

Press Release:

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

Des Moines, IA. – Jared Schulte of the University of Mount Union (OH), has been named the college NAECAD Player of the Month for January 2020. Bowen Zhang of Saint John's Preparatory School, Collegeville, MN, has been named the high school NAECAD Player of the Month for January 2020 the NAECAD national office announced Thursday.

Jared is an exceptional student athlete, and is a cornerstone member of the Overwatch roster in the DPS role. Derek Spinell, Director of Esports at the University of Mount Union and NAECAD member, says this about Jared, "During our match vs Northwood, Jared (Anonymoose) was able to make several game changing plays in order to push Mount Union to a 2-0 victory in the set, including this one (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeKgOJX62Q>). Jared is always staying after practice to go over VODs, and is the driving force behind composition and shot calling. In addition to being an Overwatch player, Jared is a senior Exercise Science major and we'll be sad to see him graduate."

Bowen led Saint John's Prep as a sophomore to a 2nd place regular season and 3rd place tie playoffs finish in the school's first ever season as an esports team. Charles Miller, Head Coach Saint John's Preparatory School esports program and NAECAD member, has this to say about Bowen, "SJP played in the PlayVS system, and Bowen was the in-game leader and shotcaller throughout the season. He led the drafts and encouraged teammates. He finished the regular season leading the team with an 8.7 average KDA and a 68% average kill participation."

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 the NAECAD Advisory Committee 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.