



# MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR 2020

Liam Boyce

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male who has played in at least three sports offered at Nackawic Middle School. This young gentleman played soccer, badminton, and basketball. He always gives his best effort and then some.

Liam started playing school sports in grade seven and in grade eight he started to participate in even more sports. In grade seven he participated in track and field and basketball then in grade eight he started to play soccer and basketball showing great leadership and great athletic ability. Liam jumped in becoming the goaltender for soccer. No matter the outcome he was always optimistic and gave 110% effort. He continued to stay focused and in control during games and practices always asking how to improve his skills. At the beginning of the season in soccer he was struggling to drop kick the soccer ball but with continued practice and effort he was very successful during the season. During the season Liam's skills continued to have an upward progression.

Liam began playing basketball in Grade 7. He was keen but inexperienced and reluctant to take a leading role. Instead, he took his time to learn the game and to build his skills. By the end of the season, Liam was certain that basketball was a sport he wanted to play. He was inspired. During the summer months, Liam honed his skills and stayed in shape. By the time basketball season arrived in December, Liam was more than ready. He was at least a foot to a foot and a half taller and eager to start. The rest is history. Liam's talent took center stage from the get-go. He was fast...very fast! He had strong ball-handling skills, excellent shooting ability, and no fear. He would drive hard to the net, beating all players, and score with ease.

This year's basketball team was relatively young; Liam was the driving force and leader for them. He worked hard with the team to move the ball around and to create opportunities to score. He encouraged the younger boys and was very respectful of their talent as well. For the most part, Liam was unstoppable. He displayed boundless energy, and even when the game was out of reach, Liam never quit. He was determined and persevered to deliver everything he had. Together, the boys were able to play some very close and exciting games.

Liam's respect for his teammates, his opponents, coaching staff, and referees was admirable. He often wore a smile on his face as he flew down the court; he smiled when he shook players' hands at the end of the game. Academically, Liam continued to balance his schoolwork with athletics.

Liam has been a real asset to the athletic program at Nackawic Middle School this year, and we are very proud of his accomplishments and commitment. Good luck next year at the High School. Keep playing hard, smile and enjoy your sports.

