

Erik Hudson-SAHA Board of Directors Nominee-Alabama

Erik Hudson has been playing hockey since the age of seven years old. He is from Spokane, WA but spent the majority of his youth hockey playing at the prestigious Athol Murray College of Notre Dame in Wilcox, Saskatchewan. He played junior hockey in British Columbia in the Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League, as well as the British Columbia Hockey League, while being recruited to play college hockey at Iowa State. During his time at Iowa State, Erik was the starting goalie for all four years, leading his team to a National Runner up in 2010, and also being selected as a 2nd Team All League and a National All American. In 2011, Erik played for the United States of America at the World University Games in Turkey. Erik had a short professional career, ending in 2012 with the Fayetteville Fireantz of the SPHL.

Transitioning into coaching, Coach Hudson has coached collegiately at Eastern Washington University of the BCIHL, at Lake Forest College as an Assistant Coach in the NCAA Division III ranks, and currently holds the Associate Head Coaching role with the University of Alabama ACHA Division I team, as well as youth hockey coaching roles in his local association. In 2017, Coach Hudson was selected by USA Hockey to represent the United States as a diplomat to be an Assistant Coach with the Romanian National U20 and U18 programs in Bucharest, Romania. Erik has been involved with USA Hockey since 2012 when he took on an evaluator role with AHAI in Illinois, and since then has been a multi-district evaluator for the Rocky Mountain District as well as the Pacific District on multiple occasions. Currently, Coach Hudson is the Goaltending Development Coordinator for SAHA, and has been working with young goalies in SAHA since the start of the program in 2015. Erik was able to assist in the development of the Goaltending ADM with USA Hockey, and continues to implement their programs on an affiliate level, but also on a National level. Erik is a Level 5 USA Hockey coach, as well as a Certified Hockey Director through NARCE. Coach Hudson also holds a role with the Brookings Blizzard of the North American Hockey League as their Director of Goaltending Development, and loves to help goaltenders and players achieve their dream of playing college hockey.

In 2015, Erik became the Director of Hockey for the City of Pelham and the Pelham Civic Complex. Through a joint effort from Erik, his staff, and AAHA, the program in Pelham has grown substantially. Earning the gold level in the USA Hockey 2 and 2 Challenge every year under his leadership, they have been able to grow from under 100 youth in their program to almost 250 kids in just under four years. Erik is also in charge of the Adult hockey program in Pelham, which has grown from six teams total to over 24 adult teams in that same time. Coach Hudson oversees all business and game night operations for the Southern Professional Hockey League team for the City of Pelham. Erik also oversees the Pelham Hockey Development Academy, is the Director for Player Personnel for AAHA, and is the Director for Southern Elite.

Erik has a strong philosophy that development of young hockey players through the LTAD and the ADM from USA Hockey will allow players from the South to flourish just as much as those from a traditional hockey market.