



The Rochester Knighthawks' Josh Currier can finally stop worrying about whether he'll be drafted to the NLL this year.

The 23-year-old expressed before the Sept. 26 draft an uncertainty that any team would want him despite mock drafts placing him as high as seventh. It's not that he doesn't believe in himself. He's just a truly humble person.

He won't be the one to tell you that he scored 226 points in 71 games with the junior A Peterborough Lakers from 2011-2014. In two seasons with the senior Lakers he has 56 points in 28 games. That includes 45 points in 2016, when he finished fourth in scoring on a team of perennial all-stars.

He'll deflect the attention to his teammates or coaches if you ask him about his head-turning play at Virginia Wesleyan College, where he finished as the ODAC's all-time leading scorer with 353 points in 65 games over the course of his NCAA career. He was rookie of the year, player of the year twice and All-American all four years.

**“He makes everyone else around him better with his constant movement.”**  
**- assistant coach Paul Day**



**NLL DRAFT, SIXTH OVERALL**

# **JOSH CURRIER**

**THE NEWEST KNIGHTHAWK**

written by Anna Taylor

# THE NEWEST KNIGHTHAWK

**HEIGHT: 5'11 -- WEIGHT: 170LBS. -- BIRTHDATE: MAY 15, 1993 -- HOMETOWN: PETERBOROUGH, ONT.  
SHOOTS: RIGHT -- COLLEGE: VIRGINIA WESLEYAN -- MAJOR: LIBERAL STUDIES/COMMUNICATIONS**

A week before the draft, the Peterborough native hadn't spoken to many teams, least of all the Knighthawks, but that's who took him early in the draft at the Toronto Rock Athletic Centre in Oakville, Ont. exceeding everyone's expectations at sixth overall.

The Rochester Knighthawks are our local National Lacrosse League team. Once they start play in December, we highly recommend you catch a game.

Box lacrosse is different from the more popular outdoor field lacrosse in the U.S. To picture box lacrosse, think of hockey without the ice. NLL teams play on a carpet, but the game can be played on cement or hardwood. It's faster and it's rougher than either hockey or the field game. It's almost like going to a rock concert.

Each season, team management drafts six new players. With only 22 roster spots available, new recruits must be ready to contribute to the team right away. The Knighthawks knew that Currier could do that.

"I'm super surprised," Currier said. "I hadn't really talked to them much so I didn't see it coming. I thought I was going to be a second-round guy but I'm really happy about this. Sixth overall - I could never have imagined that."

Knighthawks assistant coach Paul Day, who, along with head coach Mike Hasen, also coaches Currier during summers in Peterborough, said the team knew days before that he was going to be their first pick.

"We need speed and we need someone who plays well without the ball," Day said. "He makes everyone else better around him with his constant movement. He will also help get us loose balls and extra possessions."

Currier already knows what Day and Hasen will be expecting. Six other Knighthawks also play in Peterborough, so the familiarity will help.

"I love playing for them in the summer so I'm really happy that I get to play for them in Rochester," Currier said. "I'm training hard already so I'm

## DAN MICHEL

Michel had 24 goals and 24 assists for the junior Lakers this year and one assist for the senior Lakers in two games as a call-up. He graduates from the junior program as a three-year captain. He's currently studying business administration at Trent while co-captaining the men's lacrosse team, scoring 15 points in seven games. The Excalibur are in the middle of a so-far undefeated season.

Michel participated in the combine prior to the draft where he was able to interview with several teams and show them his skills.

"I think New England is going to be a good fit for me. I'm just going to play my game, try to win every battle and every loose ball and give it my all in training camp and see what happens."





going to keep that going. I want to be a big contributor on this team and help them win games.”

He scored a lot of pretty goals for the Lakers this past summer - his hands are incredible - but also showed a new toughness that no doubt helped raise his draft stock. His strength is offense but having an all-around skill set will only work in his favour.

He hasn't fully discussed with management what his role will be for the Knighthawks, but, “They mentioned something – I think they're expecting me to score some goals for them!” Currier chuckled. “So I'm hoping the bigger nets can help out and I can do that.”

He'll be good for the Knighthawks off-floor image. The team does a lot of work in the Rochester community and runs three outreach programs: Anti-bullying, Healthy Hawks, and Lacrosse 101. Currier's already shown he's a perfect lacrosse ambassador in Peterborough, working summer camps and winter leagues. He's a favourite among little Lakers fans for the time he takes to interact with them around the arena.

The Currier family is close and it was a special moment to share together. His mom, dad, stepdad, sister and grandfather were all there, and many more watched the live feed.

“It's easy to do well with that kind of support system,” he said happily.

Even more special for Currier was sharing the day with a best friend he considers family.

Dan Michel, a 21-year-old from Clarington, Ont. was drafted 38th overall by the New England Black Wolves. He and Currier have been friends since Michel moved to Peterborough to play for the junior A Lakers at age 16.

“Josh really took me under his wing and welcomed me to Peterborough,” Michel recalled. “Being an outsider coming in he made it really easy for me and I grew really close with him and (his brother) Zach. Some guys on the team used to joke around and call me the third Currier brother because we spent so much time together.”

“We are close,” Currier said of Michel. “It was awesome sharing the experience with one of my brothers.”

However far Currier is able to go in his lacrosse career, he'll have his whole family – Michel included – as well as all the fans he's already endeared himself to, cheering him on. They'll make sure he stays that kind, humble guy from Peterborough.

## ZACH CURRIER

Josh Currier isn't the only talented lacrosse player in his family. His younger brother Zach, 22, is already expected to be a high (potentially first overall) pick in the 2017 NLL draft.

Zach wasn't present when his brother was drafted, but he had a good reason. He's finishing up his senior year at Princeton University, where he is a starting mid-fielder on the Tigers lacrosse team. In his first three years he accumulated 31 goals and 35 assists and is the team's leader on face-offs and ground balls.

He had an impressive rookie campaign in 2016 with the senior Lakers in a defensive role, exciting fans with his speed as he scored four goals in transition.

