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Thomas C. Koester
President
Atlantic District

January 18, 2011

To: All High School Coaches

From: Tom Koester, President

The Atlantic District is very excited to announce that we will be participating in the 2010/2011 Hobey Baker High School Character Award.

The goal of the Hobey Baker High School Character Award is to develop, recognize, and reward exemplary character and sportsmanship demonstrated by our high school hockey players. The development and recognition of exemplary character and sportsmanship in our high school hockey players is an extremely important aspect of the student-athlete experience. This high school level award is a natural extension of the prestigious Hobey Baker Memorial Award given to the nation's top collegiate hockey player and sportsman. (See Exhibit A)

Each varsity high school hockey head coach should follow the process outlined per Exhibit B, with each coach selecting the member of their team who best exemplifies the characteristics of sportsmanship and character represented by the Hobey Baker Memorial Award. As outlined per Exhibit B, each head coach will return the completed ballot to the committee. Upon receipt of the nomination form we will send a personalized plaque and Hobey Baker DVD as soon as possible. The program does not carry a cost but as a volunteer, non-profit organization, contributions are accepted. Please do not decide to not participate because you choose not to contribute

We believe the extension of the Hobey Baker Memorial Award to the high school level is a tremendous way to promote a lasting positive influence on the sport of hockey at the high school level. We thank Easton, our presenting sponsor, for helping bring this recognition to our student athletes.



The Hobey Baker High School Character Awards:

In 2003 the Hobey Baker Foundation initiated the Hobey Baker High School Character Awards.

The award was initially piloted in Minnesota. In 2009, the award was sponsored for boys and girls in Minnesota, Michigan, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Washington DC, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Connecticut, California and Colorado. Over 1,000 deserving recipients have been honored in the past season. Eventually this program will be expanded to all 40 states that have high school hockey. That audience will comprise of approximately 100,000 high school players, both boys and girls, and over 2,500 high school hockey programs.

The criteria for the award are Character, Sportsmanship, Citizenship, Teamwork and Academics. “The Team Before Me”. With the cooperation of the coaches and league, a recipient is chosen from each team. A six-minute video about Hobey Baker and Character and Sportsmanship is given to each coach to assist in the presentation of the plaque at each team’s award banquet. The coaches are excited about this award because it is truly a “best kid” award. Hobey Baker is promoting this award because we think that Character Development and Sportsmanship is important. Recipients and sponsors will receive recognition in the State High School Hockey Tournament Program and other hockey periodicals.

The award has a great message for the high school hockey community, youth hockey community and the community at large. The Hobey Baker High School Character Award Program:

- Promotes Character Building and Sportsmanship by recognizing the players that display those traits
- It promotes high school hockey by emphasizing the benefits of competitive athletics and hockey specifically

THE TRUE SPORTSMAN

The Legend of Hobey Baker

Hobey was the ultimate athlete of his day. Entering Princeton University in 1910, he captained both the hockey and the football teams. His legend lives on having been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and both the Canadian and American Hockey Halls of Fame.

When WWI broke out, he enlisted as a fighter pilot, battling in the sky as he did on the ice, earning medals for exceptional valor under fire. But, just as he was returning to a hero's welcome in America, he died in France, testing a repaired aircraft.

Throughout his hockey career, Hobey Baker was penalized only twice. After every game, he would visit the opposing team's locker room to shake the hand of every single opponent.

He was beloved not just by those he played with, but those he played against.

Hobey Baker was the embodiment of all that was good in the game of hockey.

An ideal of American excellence, there is not a finer example of the true sportsman.

Hobey Baker is the symbol of why we love this game. A symbol of the perfect hero.

We may never see his like again, but Hobey Baker's spirit lives on through the Hobey Baker Memorial Award.

What is the goal of the Hobey Baker Character Award?

To recognize, develop and reward exemplary character and sportsmanship in our high school hockey players.

Why have a Hobey Baker Award for high school hockey players?

The Hobey Baker Foundation, in partnership with the MN Hockey Coaches Association, recognizes that it takes more than great hockey skills to develop great student-athletes.

The development and recognition of exemplary character and sportsmanship in our high school hockey players is an extremely important aspect of the student-athlete experience.

Many Division I hockey players come from the high school ranks. This high school level award is a natural extension of the prestigious Hobey Baker Memorial Award.

How are the recipients of this high school “character” award selected?

Deserving candidates are selected by their high school coach based on a number of factors that demonstrate “character”, including: positive attitude, outstanding sportsmanship, excellent work ethic, unselfish team player, coachability, great role model and exemplary citizenship.

When will the recipients of this “character” award be announced?

At the end of the 2010/2011 high school hockey season.

What do the recipients receive?

A commemorative plaque recognizes their exemplary strength of character and sportsmanship.

- A. **Check with the Atlantic District regarding the deadline for submitting ballots . We prefer that you submit ballots via e-mail to the Atlantic District at hocky@erols.com**
- B. Most coaches choose to announce the winner at their year-end banquets. This would be a good time to present the commemorative plaque to your winner and to show the Hobey Baker DVD. It is recommended that you show the DVD before presenting the award. (The DVD introduces the award and cues the presentation of the award and will be sent to the coaches home address with the award)
- C. Please retain the DVD for next season. The DVD may be shown again at the beginning of the season (to make the players aware of the award) and at the year-end banquet.
- D. Please contact the Atlantic District at the above e-mail address with any questions.

Criteria for Hobey Baker High School Character Award

- A. This award should be presented to the player that best exemplifies the sportsmanship and character of Hobey Baker. Integrity, coachability, selflessness, and citizenship should be considered. This is not a “best player” (i.e., Mr. Hockey) award but a “best kid” award.
- B. The award should go to a player from the senior class of each team.

Hobey Baker High School Character Award

2010-2011 Hockey Season

USA Hockey District: **Atlantic**

Name of high school: _____

Team Nickname _____

Name of head hockey coach: _____

Address: _____

Coaches telephone #: _____

Coach's email address: _____

Name of player selected: _____
(Please print clearly and ensure
Player's name is spelled correctly)

Return Ballot to: AAHA

Email Preferred:

hocky@erols.com

US Mail:

AAHA c/o Flyers Skate Zone
601 Laura Oak Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043

IMPORTANT

Part of the Hobey Baker Foundation's Mission is to promote Character Building and Sportsmanship through the High School Character Award. We are a non-profit and the total cost/recipient to administer this program is approaching \$75 per team. If your team has a "Booster Organization" and you can make a contribution to support this program it would be greatly appreciated. **(If you cannot make a contribution your participation will not be affected.)**

Make checks payable and send to:

Hobey Baker Memorial Foundation
AAHA
c/o Flyers Skate Zone
601 Laura Oak Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Return ballot by February 15, 2011

Hobey Baker High School Character Award
Atlantic District Timeline

February 15, 2011

Deadline for coaches to return ballots to District

February 20, 2011

Final review of ballots by Atlantic District for submission to Hobey Baker Committee

March 6, 2011

Award Plaques and Hobey DVD will be mailed to each coach from St. Paul, MN