

Erik Larabell

1) I would be a great fit on the board of directors due to my playing/coaching career and general manager experience in the Wisconsin Elite Hockey League. I've seen many different coaching styles while playing and coaching that I have learned and feel it's made me a better coach due to my exposure. I believe in order to run a great organization, it starts with the board of directors who not only know hockey but how to run an organization as a whole. Below is what I am or was involved in that will make me a great candidate for the AAHA Board of Directors:

Playing career:

Youth:

Played for SHAW (learn to skate through mites) played on C teams, Kenosha Comets (Squirts) played on C teams, AAHA (Peewee B, Peewee A, Bantam A, Bantam A) won 3 state championships in a row for AAHA along with placing 2nd my first year as a Peewee.

High School:

-I played for Appleton United's Varsity team freshman year to senior year (was captain of the varsity team my senior year)

-I played for Team Wisconsin my senior year (Team Wisconsin consists of the best 20 players in the state of Wisconsin and they participate in the Minnesota Elite Hockey League, which is the most highly scouted high school before/after league in the nation)

Juniors:

-I was drafted by the Aberdeen Wings in the North American Hockey League (never played for them)

College:

-Practiced with The College of St. Scholastica Mens Varsity D3 Hockey Team for a year (never played a game, walked on)

Coaching Career:

2012-2016 Assistant Coach for Appleton United's Boys JV and Varsity Team (2016 State Champions)

2015-Present General Manager of the NorthEast Region in the Wisconsin Elite Hockey League (Responsible for running tryouts, scheduling practices and games, player development, coaching development, along with hiring coaches for my U14, U16, and U18 teams)

2016-2017 Head Coach of the U18 Northeast Team in the Wisconsin Elite Hockey League (League Champions & State Champions)

2016-2017 Assistant Coach for the Fond Du Lac Cardinals Boys Varsity Hockey Team

2017-Present Assistant Coach on Team Wisconsin's U18 Boys Hockey Team

2017-Present Head Coach of AAHA's Bantam A Team

2) I'd like to be a part of AAHA's Board of Directors for many reasons. With being a coach for Team Wisconsin and running the Wisconsin Elite Hockey League, our primary goals are to focus on player development first and foremost. With that being said, I'd like to see more players from the Appleton area moving on to play in the WEHL, TW, and College. I'm invested in player development and have seen first hand from coaching AAHA's Bantam A team that our organization is far behind from many organizations around the state. I don't necessarily want to change everything AAHA's doing, but we need to make sure we are making practices, games, dryland, and team activities fun for players. Yes, I want players to move on but most importantly I want kids to have fun playing, while receiving the correct coaching they need to succeed. I understand the board of directors isn't just about player development but it's one of the most important factors in becoming a successful organization outside of funding. If elected as a board member, I would collaborate with the other board members to find a way to keep cost down and more affordable for families. The more affordable we can make it, the more players we can hopefully draw and develop to make our high school teams better. If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out.