Pembroke Youth Hockey Joseph Birolini and William Hickey Scholarship Application

Purpose: 1) Assist former PYH players pursuing higher education & 2) Provide financial assistance to current PYH participants that demonstrate a financial need.

Deadline for Higher Education Award Application: April 1, 2026

Higher Education Scholarship Amount: At least $1000 per award to (at a minimum) 1 PHS boy, 1 PHS girl, and 1 additional PYH alumni. We usually give out more than 1 to each category.

Qualifying Criteria:

1) Member of any high school's 2026 graduating class.
2) Played at least 1 year in good standing as a player of Pembroke Youth Hockey.
3) Enrolled in an institution of higher education.
4) A minimum 500-word essay, the topic will include both of the following: "What I learned about Sportsmanship at PYH…" and "My thoughts on Former PHS Boys Varsity Coach Mark Duffy's 5 lessons that he wrote about Joey and Billy…" (see below for Duffy's 5).
5) Letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or mentor.

Instructions:

1) Complete all fields in the application below.
2) Include a typed copy of your essay.
3) Include a typed and signed copy of your recommendation letter.
4) Mail application, essay and letter of recommendation to:

Pembroke Youth Hockey

P.O. Box 1022

Pembroke, MA 02359

5) If all criteria are satisfied, and the applicant is selected, a check for the full amount of the scholarship will be presented in person at the student's school awards night. If necessary, a check will be mailed to the address on file.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone Number: _____

High School: _____

Institution Enrolled In: _____

Year(s) Played in PYH: _____

The awarding of scholarships shall be at the sole discretion of the Pembroke Youth Hockey Scholarship Committee, specifically the Birolini and Hickey families.

Former PHS Boys Varsity Coach Mark Duffy's 5 lessons that he wrote about Joey and Billy.

1. Leaders who get the most out of their people are the leaders who care the most about their people. Difficult conversations can be made easy if done the right way.
2. Improve on getting the puck out of your zone so you can have some fun on offense. On the ice: take the right angles, check over your shoulders constantly, gather information, communicate (sometimes with words or sometimes just a look or a glance), read each other's body language and support each other. Off the ice: pay attention, read a room, read people, communicate with words and body language, and approach people and support them.
3. Leadership is not a rank or position, it's a choice. Make the right choices and look after the person to your left and the person to your right.
4. Always want to be on the ice at crucial times. Ask for it. Be comfortable in high pressure situations in a position to support your team. Do whatever is necessary. Be dependable and calm under pressure. Breath, support, be present, know your role, and do it to the best of your ability.
5. Friendship. Be part of a great group with all different types of people. Make everyone feel welcome and accepted. The closest friends can be tight as humanly possible, beyond utility and pleasure. These relationships are built on trust and shared values. Have deep connections. Reach out to past friendships like this and continue to nurture the ones you have today.



JOEY BIROLINI



Joseph, “Joey” Robert Birolini, was born on April 1st, 1998. Joey had a special way of commanding a room. Joey was a personable guy and always knew how to connect with everyone. Sports was one of Joey’s biggest passions, and he was an expert in all things sports-related. As an accountant, he was great with numbers and knew statistical information on all sports. Joey contained this determination to be the best, and also to get the best out of everyone. He was elected captain of the 50-0, state and regional champion Pembroke Pythons Peewee A team in 2010-11. The success of that season was heavily due to his love for hockey and his ability to lead in a selfless and team- first manner. His leadership qualities carried through to high school, where he was a captain of the Pembroke High School Varsity hockey team from 2015-16. Joey’s leadership and love for the game of hockey has left a lasting impact on all of Pembroke, especially his siblings. All of Joey’s siblings played for Pembroke hockey and his brother, Anthony, is a current senior and two time captain. His sister Jennifer is playing her second year of varsity, and made the team as an eighth grader last year. The way Joey went about living his life and the way that people respected him will make people that knew him strive to be better and go the extra mile. Even when life was tough and it wasn’t required of him, Joey always strove for greatness.



BILLY HICKEY



William, “Billy” Paul Hickey, was born February 13th, 1998. Billy was a person who always found a way to make you smile at your lowest of times. Billy had the ability to show people that life has different routes and you could always change your route should you desire a new path. Billy gave people the ability to not take life too seriously and how to look at the big picture instead of the fine details of every situation. He was a member of the infamous 50-0, state and regional champion Pembroke Pythons Peewee A team. Billy was a teammate who would lead by example when it came time to address adversity. Billy had a unique way of changing the situation in hand to have it work out in his and the team’s favor. Billy did all the hard things that sometimes go unnoticed in hockey such as blocking shots, playing hurt, and taking hits to make a play. His ability to always overcome adversity in hockey and life earned him a spot on Pembroke High School’s Varsity team his Freshman year. Billy captained the Pembroke Varsity team his senior year in 2015-16. Billy went on to play collegiate hockey at Salem State University where he brought smiles to his teammates and the college campus. The embodiment of Billy lives on through his brother, Joe Hickey. Joe exemplifies Billy’s qualities of being caring, loyal, and enjoying life. Everyone that knew Billy learnt that it is ok to take a step back and evaluate when life gets hard.