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Boje to patrol Select 17 blue line

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ARDEN HILLS — You could say he's running — or make that skating — with some pretty talented company.

Phil Boje was selected to attend the USA Hockey National Player Development camps this summer in Rochester, N.Y. The Mounds View High School junior defenseman joins fellow Suburban East players Lance Carney from White Bear Lake and Blake Cates from Stillwater on the team.

The players were selected after two consecutive weekends of tournaments in Plymouth. After a series of tryouts, players were divided into eight teams based on MSHSL playoff sections. The top 54 players from each of the two age groups were then selected to compete in a two-day round-robin event that concluded April 25. The National Player Developmental camp is set for July 7 to 13.

Boje made it past the first round of cuts last season. He'll join Lance Carney, White Bear Lake, Jake Horton from Benilde-St. Margaret's, Zach MacQueen from Shattuck-St. Mary's and Duluth East's Meirs Moore on the blue line for the Minnesota Select 17 team. Stillwater's Blake Cates was the lone goaltender selected.

A two-day wait transpired following the Plymouth tryouts before Boje's number was finally called, and he was justifiably pumped.

"I thought I had played pretty well. I tried to play my game and stick to what I know is best for me," he said. "I was pretty excited when I found out that I has made the team."

Boje said he got a chance to pair with White Bear's Carney for much of the tryouts and the SEC tandem worked very well. He added he was impressed with Carney and the skills of forwards Tyler Vesel from Shattuck-St. Mary's, and A.J. Michaelson from Apple Valley.

Boje said he will continue to train and skate at the National Sports Center, utilizing the program for advanced local athletes, until the National Player Development camps begins in July.

"I think it is a tremendous honor to be selected to (the Select 17 squad), and to represent the state of Minnesota," offered Mounds View hockey coach Brad Schwartzbauer. "The process started with over 160 players, and to make the team really shows Phil's ability and commitment to the game."

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