

PLAYER AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

The primary voting round has come to a close and the league has announced the top three vote getters in six different award categories.

League members will vote one last time next week for one of the three players on the final ballot for each award. The top vote getters in this final round will receive the award for the season. The awards ceremony will take place during the first night of the playoffs.

Bob Anderson, Joe Bussard, and Kevin Smith will be up for the Most Valuable Player award. Anderson currently leads the league in scoring with 107 points and has helped the Colonials attain the league's best record at 15-2. Joe Bussard has led the Wolfpack to a 13-2-1 record and has 67 points to his credit. Kevin Smith is second in the league with 86 points and has helped the Maniax to a 14-2 record.

Maniax teammates Rob Stanley and Dave Jewell will once again compete against each other for Best Defenseman and will be joined by Voodoo defender Austin Boyd. Stanley and Jewell were on the ballot the past two years together. This is Boyd's first chance at the prize.

Joe Bussard has been nominated for a second award and will join Zach Smith and Ryan Johnson on the ballot for the Most Improved player. Bussard only played 10 games last season and was hampered by a nagging foot injury while with the Cyclones. He only scored 17 points a season ago. He's become one of the league's top players this year and is a nominee for the MVP. Smith has transformed his game playing for the Maniax this year and has 38 points on the season. Ryan Johnson also led his team in scoring with 48 points.

Brian Anderson is up for his fourth Sportsmanship Award. He'll be joined by Jeremy Johnson and Jeremy Lee on the ballot. Johnson and Lee are newcomers to the award.

Tim Herman, Rob Keith, and Bob Williams will all vie for the league's Best Goalie Award. Herman has nine wins for the Voodoo with a .825 save percentage and a 4.00 GAA. Keith leads the league with a .847 save percentage and a 4.57 GAA with 7 wins for the Rogue. Williams leads the league with 15 wins and has a .831 save percentage with a 4.73 GAA. Keith has won the award three times in the past while Williams has two awards to his name.

Ryan Foltz of the Iron Lions and Mike Jacobson of the Generals flank goalie Sean Hagan of the Warriors as the Rookie of the Year nominees. Foltz leads all rookies with 35 points and has scored 25 of the Iron Lions' 46 goals this season. Jacobson has 33 points on the season and has played a couple of games in net. Hagan has had a busy year. He has faced 614 shots with a .738 save percentage.

In addition to the awards voting, there were also two opinion questions on the ballot.

Question 1 asked: 'are you in favor of seeing the league remain in Reynoldsville next season'? Thirty two respondents said yes, 10 said no, and 11 had no preference.

Question #2 asked: 'do you think the XHL should attempt to sell the boards in Brockway to reduce entrance fee costs'? Thirty eight respondents said yes, nine said no, and seven had no preference.

Players will vote one last time next week for the player of their choice from the lists above. In this round, players may vote for anyone they think deserves the award, including teammates.