Carter Savage has excelled off the ice, where he truly is an MVP. The Lake Forest senior has been on the high school honor roll every year and is a member of National Honor Society. Savage also received the Presidential Service Award (bronze) as a sophomore and (gold) as a junior year for community service hours.

“Something I am very proud of is that I received the school Spirit of Service Award last year, which goes to the freshman, sophomore or junior who makes a positive contribution to both the school and community through service,” said Savage, looking to study finance in college, though is undecided on where, but he’s leaning toward a Midwest or southern school.

Savage is co-president of Scout Nation, a high school club driven to getting students involved in athletic events. “Getting students to sporting events and getting underclassmen especially involved as I can say from when I was a freshman, it was a lot harder to feel like I was having an impact in the student section and my school as a whole,” he said. “So, being a senior now and knowing underclassmen’s perspective, it has been a big goal to get everyone involved as much as they can, no matter the grade.”

He also runs a business called GiveGo through Lake Forest’s business incubator program, “where we are put into groups to create a sustainable business,” he said. “My app’s purpose is to connect interested volunteers and nonprofits, based on interests and to bring the manual process of scheduling, tracking and verifying service hours all into one platform to make it easier for students who are trying to apply for National Honors Society and other things that require service hours.

“We were awarded $5,000 from the (Lake Forest High School) foundation after winning ‘Pitch Night,’ a Shark Tank-style competition for MVP (Most Viable Product) against 17 other participating groups. We are now furthering our development in the senior class business accelerator, with hopes to scale up our app to other schools in the future.”

Savage, 17, a Lake Forest resident, is a right-handed shooting left wing in his second season on the Lake Forest varsity. He skates alongside Bobby Rolek and Steven Valenti, a line that has meshed since their sophomore season on JV, when they won the state championship.

Savage, who formerly skated for the Lake Forest Winter Club and Highland Park Falcons, has been an SHL Academic Award honoree and assistant captain as a junior.

“I am a playmaker who can create lots of open space for my teammates, which I think has (led to) a lot from my line’s point production to start the season,” Savage said. “My main goal (this season) is to help the team (however) I can, if that means killing off a penalty or getting a crucial goal late in the game. Ultimately, the main goal would be to become an SHL all-star or All-State.

“We have a very strong core offense with lots of skill on all four lines and goaltending. If everyone buys into the same goal, (we) could make a very deep run in the (league and state) playoffs.”

The Scouts will not surprise anyone this season. Sweep the season series from New Trier Green and you automatically hit all radars – as the Scouts did last season, a career highlight for Savage.

After hockey season, Savage switches to lacrosse mode – and both sports help each other, he said.

"Lots of communication (is needed) playing lacrosse, (which) has made it a lot easier for me, my line and our whole team to know where everyone is (at) on the ice and be able to make plays without actually seeing your teammates, but just by hearing them. Communicating is so vital in making good passes and our coaches always stress that," Savage said. "I am a defensive middie in lacrosse, so being on my penalty kill during games has helped exponentially on staying square with offensive players and giving myself good angles on players when I am running downfield similar to angling someone in hockey."

Savage also has spent countless hours on and in the water. "I have always been around (a) lake as a kid and have tried every water sport available," he said. "From a young age, I have been water skiing and wake boarding and into my high school years that has not slowed down. I am out on the water in Green Lake, Wisconsin at my cousin's lake house who also resides in Lake Forest."

The Scouts are in fourth-place in the SHL with a 5-8 (5-5-1-2) record, most recently losing 1-0 in a home shootout against league-leading Saint Viator. Lake Forest has lost three of its last four league games, each by one goal.

Savage, who has 2 goals and 4 assists in league play, said many Illinois coached have aided his career, such as:

Jimmy Warrick, at Winter Club: "He had a strong influence on how my play-style developed. He was my coach (many) years and I have done numerous camps and private lessons with him."

Warrick, now hockey director for Winnetka Hockey Club, said Savage is, "a heck of a player and an even better individual. Carter and that original group I had (at Winter Club) are one of the best groups I coached. I am so happy to see his success at Lake Forest."

Mike McCann, from Lake Forest JV Gold, his freshman and sophomore seasons: "He always took time out of practice to help me with the little things I was struggling with. For example, the release on my shot has gotten way faster from the advice he has given me."

Steve Sarauer, Lake Forest varsity head coach: "He had my brother on varsity a couple years before me and saw my potential while I was on JV; he really pushed me to get up to the varsity level speed that he knew I could get to. Steve has always had very high expectations for us and is always pushing us to go one step further which we all appreciate. I think that has definitely been key to our upsloping success these last couple years."

Savage added: "I have absolutely loved my time at Scouts Hockey. My coaches, the families, the fans and most importantly my teammates have shaped my high school career. My teammates are lifelong friends who I am so lucky to have and will always be in my life. I am so grateful to have the best coaches as mentors to help guide me during these past four years. There is no better feeling than taking the ice with my best friends in front of a loud crowd at Lake Forest College to play a competitive game … and get the win."

Slapshots With … Lake Forest Forward Carter Savage

Favorite High School Hockey Memory: "Hanging out with my team in Jamestown, New York for a tournament in the dead of winter."

Early Hockey Memory: "Playing house hockey for the Falcons with a lot of teammates who are now on my (high school) team. One being Logan Marsch, where he (started) being a goalie during house league as we would generally switch off who would play goalie for each game."

Off The Ice: "Lots of golfing with my friends, mainly my teammates from hockey. The majority of my team this year is in my friend group, so our team chemistry was already very high and it helps that we are always off the ice together, whether we're just hanging out watching football or going out to do an activity."

It Helps: "Going to the gym on my own time has been a big help. I have not been the most physical nor the biggest kid on the, ice but being able to create a much stronger base for myself and increase the speed on my shot from working out has been a big help for me at the varsity level."

Superstitions on the Ice: "Not letting my blade touch the ground and not letting anyone touch it once I have taped it. Also, writing the initial M with a puck on my stick for my grandmother who passed away."

Long-term Career Goals: "Run my own business; nothing specific yet but something that people would notice in their everyday lives and that has a positive influence on communities around me."

Favorite NHL Team: Chicago Blackhawks

Favorite NHL Player: Patrick Kane

Favorite Sports-themed Movie: Miracle

Favorite TV Show: Suits

Motivational Song: Safari Song by Greta Van Fleet

Favorite Pre-game Meal: Sandwich from Jersey Mike's Subs

Favorite app: Instagram

Celebrity You'd Like To Meet: Adam Sandler

Favorite High School Uniform (other than Lake Forest): Providence Catholic