

Rookie of the Year –

To be eligible for this award, it must be a player's first season as a varsity player, regardless of their school year. This award is presented to a player on each team whose coaching staff feels add the most value to the team's dynamic. Here are this year's Rookies of the Year:

From College Station - Joshua Croes

"Joshua made an immediate impact, leading the team in scoring in his first season. His offensive ability and knack for finding the back of the net made him a key contributor throughout the season. He consistently created scoring chances and was someone we relied on to generate offense in big moments. Finishing as the team's leading scorer as a first-year player is an impressive accomplishment and speaks to the impact he had on our lineup this season."

From CyWoods - Wolf Farmer

Like many of the 8 rookies on our Cy-Woods team this season, Wolf made an immediate impact, showcasing his skill on the ice and catching the attention of players and coaches across the ISHL.

What truly sets Wolf apart, however, is his impact off the ice. On a roster with no seniors, he brought infectious energy to team events and practices, and quickly became an important voice in our locker room. This award recognizes not only a strong rookie season, but also celebrates a young man with a bright future both on the ice and beyond. Congratulations, Wolf!

From Excalibur – Ethan Riveron

Ethan Riveron is the rookie of the year for Excalibur. He was our alternate captain, possessing a strong presence on and off the ice. Either game time or practice he was ready to work hard with a great attitude and work ethic.

From Fair Creek –James Thompson

Jimmy Thompson earned Rookie of the Year honors for the 2026 Fair Creek Hockey team through his outstanding work ethic, rapid development, and immediate impact on the ice. As a first-year player, Jimmy consistently contributed with strong defensive play, and a team-first attitude that helped set the tone all season. His dedication, leadership, and ability to perform under pressure made him an easy choice for this year's award.

From Klein – Colton Kaufenberg

This season, the Klein varsity team proudly welcomed junior Colton Kaufenberg, whose impact was immediate.

Colton burst onto the scene in the regular season, tallying an impressive 13 points in his first five games - including two hat tricks - establishing himself as one of the team's most dynamic offensive threats.

Adversity struck in late September when a significant shoulder injury sidelined him for several months. Yet Colton's resilience and determination never wavered. Returning to the lineup in February, he delivered a much-needed surge of energy and production, helping propel the team to three wins in their final four games and ultimately secure the North Division title.

Despite missing a large portion of the season, Colton finished with an outstanding 2.3 points per game - the second-highest average on the team - underscoring his consistency and elite performance level.

By March, during the state playoffs in Dallas, Colton was nearing early season form. His physical presence and clutch scoring proved pivotal in Klein's run, culminating in a Texas Cup Bronze Division championship.

Congratulations to Colton Kaufenberg, the 2026 Klein Varsity rookie of the year.

From Memorial West – Kyle Hamilton

This year's Rookie of the Year goes to Kyle Hamilton, a player who made an immediate impact the moment he stepped into the locker room.

Kyle was the definition of a great teammate—always bringing energy, passion, and a positive attitude every single day. Whether it was at practice or during games, you could count on him to show up ready to work and give it everything he had. His effort never went unnoticed, and it set the tone for the rest of the team.

What stood out most about Kyle wasn't just his play, but the way he carried himself. He supported his teammates, stayed coachable, and embraced every opportunity to get better. That kind of mindset is what makes a player special, especially in their first year.

I wish Kyle the best as he is graduating and going to University of Kansas next year to study sports management next year!

From Pearland/Friendswood- Maxson Mundy

At PFC, we are very observant (and appreciative) of our players' on-ice abilities, but even more so of their off-ice conduct and life skills. To create and keep a strong team, core values of respect, dedication, and responsibility matter greatly, alongside a strong breakout, controlled power play, and relentless forecheck. This is why we're proud to recognize our Rookie of the Year, Maxson Mundy, for his ability to demonstrate all of the above. Maxson's dedication goes beyond showing up to practices and games. He puts maximum effort into every drill and every shift. His subtle leadership on the bench and on the ice goes beyond what you would expect of a freshman. We would list more examples here, but while reading this he has already pickpocketed your defense behind your net, considered (and then respectfully reconsidered attempting the Michigan), found open ice in the corner to get eyes on his linemates, and fed Kenny Stacy for a perfect high slot one-timer. Watch out for, and **congratulations** to, our Rookie of the Year, Maxson Mundy.

From Ridgepoint – Connor Brown

avg. 2.8 points per game finished in top 10 in scoring while only playing 13 games. Showed leadership and a willingness to be coached.

From Seven Lakes - Alex Peng

"Alex finished the season with 10 points (5g, 5a) and 2 PMs in 13 total games. He started the season with a four-game point streak which included his first ISHL goal on October 3 against PFC. Alex is a fierce defender and is always matched up against the opponent's best players. As a true Freshman, he earned a regular spot on both the penalty kill and power play. He could be trusted in any situation and contributed some truly spectacular goals during the season. His effort and attitude were always both excellent and he was a positive contributor to the team both on and off the ice."

From Strake – Chris O'Dell

In his debut season with Strake Jesuit, this player quickly established himself as a key contributor. A versatile 2-way player he offered support on both offense and defense. In the regular season, he played in 18 of 20 games collecting 2 goals and 7 assists. He elevated his impact in the post-season scoring 3 times in 3 games helping the team win the championship with 2 Play-off Game Winning Goals. The 2025-2026 Rookie of the Year is – Chris O'Dell

From Tomball - Keegan Gage

Stepping onto the varsity ice for the first time this season, Keegan delivered goaltending performances that far exceeded his age and experience. With lightning-fast reflexes, elite positioning, and the ability to make highlight-reel saves in critical moments, he quickly became the backbone of our defense and a constant source of confidence for the entire team.

What truly sets Keegan apart is his relentless work ethic. That commitment to improvement—combined with his natural talent—turned him into one of the most dependable players on the roster from day one.

Keegan's poise, maturity, and dedication have not only helped elevate our team's performance but have also set an example for every teammate about what it means to be a true student of the game.

Congratulations, Keegan! This award is a well-earned recognition of your outstanding debut season. We can't wait to watch you continue to grow and dominate between the pipes in the years ahead.

From Woodlands – Ben Herda

Ben Herda earned Rookie of the Year after making an immediate impact as a freshman for The Woodlands. Despite his size, he played a strong, physical game, wasn't afraid to protect his teammates, and consistently competed every shift. Along with his toughness, Ben contributed offensively and produced key points for the team. What stood out most was his maturity — even as a freshman, he was held to a leadership standard and always stood up for his teammates. It was a pleasure coaching Ben this year, and we're excited to see what he accomplishes over the next three seasons.