

2023 Ken and Beryl Knudtsen Memorial Spirit Award

Andrew Stevens

Trails West Wolves U11 3 Red



Andrew's Head Coach, Peter Casey, submitted an outstanding nomination letter for Andrew. Here is an excerpt:



This year I nominate Andrew Stevens for this special award. Andrew is one of two hybrid goaltenders on the team, the role itself is incredibly challenging where one game you're in the net trying to win a game and then the next, you're playing forward or defense out as a player. The mental focus for this role on any team is very tough. Andrew exemplifies this award because of the great spirit he has in both roles for the team. He is always bringing positive energy to the dressing with great positive feedback for every team member. He is focused and committed to the team at improving his game in net and as a player on the ice. His

openness to learn each position is encouraging to myself as a coach and as a parent. He always wants the best for his teammate and is looking to help on and off the ice.

This year we were in a tournament in the small town of Nanton. The first game was a tough one for the team where we lost 15-1. Andrew faced a tremendous number of shots, and the game had 3 - 20-minute periods which we are not accustomed to in the regular season. Andrew was exhausted and came to the bench looking for water and rest. He had a hard time breathing at this point because of game exhaustion. Andrew did not quit or even think of giving up, he went back in net and made some great saves to the buzzard. He showed no signs of fatigue in the dressing room after the loss and had a big smile at the end of the game, water off his shoulder. Down below is Andrew winning an award for that game - HEART & HUSSLE. He was a very clear choice.

Andrew exemplifies team spirit, the passion for the game and great sportsmanship. He loves the game of hockey and shows it every day he is at rink in front of his parents, teammates, and coaches.



When I think of the Knudtsen grandparents, I think of Andrew's dad Matt. Matt is the assistant coach for our team. Matt is so committed to the game of hockey for his kids and the players he coaches. He coaches all three kids and is always running rink to rink. He is always the first on the ice and the last to leave. In the evening, you will find him in the backyard on his outdoor rink working with Andrew on goaltending or his other kids. Any moment he has, Matt can be found helping improve the players skills in the game of hockey. As an assistant coach, he is constantly bringing fresh ideas to the rink and talking about the game of hockey. His knowledge and ability to coach and lead is amazing. The wolves are very lucky to have Matt in the Association for all that he gives.

As the recipient of this award, Andrew 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 \$500 towards their TWHA registration for the 2022-2023 season in Andrew'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.