



Meet Our Travel Coaches for 21/22

Ryan Davlantes: Mite 1 & Mite 3 Head Coach

Ryan enters his 5th season as a Head Coach for the Warriors all at the Mite level. He also coached one season of High School hockey. He grew up playing for both Northbrook and the Falcons before moving on to play Junior hockey for the Wisconsin Rampage. He then moved on to play NCAA D3 hockey at Aurora University before starting his coaching career.

In addition to coaching, Ryan is a head skills instructor for the Winnetka program. He views his position with the WHC to improve the skills of all the players he coaches. "I want Winnetka players to be the best skating players in Illinois. My job is all about development. If I develop them, I have done my job successfully."

Lewis Simon: Mite 2 Head & Mite 1 Assistant

Lewis Simon grew up in Evanston and attended North Shore Country Day School. For seven years he played AAA hockey locally for the Chicago Young Americans and for Team Illinois. At 16, he had an opportunity to relocate and play hockey in Pittsburgh, PA for the Junior Penguins. This led him to a three year junior career; playing 2 years in New Jersey and one year in New York. Prior to playing his first collegiate hockey game, Lewis had to hang up his skates due to an excessive amount of concussions.

This fall, Lewis will be attending Northwestern University as a transfer student. He plans on majoring in business with an emphasis on sports management, after successfully completing an internship with Wasserman, a major sports agency based in Los Angeles. He has worked with kids for the past four years and plans to continue developing and mentoring younger athletes in their hockey journey. He is the founder of two companies; Sty House, a youth clothing line, as well as a summer sports camp.

Daniel Viettinghoff: Mite 4

Daniel played youth hockey for the Northbrook Bluehawks, CYA, and for Glenbrook North High School from 2008-2010. He has coached for the Winnetka Hockey Club for 5 years and was with the Northwest Chargers prior to coming to Winnetka. He is a Level 4 certified USA Hockey Coach who has coached Mites, Squirts, Pee

Wees, and Bantams. Daniel is both competitive and passionate about hockey but his ability to relate to the youngest of hockey players is his strongest asset. His goal is not only to develop young hockey players, but to have fun while doing it. In his eyes, success is not just about winning; it is being able to develop each player for every position. There are no set positions on his Mite team! He is a graduate of DePaul University and works for Magellan Corporation.

Mite 5: Jonathan Morrison

Jonathan Morrison grew up in Vail, Colorado, and spent the majority of his youth playing hockey, lacrosse, and competing in downhill ski racing. After deciding to pursue hockey full time he moved to the Denver area during the winters to pursue his dream of playing Division 1 college hockey. At the age 16, Jonathan committed to play college hockey at the Air Force Academy which opened the door to a competitive junior hockey career. Jonathan's career started in New Jersey where he spent a year and a half with the New Jersey Hitmen of the USPHL. After two knee surgeries, Jonathan moved to Minnesota to continue playing for the Minnesota Wilderness of the NAHL. Due to several more injuries, Jonathan stepped away from the competitive side of hockey. He now resides in Northbrook where he hopes to share his love of the game to the next generation of players.

Ricky Lee: Squirt 1

Ricky grew up playing for the Warriors, winning state titles as a Squirt and Peewee. He then went on to play for New Trier where he led the '99 New Trier Blue team to the state semi-finals (where they were one game away from facing Green in the finals), and was a member of the state championship New Trier Green team of 2000. From there he went on to play four years of varsity club hockey for the University of Colorado, winning the 2003 ACHA division II National Championship, while leading the team in scoring. Ricky has coached for Winnetka since 2004 at both the Mite and Squirt levels. His highlights as a head coach include winning the 2008 Mite A state championship, and leading the 2017 Squirt Central States team to a 3rd place finish in state.

Outside of the rink he lives in the old town neighborhood of Chicago with his wife Katie, two young children Jack and Harper, and dog Barkley. He was a member of the Chicago board of trade from 2007-2018 and now spends his days working on the trade desk for TD Ameritrade.

Squirt 3: Freddy Johnson

Freddy grew up playing in the Winnetka club through his bantam years. When he moved back to Chicago in 2009, he began coaching Mite A2 and spring seasons off and on. Six years ago, he started coaching as an assistant at both the Squirt Central States and Bantam Central States levels. A few years ago he started coaching his own team at the PeeWee NIHL level and then moved to Squirt last season

In addition to coaching, Freddy owns an off-ice training company and works in real estate. He lives in Winnetka with his wife Jennifer and their two daughters, Caroline and Ella.

John Jablonski:

Squirt 4

John grew up playing for the Niles Sharks and later Maine East High School. John has been coaching for 17 years. He originally started coach when his son, Joe, was a Mite and never looked back. He coached in Glenview several years before coming over to Winnetka 11 years ago. He is a Level 5 certified USA Hockey Coach and brings a hard work dedicated mentality to the Winnetka program. His goal is to help the development of these young athletes to become better Hockey players and represent the Warriors with respect and dignity.

Joe and his wife Elizabeth have been married 34 years and have two grown children: Jayne and Joe.

Charlie Widmar:

Pee Wee 1 & Squirt 2/Director of Development

Charlie grew up in Eagan, Minnesota where he began playing hockey before moving to Northbrook, playing for the Bluehawks program. He attended and played at Loyola Academy. After graduating from Loyola, Charlie played junior hockey in the Eastern and Atlantic Junior Leagues. He played in Boston, Philadelphia and Portland, Maine.

Charlie ended his playing career with the Oles of St. Olaf College where he played four years of NCAA collegiate hockey, graduating in the spring of 2018. After his playing career, Charlie began coaching with the Wilmette Braves and New Trier Hockey organizations where he was the past two years. He is also a Head Instruct at Impact Hockey. Charlie is excited to join the Winnetka Warriors program this season in his new role, where he looks to help develop these young athletes into the best hockey players they can be and continue to grow and promote the sport he loves.

Jimmy Davis:

Pee Wee 2

Jimmy grew up playing locally for the Glenview Stars and Chicago Blues. During college at DePaul University, he served as the Assistant Hockey Director for the Niles Rangers for 5 years where he helped run the program and classes for the program. He has been coaching at Winnetka Hockey Club for over 11 seasons between the squirt and peewee age groups, as well as coaching skills sessions.

Michael Vail:

Pee Wee 3

Michael grew up in Winnetka and has been playing hockey since the age of 7. He played across every NIHL level from bronze to elite, wearing Winnetka's green & gold. Michael played on the New Trier Blue team his freshman year of high school and as a sophomore earned a spot on the New Trier Green team. Michael was captain of NT Green for both his junior and senior years, leading the team to 103 victories, including an IL State Championship and the first-ever National High School Hockey Championship. During this time, Michael was a two-time All-State player and New Trier Hockey Club's recipient of the Heart of the Team Award in 2010.

Since graduating from DePaul University, Michael has worked as an assistant coach under Tom Gullen for the past 5 years. This will be Michael's first year as a head coach, and he is very eager for the opportunity and challenge. Michael is committed to fostering the development of young hockey players, placing key emphasis on structure, individual skills, and positive team dynamics.

Jason Hawkins: Bantam 1

Jason grew up in the west suburbs and played his youth hockey at the Huskies and the Flames before moving on to play Club Hockey at Illinois State.

He is in his 18th year coaching and his 16th in the Winnetka program, all at the Bantam level. In addition to coaching our Bantam team, he is the Head Coach and Hockey Director for the Glenbard High School Program. His Glenbard teams have reached the “Final 4” seven times. He was named the AHAI High School Coach of the year in 2017 and was also awarded the 2015 IHSHL West Division President’s Award for leadership, teaching, and dedication. He has won state championships both at Glenbard and in Winnetka. His unique background helps prepare his players to take the next step into their High School Hockey careers.

Jason lives in Palatine with his wife Darcy and two children Cassidy and Lukad.

Aaron Blaker: Bantam 2

Aaron Blaker played the majority of his youth hockey with the Northwest Chargers and the Chicago Young Americans AAA club, playing for Hockey Director Chris Wickersham. After high school, Blaker played Junior A hockey for the Atlanta

Knights in the EJHL. Following his time in Atlanta, he played collegiate hockey at Franklin Pierce University (NCAA Division 3) and Robert Morris Chicago (AHCA Division 1 club). He looks forward to sharing his knowledge of the game and watching players get better as the season goes on.

Daniel Chang: Bantam 3

Daniel started his hockey career as a Warrior in our Minor Mite House League. He quickly moved into the travel program and won back to back State Championships playing for Coach Gullen at Squirts. He then moved on to play AAA hockey, first with the Young Americans for three years then with the Chicago Mission for three years.

Daniel is now in his 4th season as a coach, having served as an Assistant Coach at the Mite, Pee Wee, and Bantam levels. He has a unique ability to relate to players of all ages and ability levels, combining his love and passion for the game with his knowledge of how to play the game. He is excited to move into the role of a Bantam Head Coach this season.

