



New Club President

After over eight strong years, Mark Keil has retired as our club president. Under Mark's leadership, the Santa Clara Blackhawks continued its tradition of fielding teams focusing on strong hockey fundamentals and team spirit. Mark's commitment to the club, its players and families will always be remembered as we thank him for many years of volunteering his time and service to the club. With Mark's departure, the Santa Clara Blackhawks are pleased to announce that Chris Clima has graciously accepted the post of its next Club President.

We sat down with Chris for a question and answer session about his new role.

Q. What excites you about the opportunity to lead this organization?

A. Being able to give back to youth hockey is what excites me most about this opportunity. Being able to do that with the Blackhawks makes it even better. The Blackhawks were the club that gave myself and my son our first hockey opportunities at the club level.

Q. How do you view the role of the Club President and the Board?

A. I view the role of Club President as guiding the Board towards a better future in hockey. I think as President and as a Board, my role is to not only make our youth better hockey players but more importantly better people. Whether its youth sports, music, theatre or arts, youth community programs are what set our kids on the path for a better future.

Q. Have you been involved with youth sports groups before?

A. I have been coaching youth sports for over 20 years. I have coached not only my own kids, but my friend's kids before mine were old enough to play. I also coached sports as a way to give back in my early 20's. I have coached soccer, baseball, softball, and roller hockey. I have served on the disciplinary committee for our local baseball little league and I am currently on the board as an age group coordinator for our local soccer club.

Q. How did you get involved with the club? What drew you to the Blackhawks?

A. We were looking for a summer program for our son so that he could continue to develop his hockey skills. A friend told us about the Blackhawks and we found out about their Summerhawks program. After watching the first couple of practices, we knew we were in the right place. I truly feel that the skill that needs to be worked on most in hockey is skating. Once I saw how much of an emphasis there was on skating technique, the Blackhawks had me hooked.

Q. Tell us about yourself. What's your occupation off the ice? Tell us about your family.

A. I am a salesman for Port Plastics in San Jose. I have worked for Port for 11 years, have been in plastics for almost 20 years, and sales for close to 25 years. As for my family, I know it is often said that behind every good man is a great woman. But I consider myself lucky to have a great woman standing right next to me. My wife Debbie is the absolute rock of our family. I could not do any of the things I do without her. We have two wonderful children. Our son Dominic is 12 and is a first year Bantam. After being born 2 months premature at 1 lb 15 oz, he continues to amaze me everyday. Our daughter Olivia is 9 years old and is one of the feistiest little girls I know. Not to be outdone by her brother, she was born 4 months premature and weighed just under a pound. She truly is the miracle I get to see every day. She loves to play basketball, soccer and softball. I am also lucky to have many other family members that support me and a group of friends I consider family.



New President, continued

Q. What is your hockey background?

A. Being a hockey fan was tough as a kid growing up in Northern California. In the late 80's, the Bay Area would get one or two preseason games a year. After going to those games I started playing roller hockey. Although I always had the urge to switch to ice hockey, at that time it wasn't feasible. I continued to play roller hockey for almost 20 years. Then in 1991 the NHL brought a team to the Bay Area. From that point on, I was hooked on ice hockey. As soon as my son was old enough to put on skates, I joined him on the ice as a coach and have been coaching for the last 6 years.

Q. What rinks do you like to travel to?

A. Lake Tahoe is my favorite. There is nothing like playing a game and being able to watch the snow fall behind you. We try to make tournaments a mini vacation for our family. I also enjoy going to Arizona for hockey and vacation fun.

Q. Favorite place to eat near a rink other than SJ or Fremont?

A. My favorite place to eat after a game is Rudy's Gourmet Mexican food in Roseville. A close second is Fenton's Ice Creamery in Vacaville. Ice cream makes everything better, win or lose.

Q. Tell us about a memorable moment as a youth hockey coach.

A. There are quite a few, however the best was winning the Pee Wee B Memorial Day tournament in Anaheim last year. Without the men and woman who served our country, we would not be able to do the things we do today. Winning a tournament while honoring them is by far my favorite moment as a coach.



Q. Funniest moment as a youth hockey coach?

A. My first year as a head coach with the Blackhawks, I was asked to help out at a Bantam AA practice. I was so nervous, I forgot to take my skate guards off. One step on the ice and down I went.

Q. What do you like the most about the Blackhawks?

A. As I mentioned before, I think skating is the most important aspect of hockey. I firmly believe the Blackhawks are second to none when it comes to focusing on skating development. I also like the family aspect. The club retreat to kick-off the season in Tahoe promotes not only team bonding, it also encourages families that have just met to get to know each other. There have been times at the rink when I see my daughter running around with up to four or five siblings from several different teams.

Q. What areas do you see for club improvement?

A. As with all clubs, one of the biggest focus areas is increasing the number of players in the organization. This is where I hope to improve the club by keeping our player numbers more consistent and growing the number of teams we have each year. I think there is a tremendous opportunity to have consistent growth from year to year.

Q. What are some things you'd like to see happen in NorCal hockey? California hockey?

A. Over the last several years, California hockey has experienced a lot of growth and improvement - especially in the NorCal region. There are former Blackhawk players and other Northern California players continuing to play hockey at all levels from lower Junior hockey to Division One college hockey to Alec Martinez and Ryan Miller in the NHL. I would like to see these numbers continue to grow even larger.

Q. Any last thoughts?

A. If you have fire in your hearts and ice in your veins, I truly believe great things can be accomplished. GO HAWKS!

Community Corner



Over 40 Blackhawks players, parents and coaches volunteered on April 23, 2016 for an ice skating session for foster youths and their adult Child Advocates. The event was coordinated by Jessica Lee, Blackhawk parent and Peer Coordinator with the Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. The Blackhawks donated the ice time and our Blackhawks community helped beginners with their skates and out on the ice. Thanks to those who volunteered their time and skills, and for Sharks Ice San Jose for donating skate rental!





BLACKHAWKS

2016 - 2017

TRYOUTS

Tier II - May 14-15

SATURDAY, 5/14/2016

6:00-7:15 pm - PeeWee AA
 7:30-8:45 pm - Bantam AA
 9:00-10:15 pm - Midget 16AA

SUNDAY, 5/15/2016

7:45-9:00 am - PeeWee AA
 9:15-10:30 am - Bantam AA
 10:45 am -12:00 pm - Midget 16AA

<u>Team (birth years)</u>	<u>Head Coaches</u>
PeeWee AA (2004 - 2005)	Lino Persi, Erik Hove
Bantam AA (2002 - 2003)	Jorge Murillo
Midget 16AA (2000 - 2001)	Justin Alonzo

Travel A/B - June 4-5

SATURDAY, 6/4/2016

2:30-3:45 pm - Mites
 4:00-5:15 pm - Squirts
 5:30-6:45 pm - PeeWee
 7:00-8:15 pm - Bantam

SUNDAY, 6/5/2016

7:00-8:15 am - Mites
 8:30-9:45 am - Squirts
 10:00-11:15 am - PeeWee
 11:30 am -12:45 pm - Bantam

<u>Team (birth years)</u>	<u>Head Coaches</u>
Mites (2008 - 2010)	Eric Pane, Kevin Bergner
Squirt 1 (2006 - 2007)	Sova Khuong
Squirt 2 (2006 - 2007)	Shaun Collins
PeeWee 1 (2004 - 2005)	Allen Collins
PeeWee 2 (2004 - 2005)	Shaun Collins
Bantam 1 (2002 - 2003)	Errol Garcia
Bantam 2 (2002 - 2003)	Steve Gutierrez

All tryouts will be held at Shark's Ice Fremont.

Tryout Fee = \$100 advance registration
 \$125 on-site registration

Click [HERE](#) to Register online
 or go to www.blackhawks.org

For more info, please contact directorhockey@blackhawks.org

NOTE: High School team tryouts will take place after Labor Day. Stay tuned for more information.





BLACKHAWKS

A/B

OPEN HOUSE

Mite & Squirt

Saturday 5/21/2016

6:00-7:30pm

Sharks Ice Fremont

Peewee & Bantam

Sunday 5/22/2016

10:30am-12:00pm

Sharks Ice Fremont

Session Fee \$10

We look forward to answering your questions and finding out more about your player!

Come learn more about the Blackhawks A/B program

Meet and interact with the coaches at an on-ice skills session. Q&A with the coaches immediately following on-ice session.

Head Coaches

Mite: Eric Pane and Kevin Bergner

Squirt 1: Sova Khuong

Squirt 2: Shaun Collins

Peewee 1: Allen Collins

Peewee 2: Shaun Collins

Bantam 1: Errol Garcia

Bantam 2: Steve Gutierrez