



HAWKS ATHLETIC CLUB 2019 - 2020 PLAYER RECOGNITION AWARD

DOYLE PAUFLER

The Hawks Player Recognition Award goes to the player on each team who best demonstrates the qualities of fair play, dedication, teamwork, perseverance, respect, leadership, sportsmanship, and athleticism. **Doyle Paufler** exemplifies the above qualities in spades and he is Pee wee NW291's recipient for the 2019-2020 Player Recognition Award.. Although these are remarkable attributes, I want to add a few that I feel truly reflect the type of young man Doyle is.

Doyle is a defencemen. I cannot count how many times he would take the puck from our end and take it down the ice. I wouldn't quite describe this as an end to end rush but more of a wide drive to the outside, that went on and on.....and on. As a coaching staff, we were amazed how he could hold on to the puck with only the top hand on his stick for the entire drive. Interestingly, he was successful on many occasions, scoring most of his goals this way. If this isn't dedication to a cause, I'm not sure what is. This is the kind of person Doyle is. He would do anything for our team, for the coaches, his teammates. As a retired Police Officer, Doyle would be the one I would count on for back up in an emergent situation.

Being Kind - Doyle demonstrates this always. He is such a kind person, and this was reflected on how he would show up to every hockey event with a smile on his face and a skip in his step. I would always get a "Hi Coach, how are you today? I promise I will give it my best today coach." He treated all of the coaching staff with respect. It was evident how much his team-mates loved him both as a player and a person. He always showed kindness and respect to other teams, coaches, and referees.

Dealing with Adversity and Being Resilient - This is a tough one for most 11 or 12-year-old kids. Honestly, Doyle wasn't perfect at this, but he led our team in how he dealt with frustrating moments in a shift, a game, or when some of his teammates created conflict. He would always say, "Sorry coach, I promise I will do better next time." He would control-alt-delete the moment and move on to the next task. This is an admirable quality and frankly two of the biggest traits we tried to instill in our team this year.

Leading by Example - Everyone wants to follow a great leader. It is not always what ones says, but what they do. Doyle was a doer, both on the ice and off. He was encouraging to his teammates and coaches. I don't think he ever took a shift off. He sacrificed himself and body on countless occasions to block a shot or save a goal. Practice time is a perfect example of his leadership. He would work as hard as he could with every drill. You could tell he was deeply thinking through new drills and always did his best. I never heard him whine or complain, ever.

Being Humble - Not a pretentious bone in his body. Doyle treated everyone equally. He never put himself above anyone else. Such an amazing quality.

I will never have the opportunity to coach Doyle again, but I will never forget Doyle. Just one of those kids that resonate the good we need to be around. I have no doubt that Doyle will go on a great path in his life where he continues to 'Be Kind, Humble, and Lead by Example.' Doyle is truly deserving of this recognition and I wish him all the best. Congratulations Doyle!

**Pee wee - NW291 Hawks
Marc Downey-Damato - Head Coach**