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Princeton University ice hockey captain Mike Moore volunteers his time with Engine Co. No. 1 in Princeton Borough. "It's a good group of guys and the closest thing to the hockey team because it has the same sort of camaraderie," he said.

# His passion: Fire & ice

Princeton ice hockey captain takes university's motto to heart

BY ERIC DODDS  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Student-athletes at Princeton University have a reputation for spending too much time on sports and not enough fulfilling the school's motto: "Princeton in the nation's service."

Anyone who believes that reputation has not met Mike Moore.

Moore, 22, is the captain of the Princeton ice hockey team. Though hockey has always been his first priority at the university, Moore spends much of his free time with the Princeton Fire Department.

Unlikely as it may sound, the same man who is seen skating

around the ice at Hobey Baker Memorial Rink on Friday nights can be found putting out fires on Saturdays.

Moore began his work with the volunteer fire department, which serves Princeton Borough and Township, shortly after arriving on campus during his freshman year.

Though a poster initially drew Moore's attention to firefighting at Princeton, that was not his first exposure to the profession.

"My brother is a firefighter back home, so I'd always had a bit of desire to follow in his footsteps," Moore said.

Upon joining the Engine 61 [See **VOLUNTEER**, Page A13]



Moore proudly holds the trophy after the Princeton Tigers defeated Harvard in the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship game on Saturday. His volunteerism has inspired his teammates to serve in the community.

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FOR THE TIMES

## VOLUNTEER

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Company, Moore was immediately thrown into action, responding to a call on his very first night.

"My first call was an actual fire," the 6-foot, 200-pound Canadian said. "It was the same sort of excitement as you get on a breakaway one-on-one scoring opportunity against the opposing goalie or when you see a kid crossing the ice with his head down."

Fully committed to his role as a firefighter, Moore completed the grueling introductory New Jersey firefighting course, which requires 60 hours of training, during his freshman year.

"Mike is a very talented individual and has devoted a lot of his time to the community," Princeton Borough Deputy Fire Chief Roy James said. "When he first joined the fire company he was very eager to learn. He's one of those guys willing to do whatever it takes."

It is in large part the close relationships he has developed with his fellow firefighters — both from the municipality and university — and a bond with the community that keep him coming back every year.

"It's a good group of guys and the closest thing to the hockey team because it has the same sort of camaraderie," Moore said. "It's an unusual opportunity and a great way to interact with the community."

Despite the senior's role as captain of the hockey team and his place as one of the longest-tenured college-aged firefighters in Princeton, Moore nevertheless recognizes that each day is a learning experience, be it on the rink or in the firehouse.

"You have to be constantly teaching and learning from those around you," he said. "Even though I try to lead by example, the learning cycle has to be continuous if you're going to be successful in hockey or firefighting."

Moore's leadership and sense of civic duty have inspired teammate Kevin Kaiser, a sophomore forward, to sign up as well.

"Some sort of public service is important," Kaiser said. "It's good to help people in the town and get involved with the community. Moorsy was the one who suggested I could do that with the fire department."

Moore has used some of the lessons that he learned on the ice to make him a better firefighter.

"Hockey definitely teaches you work ethic and commitment," he said. "You really want to help those guys out in a fire just like you want to help your teammates out at the rink."

Despite juggling his duties at the firehouse and in the classroom, Moore has had an impressive season on the ice, leading all Princeton defensemen with 22 points and being named first team All-Ivy League. On Saturday, Moore led the Tigers to take the Eastern College Athletic Conference crown for the first time in nearly a decade. That triumph was over Harvard; and Moore was named the ECAC Defenseman of the Year.

This Saturday, the Tigers will face North Dakota in the Midwest semifinal of the NCAA Tournament; and a victory in that contest will pit them against Denver or Wisconsin in the Midwest championship on Sunday.

"He's an absolute warrior — someone who no forwards in the league want to play against because he's the hardest hitter I've seen in college hockey," said Princeton hockey coach Guy Gadowsky of Moore's ability to take out opposing forwards as they cross the ice. "He loves to do it, which is amazing because off the ice, he's one of the kindest, most gentle people I've met."

Gadowsky pointed out that firefighting is not the only role Moore plays in the community.

"People don't know this, but he's the guy who's been out more than anyone else with the kids in the Princeton Youth Hockey Association," Gadowsky said. "To listen to some of the parents talk about what their children have said about Mike gives you an idea of what kind of special person this is."

James also echoed these sentiments.

"Mike is a great guy," the fire chief said. "He's very personable, very intelligent — he has something a lot of people like about him. My feelings and the company's feelings are that he's always available to help and always gives 100 percent."

Despite his non-academic commitments, Moore has been sure to maintain his efforts in the classroom as well. The mechanical engineering major has been named to the ECAC All-Academic team in his sophomore, junior and senior years.

Despite his success, Moore remains modest about his academic achievements.

"While other people have been working on their GPAs, I've been in the firehouse," the Calgary native said. "But I guess I've done all right for myself in school."

While hockey remains his top priority, Moore's fire department pager is almost always by his side, even during the nights before big games.

"I usually leave it on," he explained. "Fire doesn't take a night off — why should I?"