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Tom Hrechkosy: 1980 Harry Hood Memorial trophy winner.

Sisler Spartan Hood recipient

By Allan Besson

The Canadian Football League has its Schenley Award. The Winnipeg High School Football League has its Harry Hood Memorial Trophy. It takes a special athlete to win both awards.

Tom Hrechkosy of Sisler Spartans is this year's recipient of the Hood trophy.

His coach Lou Furlan, says the 6-foot-2, 210-pound middle linebacker and tight end, "exemplifies all the attributes of a true gentleman athlete with his sense of determination and fair play."

It takes more than an athlete to win the award, which honors Hood, a former player with Kelvin Clippers in the early 1940s who went on to play with Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Calgary Stampeders. The trophy, which is a tribute to the battle Hood waged and lost to cancer in the prime of his life, also takes into consideration the player's scholastic standing and school citizenship.

Reflecting on his three years as a Spartan, Hrechkosy said, "football has given me a chance to get to know other people, and to understand the game more."

"I'm not sure where I'll be playing football next year," he said. "I want to take phys-ed. I'll probably be going to the University of Manitoba."

In addition to football, Hrechkosy was captain of the Sisler basketball and soccer teams and competed in track and swimming. Outside of school, he played on the Germania juvenile soccer team which won the Manitoba championship and finished second in the western Canadian championship.

He is a graduate of the physical education leadership program and is a teacher's aide at junior high physical education classes. He is also involved in the Sisler Carnival, school graduation committee and Shinerama.

Along with the award, Hrechkosy will receive a \$100 bursary. He has also been selected as the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association athlete of the week.