



Meet The Board

Featured Board Member:

Eric Pane

Asst. Director of Hockey Operations



Meet Eric Pane. Eric has been a Blackhawks coach since 2008, and a Board Member since 2009.

Q: How did you get involved with the Blackhawks?

A: In 2005, we had just moved here from the Toronto area and were “soaked” in hockey culture. Our oldest son was about 3 at the time and was already asking about organized hockey. I was playing beer league here and a bunch of the guys I played with, and who’s company I enjoyed the most, were coaching with the Blackhawks. So we waited until my oldest was about 7 or so, and we signed up.

Q: This is your 5th season coaching a Mite team. What’s your favorite part?

A: The best part about coaching Mites is working with a highly coachable Mite, because they learn so fast it can be almost unsettling! The hardest part is “making” highly coachable Mites! Therein lies the art and almost infinite complexity of working with 6-8 year olds. When it works well, it has a lot to do with having Kevin Bergner co-coaching Mites with me. Kevin’s logged a handful of seasons coaching Mites and is usually spot-on with his thoughts and ideas about coaching them. Additionally, we’ve surrounded ourselves with 3 assistants this season in Joe Daly, Brent Faulhaber, and Corey Zuvela, who are alarmingly capable of helping us succeed with our program.

Q: You haven’t always had a son play on the teams you’ve coached. Tell us about that.

A: I’ve coached teams from Mites to Bantam, and I’ve coached a handful of teams with my own son on the team, and teams without my own son on the team. Mostly it’s a team-by-team decision where I try to take whatever job is best in the long-term for the club. If that involves having my own son on the team, great. If not, so be it. I’ve been fortunate for almost 10 years to have my wife Mich be so actively involved with the club, and be so capable of handling the logistics of my coaching a team without my own kids on it when need be. There’s also a very reassuring “club as family” aspect to the Blackhawks, where I can coach a different team from the one my son is

Meet the Board, continued

on, and know that even if I’m not his coach for a season, he’s going to get a coach that will teach him how to play the game the correct way.

Q: You recently switched from Director of Hockey Operations (DHO) after 7 years in the position to the Assistant DHO. Why the move?

A: Jorge Murillo has taken over as DHO, after assisting me for several years, and I think that’s a natural transition for him, for me, and for the club in general. One thing I try to impress on parents is to be sure your child is 100% committed to playing travel hockey each season you sign up. Right now, my youngest son is still a bit unsure about hockey in the next few years, so I want to be able to give him the choice to play each season, unswayed by whatever I might be doing as a Board member with the club. Moving to Asst. DHO allows me to support Jorge in his role, provided that my youngest son wants to continue to play. If my youngest opts out of hockey, having Jorge as the DHO gives the club both strength and continuity at that position.

Q: What else are you working on with the Blackhawks?

A: Probably the biggest “theme” I’m working on now with the club is trying to align us as closely as possible with USA Hockey. I’ve spent the better part of a decade with the club trying to build a skate “culture” where we’ve poised the Blackhawks as the club in NorCal that spends the most time, energy and effort teaching the detailed fundamentals of skating. We seem to receive consistent feedback now to suggest we’ve reached that goal, and now I’d like to focus on being the club in NorCal most in tune with USA Hockey’s concepts and teachings. Recently, Kevin and I have completely revamped the Mite off-ice dryland, consistent with USA Hockey advice, to move away from more traditional hockey-specific activities, and toward critical whole-body athleticism that seems to be more and more lacking in young hockey players. What we’re shooting for now with our Mites is competency with stilt-walking, pogo-sticking, dribbling a basketball, dribbling a soccer ball, throwing and catching a ball, hand-eye coordination, and (hopefully soon) tumbling, rolling, and basic gymnastics. We’re incredibly excited to host Ken Martel, director of USA Hockey’s American Development Model, at a Mite/Squirt dryland in late January. From this session, we’re hoping to generate a feature article about our U8 and U10 dryland program in USA Hockey magazine! A feat we’ve never accomplished in 48 years as a club!

One Timers



Our **Tier 2 teams** rocked it during the December 2-4 CAHA Weekend with our teams posting a combined 6-1 winning record! Go Blackhawks!!

The **16 AA** team traveled to Chicago for the Bauer Invitational Tournament in early November. The team played great hockey facing tough teams from Chicago, New Jersey, Rochester and Atlanta. Our Midgets finished the weekend 2-1-1! A quick visit to the top of Sears Tower finished the great trip. CAHA play has been strong with the boys currently in 4th place out of 17 teams in the State. Next stop is the Cactus Cup in Phoenix, and then the final CAHA weekend in February. This team is full of great heart and the true spirit of hockey from the coaches to the players! Go Hawks!

The **Squirt B** team played in the Silver Stick tournament over Thanksgiving weekend in a division that included teams from a level higher. They went 1-3, losing by one goal to Oakland BB (6-5) and one goal to Jr. Sharks BB2 (5-4), by five goals to RWC BB (7-2, second game of the day – the team was gassed!), but beating the San Francisco B team (5-3).

Squirt A team has been working on their skills and look forward to the upcoming Colorado tournament in January. We're happy to report that after a long stint on the IR, Aidan Bergner is back on the ice!

In November, **Bantam AA** traveled to Chicago for the Bauer World Invite AAA Tournament. Opening game was a tough 5-1 loss to a top Canadian team from Ontario (Oakville Rangers) who ultimately posted shutouts in the three rounds of the playoffs to win the tournament championship. The Blackhawks improved with each game, with strong contributions from all players. 2nd game was a hard fought 2-1 loss against the #3 ranked Highland Falcons, and held on for a 4-4 tie against the #40 ranked St. Clair Shores Saints. In the final game against the #29 ranked Atlanta Fire, who needed a win or tie to make the tournament playoffs, the Blackhawks dominated the game throughout. Finishing the tournament with a 4-0 win; Nishigaya with the shutout.

The **Mites** played in their first Norcal Jamboree on November 12 and had a split squad team play in the Hockey Mites in San Francisco tournament. They are looking forward to their second Jamboree in January!



Bantam AA



Squirt A



Bantam AA

Select Camp



Select Camps, held at the local, state, and regional levels, are USA Hockey's official route to the national team. Each successive camp encompasses a broader region than the last, and each successive camp is more exclusive than the last. It starts with the NorCal select camp in December. NorCal players who are selected in December move on to CAHA camp with their SoCal peers in January. For 2000-2002 birth years, those who advance through CAHA camp join top players from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Hawaii at Pacific Regional camp in May. Those selected from Pacific Regionals will then move on to National camp in July, along with participants from the other 12 regions in the country, for eventual selection of the U16 and U17 U.S. National Teams by the USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. For the 2003 birth year, those who advance past CAHA camp go to Western Regional High Performance Camp in June.

Congratulations to the following Blackhawks for being selected to the 2017 CAHA Boys Select Camp!

Birthyear	Position	Name
2003	Forward	William Serverian
2003	Forward	Vladislav Severin
2002	Defense	Vaughn Montoya (Alt)
2002	Forward	Scott McManus
2002	Forward	Ian Gould (Alt)
2001	Forward	Shu Inamura
2001	Forward	Anthony Persi
2000	Defense	Tyler Sheppy (Alt)
2000	Forward	Alexander Allen

Happy Hockey-Days!

