

Newhook named OMHA Minor Midget Player of the Year



By Jake Courtepatte

Just recently turning sixteen years old, Alex Newhook can already cross off some major milestones in his young hockey career. The St. John's Newfoundland native was recently declared the top Minor Midget player in the Eastern region of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, celebrated in an awards ceremony last week.

The Ontario Hockey League is proud to support minor midget hockey and help recognize the achievements of great players from across Ontario," said Daniel Broussard, the OHL's Director of Recruitment, who presented the awards on Thursday night alongside OHL Cup graduates and banquet guest speakers Alex Basso, Adam Mascherin, and Riley Damiani. "Congratulations to all seven award winners and to their families, coaches, and teammates for a tremendous hockey season, and best of luck to all players as they prepare for the next step in their hockey and academic careers."

After putting up close to two points a game in his hometown St. John's AAA program at the age of fourteen, Newhook joined the St. Andrew's College Saints last season.

This year, he put up an astounding 43 goals and 31 assists in 33 games with the York-Simcoe Express AA Minor Midgets, while also suiting up in short stints with the Saints and Junior A Aurora Tigers.

Newhook led all award recipients in OMHA points, and was the first Express player to win the award since Nik Coric in the 2012 season.

Despite putting up a scoring pass similar to past OMHA East players like Steven Stamkos and Taylor Hall, Newhook and the Minor Midget Express were bounced from the OHL Cup in the play-in round in early March.

He said it was an "amazing two years" with the Express organization.

"Hard to see it end, but it was a great season," said Newhook. "Big thank you to the organization, and I'm excited for what's next." The talented forward announced his commitment to Boston College in November, at the age of just fifteen. The Eagles, one of the most storied teams in NCAA division I hockey, will add Newhook to their roster in two years' time.

As for the near future, Newhook has several options for next season, all of which are out of province.

Though a move to the British Columbia Hockey League is certainly in play, it would come as no surprise to see Newhook in the top three picks in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's summer draft, possibly swaying the decision of the future star.