

2025/26 Zone IV Hockey Award Winners

Heavy Metal Designs MVP Award

Dwight Sawatzky—Pembina Tigers

Dwight is what I would describe as one of the most complete hockey players I have ever coached. Dwight has more than double the points of the next top scorer on our team. Not only that, he has been top 5 in the league points all year long and was our team points leader last season. He is among the lowest penalty minutes in the entire league, giving Dwight the title of one of the most skilled discipline players in Zone 4 hockey. Not only is Dwight a force on the ice he is also a true leader off the ice, always positive and encouraging to all of his teammates and one of the most coachable players we have. He could easily receive player of the game most games from his peers but often suggests a player who had a better game than usual, often someone who rarely receives the award.

Runner Up

Grant Friesen—Carman Cougars

Grant, grade 12, is currently second in league scoring with 24 goals and 24 assists for a total of 48 points through regular season. Grant has an exceptional offensive side to his game but he does so playing the right way, taking care of his own end first and creating offense from there. Grant leads our team in almost every statistical category we track. His current +/- is +27 and is rarely on for a goal against, showing both strong offensive and defensive play. He plays a clean physical style, he leads our team in hits with 189 (8.2 hits per game and 100 more than our next player). He has 7 powerplay goals and averages close to 8 shots per game. Grant is relied on heavily in every game situation, whether it be powerplay, penalty kill, or trying to get a goal/prevent a goal late in the game. Grant's play night in and night out, gives us a chance to win. In the rare case he is not finding the scoresheet, he finds other ways to contribute to the team's success. He has taken over 500 faceoffs winning 65% of them, for example. Grant is also our captain and leads by example, while also helping out in any way that he can in the dressing room or on the bench. He is our team's gamebreaker and makes for an ideal candidate for this year's Zone IV MVP.

Lloyd C. Orchard Most Sportsmanlike Player

Tyson Mullin—Morden Thunder

Tyson is the captain of the Morden Thunder, and has performed at a very high level all season. He plays on both sides of special teams, has averaged over a point per game (6 goals and 20 assists) – is second in defensemen scoring only to his teammate Connor Olson --- is plus 37, and plays a physical/competitive style while only receiving 4 penalty minutes in Zone 4 league play. Sportsmanship is much more than just staying out of the penalty box, Tyson treats officials with respect, communicates super well with other players and coaches, and sets an extremely positive example of what it means to be a leader for Thunder Hockey.

Runner Up

Nathan Froebe—Carman Cougars

Nathan, grade 12, is an important player on our team in all areas of the game. In 19 games he has 11 goals and 17 assists for a total of 28 points. Along with Nathan's offence is an equally effective defensive side to his game. He currently has a +/- of +17, good for second among forwards on our team, which comes from being very responsible in his own end and helping create scoring in the offensive end. He plays the game at a fast pace with physical play while doing a great job of staying out of the penalty box. Nathan is heavily relied on in all game situations, whether it be powerplay, penalty kill, holding a lead, or trying to tie the game. He also is a fantastic leader. As one of our captains, he leads by example with his play, but is also vocal on the bench and in the dressing room, often helping teammates out whenever he can in a positive way. Nathan's ability to play the game the right way, stay out of the penalty box, and help in all situations, make him an ideal candidate for this year's Most Sportsmanlike Player.

Lew Mueller Defenseman of the Year

Connor Olson—Morden Thunder

Connor is a highly competitive, very hard working defenceman with excellent speed and skill. Connor quarterback's the powerplay where his puck distribution skills are very effective in the success of Morden's powerplay. Connor is relied on as a penalty killer where his tenacity on the puck makes it very tough for opposing teams to generate offense on their man advantage. He is able to rush the puck and has worked a lot on his vision of making plays to teammates while he maintains puck possession. Connor is leading the league in defensive scoring, is top 10 in league scoring with 34 points, is the overall league leader in assists with 30, and is plus 26 this season. He has had a truly phenomenal year helping Morden have a successful regular season.

Runner Up

Mark Schefer—GVC Zodiacs

Mark is a Grade 12 student who has been a key part of the high school team since Grade 10. Over his years with the Zodiacs, he has earned every bit of this recognition through his strong play, consistency, and contribution to the scoreboard. As team captain, Mark leads with positivity, encouragement, and a calm confidence that lifts everyone around him. His defensive play is defined by fearlessness—especially in his willingness to block shots without hesitation. Mark uses the blue line effectively, reads the ice exceptionally well, and is always looking to make the smartest possible play. A strong skater with excellent puck-handling and puck-moving ability, Mark is the kind of defenseman every team wants: steady, reliable, and impactful on every shift. His dedication and leadership have set the standard for the team, making him a truly deserving recipient of the Top Defense award.

Eddie Belfour Top Goaltender Award

Kali Hildebrand—Morden Thunder

Kali has been the backbone of Morden's team defense this winter. She has performed consistently all season playing in the biggest games of the year against the best competition in Zone 4. She has gone through the season undefeated leading the league in wins (14) including 2 shutouts, has played over 800 minutes (842), leads the league in GAA (1.57), and has a save percentage over .900. Playing on a team that performs at a high level defensively can be tricky for a goaltender, but she has been extremely reliable making timely saves or keeping her team in games/preserving a lead when opposing teams push back with high shot volume.

Runner Up

Kyle Gee—Pembina Tigers

Even though Kyle is only a grade 10 student he has made the best of his starts. With a save percentage over 0.900 Kyle always seems to be on his game. If he can see it he can stop it and we always like our odds with Kyle even on a breakaway or cross crease pass.

Top Scorer

Tegan Fehr—NPC Nighthawks

21 GP—34 G—19A—53 TP

Runner Up

Grant Friesen--Carman Cougars

23 GP—24 G—24A—48 TP

Top Defensive Team

Morden Thunder

24 GP—38 GA—1.59 goals against per game

Runner Up

Morris Mavericks

24 GP—58 GA—2.42 goals against per game

Charlie Maykut Fair Play Award (least PIM)

W.C. Miller Aces

24 GP—278 PIM—11.56 PIM per game

Runner Up

Carman Cougars

24 GP—290 PIM—12.08 PIM per game

Coaching Staff

Carman Cougars

Mike Hetherington, Derek Wood

Runner Up

Morden Thunder

Kyle Nixon, Steve Mullin, Jason Vanrobaeys

Coaching staffs are invited to coach in the Zone IV All-Star Game

Official of the Year Award

James Nelson

Runners Up

Shane Froebe, Lance Nault, Jacob Michelson

All four are invited to officiate in game 2 of the Zone IV final series.

Congratulations to all winners and to all who were nominated.