothers, having moved on to university, continue to play rec hockey with many of the same friends they made at Trails West. Charlie's younger brother is on the same team this year solidifying their family bond and making the family Uber just a little easier for change.

Despite a little sibling rivalry, Charlie, and his brother Joe's strong performance together resulted in them often being placed on the same line and assisting many goals to each other. Charlie's dad, known as Coach Shane, has volunteered as either head or assistant coach every year since 2006 when his oldest started Timbits. Coach Shane is a strong mentor on our team and has had a positive influence on many players. In addition to coaching, Shane has been a rink rat at the community outdoor rink for just as long. Now, Charlie has stepped in as a rink rat and helps with shoveling and flooding the Discovery Ridge ODR.

Charlie's mom Nancy also supports the team as social coordinator. She giggled this year since both her younger boys are on the same team that it would be a breeze only having to coordinate parties for one team. And that she has done, organizing paintball, a team bbq, team meals and off ice training. In a typical season (without covid), the Hopkie's open their home as well to host amazing team and parent parties. Charlie is very lucky to come from a family that wholeheartedly hold up the values of sport, community, and fun.

The season hasn't been all easy for Charlie. Four days before our only out of town tournament, Charlie's Nan ("his biggest fan") passed away suddenly. The family was in shock and wasn't sure what to do about the tournament. The team rallied together to take care of Charlie (and younger brother Joe) for the weekend, while Nancy and Shane stayed home to focus on other priorities. Their older brother, knowing how much hockey, the team, and family means to the boys, drove out to be there and support them. It was a tough time, but Charlie (and Joe) went and skated their hearts out in honor of their Nan.

Charlie was instrumental with the team's success in Esso Minor Hockey Week. His drive, determination, and unselfish play throughout the tournament and the final game earned him the MVP award. When envisioning Ken and Beryl back during their grandsons Trails West days, we believe they would have supported kids like Charlie. He is a wonderful young man who lives and breathes the game of hockey and always encourages those around him to play hard and have fun!

As the recipient of this award, Charlie received:

- \$500.00 gift card to Play-It-Again Sports Westhills
- His name on the Memorial Trophy displayed at the Flames Community Arenas
- Personalized engraved metal water bottle "trophy"

A TWHA player in need of financial assistance will receive \$1,000 towards their TWHA registration for the 2022-2023 season in Charlie Hopkie's name. Another part of this Award, three \$250 gift cards, were donated from Play It Again Sports Westhills which will be offered to TWHA players seeking financial assistance for equipment for the 2022-2023 season. Financial assistance from TWHA is also available for our players and made possible by the generous donations from Trails West teams that donate surplus team funds and any surplus funds from the TWHA U15 Cup/U18 Couture Cup.

Go Wolves!