

Press Release:

December 15, 2019

The National Association of Esports Coaches and Directors (NAECAD) Announces November Player of the Month Award

Des Moines, IA. – Ben Grieser of Winthrop University, has been named the college NAECAD Player of the Month for November 2019. Luke Warner of Elm Creek High School, Elm Creek, NE, has been named the high school NAECAD Player of the Month for November 2019 the NAECAD national office announced Sunday.

Ben is the captain of the Winthrop University Overwatch team. Josh Sides, Head Coach for Winthrop University Esports, and NAECAD member, had this to say about Ben, “Ben has been instrumental in helping to create and to drive a positive culture among the Winthrop Esports team. He can often be found bringing snacks for team members to improve morale, doing one on one review sessions, and challenging the team to do activities outside of esports and in being more active in their lives as college students. In the last month Ben has gone above and beyond in leading our Overwatch team to a 6-1 Tespa Varsity regular season, culminating in an East Regional Semi-Finals finish, bowing out to Harrisburg in a tough 1-3 loss. In addition to that, he has captained the team to 1st place in 3 straight undefeated Collegiate Starleague OW Weekly tournaments.”

Luke plays for Elm Creek High School and Ryan Hinds, his esports coach has this to say about Luke, “Luke is an amazing player and student. He started playing overwatch this fall and in a little over a month went from level 0 to 100 becoming a top player on varsity. He is a very dedicated member of our team and leads the first team for Smash Bros for the past two years. He is a great student and member of the community as he is working towards the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. All this he has accomplished and he is only a freshman!”

November Nominees Receiving Votes: William Kim, Grand View University (Iowa); Angel LaRosa, Horlick High School, Racine, WI.

This coveted award recognizes individuals for a balance of athletic achievement, sportsmanship and citizenship. While elite performance in the game is important, this award is aimed at recognizing the overall impact the individual has made. Example characteristics include:

- Impactful or notable in-game performance.
- Evidence of good sportsmanship and teamwork.
- Community service.
- Superior academic achievement.
- Overcoming personal obstacles.

Each month, players are nominated and voted on by their NAECAD member coaches or directors. One Player of the Month will be recognized each month (September – April).

The Player of the Month recipients are eligible for nomination of the Player of the Year award. The individual receiving the Player of the Year award will be recognized in person at the NAECAD National Convention each year. The individuals receiving the Player of the Month award will be recognized at the NAECAD National Convention each year. Student athletes nominated for the Player of the Month award will be eligible for nomination of All-American status. Student athletes receiving the top ten most votes will be recognized at both the high school and the university levels for All-American status. The individuals receiving All-American status will be recognized each year at the NAECAD National Convention.