



HAWKS ATHLETIC CLUB
2019 - 2020
PLAYER RECOGNITION AWARD

RYLA MONTGOMERY

The recipient of Atom NW286's Player Recognition Award is ***Ryla Montgomery***! Coaching minor hockey is one of the most rewarding experiences a person can have. It doesn't come from wins or medals but comes from the players themselves. Watching a player grow, develop and gain confidence over the year is the reason why I coach and Ryla is a great example of this. When I first met Ryla she struggled with confidence with her skills and was quite shy, however as the year progressed she found her voice and confidence through hard work, perseverance and resiliency to become a driving force on and off the ice.

It was a rough start for Hawks 286 and it was during these games that Ryla truly shined; she would start team cheers on the bench, she would ask the coaches what else can I do, how can I help? This opened the eyes of her teammates that it is a battle of shift by shift not just the outcome of the game. Her positive demeanor spread through the locker room before and after games. Ryla is one of the most positive players I have coached in a long time. No matter how challenging a drill is or if she is asked to repeat a skill to ensure mastery she does it with a smile and determination.

There was once when Ryla was asked to play defence and was not happy about it. When I explained that this makes it fair for everyone on the team and gives everyone a chance to play all positions, she understood and quickly changed her attitude. Ryla strives to not only grow in hockey but to be the best teammate possible. She never hesitates to pass the puck to set up a teammate during a game; she plays a 'we game' not a 'me game' which lead to many assists and our first win. These unselfish acts has made her one of the most sought after line mates on the team. She inspired kids to work together as a team, pass the puck, and clearly demonstrated how to successfully support a team mate when there is a battle for the puck.

As with most teams there were a lot of early morning practices at the start of the year but not once was she upset, angry, or refused to work hard. Ryla always came ready to play and have fun. She would go out of her way to help cheer up a grumpy or upset teammate with the peanut-butter- jelly time dance. This was a big hit!

A leader is not just the top goal scorer or point producer; sometimes it is the player who can inspire, keep teammates on track, and see the positives in each situation. Ryla is a true leader. Her hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to learn made her a force to be reckoned with both on and off the ice.

Congratulations Ryla!

Atom - NW286 Hawks
Karlie Carter - Head Coach