

Christman Wins Trench Trophy

Dominated both sides of line

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The notion that Sweet Home had an exceptional line this season got a big boost Wednesday when two-way standout Nick Christman was named winner of the fifth annual Trench Trophy. The award, sponsored by Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1478, recognizes the top lineman in Western New York.

“I’m really excited because this is a really big thing and there are a lot of good kids out there,” said Christman.

Christman was presented the award during a banquet attended by over 200 at the Lancaster Elks Club on Broadway. The event’s guest speaker was Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame member Joe Foyle of Lancaster.

Christman, a 6-foot-2, 285- pound senior, was an offensive guard and defensive tackle. With Christman dominating on both sides of the ball, Sweet Home won Section VI’s Class A title finishing with a 10-1 record. The Panthers’ only loss was in the Far West Regionals to Aquinas of Section V. In that game Christman was named Defensive MVP.

“My goal on defense is to run sideline-to-sideline on every play and on offense it’s to knock the kid across from me on his butt. That keeps me going every play,” said Christman. “You play as hard as you can and never give up.”

The annual winner of the Trench Trophy is determined by a 51-man committee of qualified Elks Lodge members, local coaches and former players. During all 11 weeks of the football season, Trench Trophy scouts attended select games of all 87 teams in Western New York to rate and grade players for nominations. An original list of over 300 linemen was whittled down to a top 10.

Carl Kuras, a Trench Trophy co-chairman, said Christman was the top vote-getter on most ballots.

“The committee felt his tenacity on both sides of the ball was the deciding factor,” said Kuras. “He had stamina to go both ways. He had a motor on both sides of the ball and displayed leadership. Being the MVP on a losing team in the Regionals is pretty impressive.”

Christman played four seasons on Sweet Home’s varsity team. For the past two seasons he was a first-team All-Western New York selection.

Previous winners of the award have been Gil Rodriguez (Frontier, 2006), Jesse Jesonowski (Iroquois, ’05), Jason Weber (Orchard Park, ’04) and John Livingston (Eden, ’03).



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Carl Kuras, co-chairman of the Trench Trophy executive committee, joins winner Nick Christman of Sweet Home.