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Vincent Collins Selected as NFHCA Junior Hockey Award Recipient

CHANDLER, Ariz. – The National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) announced on Wednesday that Vincent Collins has been honored as this year’s Junior Hockey Award winner for his dedication and service to Shrub Oak (New York) Field Hockey.

The purpose of the Junior Hockey Award program is to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the maintenance and/or development of a junior hockey program. A junior hockey program is defined as one that involves athletes under the age of 13. As this year’s recipient, Collins will receive a \$250 donation from the NFHCA towards the Shrub Oak Field Hockey program.

Collins has been a fixture in the Shrub Oak program ever since his daughters began playing the game, with both Courtney (Colgate University) and Caitlin (University of Louisville) going on to play collegiately. He became involved in wanting to give back to the program after all of the opportunities his daughters received through playing the game. Collins runs all aspects of the Shrub Oak program including registration, scheduling, securing coaches, games and tournaments, and does so without pay.

Collins is present for the majority of Shrub Oak’s practices and games as well as tournaments throughout the tri-state area in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. He also helps assist with the Hudson Valley Summer Field Hockey League and Shrub Oak’s camp which has run yearly since 1990 and brings in over 100 participants for one week each summer.

One of the hallmarks of the Shrub Oak program is active and inclusive participation. Players from any community are invited to join with approximately 80 participating overall, and many girls begin their field hockey experience with the program in elementary school and continue through to high school. Shrub Oak provides a starting point for the love of field hockey, and Collins continues to support and follow the girls from the program into their high school careers. In addition to his work with Shrub Oak, Collins serves his community while teaching full time and coaching football, girls varsity gymnastics and varsity track at a neighboring high school.

“On behalf of the Shrub Oak Athletic Club and Shrub Oak Field Hockey program, I would like to thank for the NFCA for this recognition,” said Collins. “It is the countless hours our athletes and coaches put into the great game of field hockey as well as the community support, particularly the mentoring by Coach Sharon Sarsen and the Lakeland High School field hockey program, that make it all worthwhile. Again, I thank you for this award.”