



Your Source for Inline Hockey News and Information



Home News Blogs Forums Calendar Marketplace Photo Gallery Contact

Google Custom Search

IHC HockeyDB

+ Keep IHC Alive

### Amateur News

[« Go Back](#)

## GRAND GESTURE

AAU inline hockey goaltender shows great sportsmanship.

Posted: July 05, 2006 11:17PM; Updated: July 16, 2006 10:17PM

by Ian Mackie

Sometimes winning isn't everything at Amateur Athletic Union events.

Recently, at an AAU National High School Inline Hockey Championship game in St. Louis, Missouri, California's Marina beat Missouri's Northwest, 3-1. Trophies, medals, and individual awards had just been presented to the teams.

As both teams positioned themselves for team photos, Marina's Joey Laricchia approached Dave Thomas, goaltender of the opposing Northwest Team. Laricchia received the tournament's Top Goaltender Award after allowing only three goals in four games and one in the finals.

However, Laricchia so felt Dave's performance deserved more recognition that he stopped Thomas and gave him the Top Goaltender Trophy he had just won instead.

As Laricchia said, "I faced hardly any shots; you were the best goalie this weekend!" Thomas was shocked, to say the least, but graciously accepted the award from Laricchia.

Asked later why he responded as such, Laricchia mentioned what his mother, recently deceased, has always taught him, and "put it to use" by giving the trophy to Thomas.

"He deserved it more than I did and I can proudly say that I did something good for my mother," Laricchia said.

The AAU's mission statement is: "To offer amateur sports programs through a volunteer base for all people to have the physical, mental, and moral development of amateur athletes and to promote good sportsmanship and good citizenship."

What an unforgettable instance of sportsmanship, and one that truly lives up to the AAU vision.

*Ian Mackie is the commissioner of the Missouri Inline Hockey Association.*

[« Go Back](#)



Joey Laricchia, [left] with fellow Marina teammate Kenny Gibo.



© 2009 Graham Interactive Media and/or other respective information providers. Any reproduction of this web site in whole or part without the expressed written permission of Inline Hockey Central is prohibited. Photographs and illustrations are property of their respective owners. Trademarks and logos are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.