

My name is Chris Neil, and I am excited about being named your 2023-2024 OVSS U15AA Coach. Thank you to the Silver Seven Hockey Association for their efforts throughout the coach selection process. This is my 3rd year coaching with OVSS.

I was raised in a small town of 700 people and that is where I fell in love with the game of hockey at a very young age.

I'm the youngest of four competitive boys and that is where I developed my tough competitive nature, they never let me get away with any shortcuts.

During my junior and professional career, I had the privilege of playing for a long list of renowned coaches like Roger Neilson, Jacques Martin and Bryan Murray along with Paul McLean to name a few.

I have been fortunate to witness firsthand their coaching techniques and philosophies; I've seen a lot of strategies that work very well and unfortunately some that don't. My intention is to take the best of what I have seen and work to adapt those strategies into game play that is best suited for this age group.

I am looking forward to the team tryouts this year and would like to encourage all prospective players to come out and challenge for a position on the team.

I'm looking for kids that are hard working on and off the ice, that show respect to their teammates and coaches as well as their parents. I will run energetic and high paced practices that create good work ethic and good habits on the ice. I hope to also be able to foster an environment where kids feel like they can be creative with their skills while still developing.

I plan to run off-ice training practices as well to further develop good fitness habits.

It is my hope that the kids will love the game of hockey as much as I do and allow us to have lots of fun this season. You can expect practices 4-5 days a week and all team events will be mandatory.

We are registered to participate in 5 tournaments this season, 3 of which are out of town. We have an early season tournament booked which I hope will be a time for the players and coaches to bond as a group.

Wishing you all the best in your off season, I look forward to the upcoming season!

Thank you,
Chris Neil