

North end schools monopolize football achievement awards

By Bain Gair

North end high schools claimed all three merit awards handed out by the Winnipeg High School Football League this season.

Sisler Spartans' slotback Corey Zankowski received the Harry Hood Memorial Trophy, awarded each year to the player exemplifying outstanding athletic and academic achievement.

St. John's High School's versatile Karl Wagner, a defensive end and fullback for the Tigers, won the Kas Vidruk Memorial Award as the outstanding lineman.

Wagner's coach, Mitch Kiesman, won the nod as the high school coach of the year.

A Grade 12 French immersion student at Sisler, Zankowski caught 17 passes from his slotback position for the Spartans this season. He also filled in at the blocking back spot and saw some duty on defense at linebacker.

"This was probably my best year," said Zankowski. "I played quarterback last year and I guess that wasn't my position. Went to slotback this year because I wanted to get into the action."

"It was a big honor to get the award," he added, smiling.

Zankowski, a Tyndall Park resident who maintains an 87 per cent average in his courses, is also enrolled in the advanced International Baccalaureate program at Sisler.

The young slotback aspires to enter McGill Univer-



Sisler's Corey Zankowski is the winner of this year's Harry Hood Trophy.

sity in Montreal next year and said he might try out for the McGill Redmen, this year's Vanier Cup winners.

Not so coincidentally, Zankowski played minor bantam football with Karl Wagner in the North Winnipeg Nomads system.

Don Smith, former Blue Bomber and former city councillor, presented Zankowski with the Harry Hood trophy.

Coach Kiesman said his Tigers' playoff upset over

the previously undefeated Tec Voc Hornets undoubtedly played a large part in his selection as coach of the year.

When Kiesman arrived at St. John's, the football program was in trouble and, along with his assistants, he instilled confidence his players needed to earn them a playoff berth this year.

"I know that the entire coaching staff here put a lot of time and a lot of effort in," said Kiesman, a U of M

Bison alumnus and one-time draft pick of the Blue Bombers.

While he was honored by the selection, Kiesman said he is a little leary about it as well. He hopes the honor won't create unrealistic expectations next year, which he said will be a rebuilding year for the Tigers.

Wagner was presented with the Kas Vidruk award by Mike Vidruk, Kas's son.

The awards ceremonies were held at the Winnipeg School Division office.