

West Hartford Press

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Conard player receives Luke Roux Memorial Award

By Paul Palmer
we-ha.com

On a night that started with an emotional award ceremony, the Conard Red Wolves gave their fans everything they were looking for in a 7-2 win over the Titans at Veterans Memorial Rink on Dec. 27.

Before the opening faceoff, Conard senior goalie Blake Ittleson was presented with the Luke Roux Memorial Award – a scholarship in memory of former West Hartford Youth Hockey League and Farmington General's player Luke Roux, who was killed by a drunken driver just days after his high school graduation in June of 2022.

The award is given to the former WHYL player who "demonstrates Luke's characteristics of humility, kindness, discipline, consistency and work ethic." It is given by the Luke Roux Memorial Fund, which was founded by Luke's parents, Carri and Steve, to help spread awareness for DUI prevention.



Photo by Craig Rosenberg

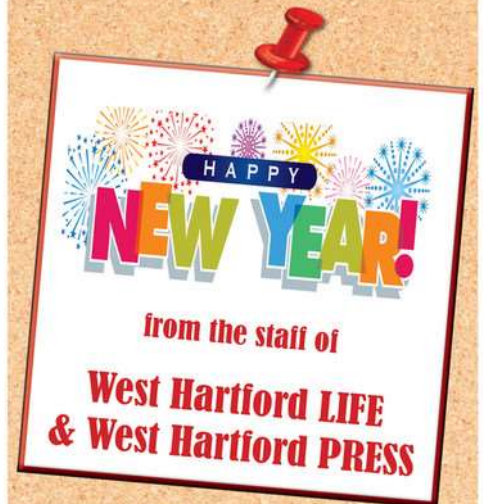
Blake Ittleson of Conard is awarded the Luke Roux Memorial Award by Luke's family and his former coach. Also pictured (holding No. 16 jersey) is last year's winner, Gavin McGowan.

"Luke was very unique in his kindness and willingness to do whatever the team needs," said Carri Roux. By coincidence, Luke's father Steve coached Ittleson's older brother, Evan, in the WHYL. "We are thankful to honor someone like Blake and to be able to

spread our message."

"It means a lot to me," said Ittleson of receiving the award, which was presented by last year's recipient, Gavin McGowan. "I've talked with a lot of his Generals teammates and they all say what an awesome kid he was."

In addition to raising awareness, hockey games are serving as fundraisers for the Foundation, including a game on Wednesday of this week - the 2nd Annual Luke Roux Memorial Game will be played at Avon Old Farms where Luke played his high school hockey.



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