I am excited to be the Head Coach of the Silver Seven U12 AA team for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. I have a strong commitment and a proven track record in developing young hockey players throughout my coaching journey.

This marks my fourth year with OVSS as a head coach, following three seasons as an assistant coach. I believe in providing equal opportunities for all players to develop their skills and excel in hockey. Acknowledging the individuality of each player's ability, I am dedicated to work with players individually and as part of the team, developing skills that allow them to achieve their utmost potential this season; aiming to elevate their hockey development and personal growth when they leave the rink.

This year, we will focus on essential skills such as skating, passing, shooting, and puck control. We will also concentrate on team strategies, positional play, and overall game strategy, thus laying the groundwork for the players continued advancement in their hockey careers. I am committed to advancing their hockey IQ, enabling them to process strategic plays quickly during games and fostering an environment where they are unafraid to learn from their mistakes – an essential aspect of young players' development.

Goalies will receive specialized training in specific movements, positional awareness, puck tracking, and rebound control. As a goalie parent, I recognize the importance of dedicated attention to goaltenders during practices and games. We must ensure that our goalies aren't solely viewed as shooting targets; they are an integral and valued part of this team. We will be committed to developing their all-around skills, encouraging them to actively engage in hockey plays, such as initiating a breakout by making good hockey passes.

All these efforts will be cultivated within a positive and enjoyable environment. I firmly believe that hockey should be a fun game, and I hope to have players leave the rink with smiles, eagerly anticipating their next ice session or hanging out with their teammates. Our practices will consistently maintain high tempo, structured approach, and align with a comprehensive development plan. A culture of discipline and respect will be integral, not only among teammates but also towards opponents, coaches, referees, and parents.

This year, our shared motto will be #WeAreRelentless. While players will be placed in situations to succeed and enhance their abilities, I will consistently challenge them to exceed their own expectations. My commitment is a secure environment both within the dressing room and throughout the rink, where young hockey players look forward to practices and games with a sense of enjoyment and safety. A sense of enthusiasm and security should envelop everyone during team events.

Players should anticipate a commitment of 4-5 weekly sessions, encompassing games, practices, virtual and in-person workouts, and team and community engagements. Aside from school-related commitments and family obligations, all team events will be mandatory. Our season will also involve participation in four to five tournaments, with three scheduled as away tournaments.

I am eager to start this journey again with your player and look forward to what this year brings.

Tournaments:

Sept 29-Oct 1- Belleville Pre-Season Tilt

Oct 20-22 - OVSS Home Tourni

Nov 23-26 - Whitby Silver Stick

Dec 8-10 - Oshawa Hockeyfest

I am considering booking a fifth tournament after our upcoming parent's meeting, which will be scheduled shortly after our team is finalized.

Coach Dave