

## **Greater New Haven Warriors are Proud to Announce Next Season's Coaches**

### **2018-19 Travel Hockey Coaches**

#### **Bantam A Head Coach Bryan Leitch –**

Prior to joining the Warriors, Bryan played 8 years of competitive hockey following his youth hockey career, beginning with three years in the British Columbia Hockey League Merritt Centennials before moving on to Quinnipiac University where he played under Coach Rand Pecknold. Bryan was nominated a Hobey Baker finalist while at QU. After a four-year career at Quinnipiac, he played one season of professional hockey in the Nashville Predators organization.

Coach Bryan is in his seventh year with the Warriors. He began his coaching career with the Warriors' Mite B team and has coached at every level from Mites through Midgets. In the past few seasons, he has lead the GNH Warriors Squirt A and PW A teams to the Tier 2 State Championships. In addition to coaching, he has been the Director of Hockey Operations for the Warriors for the past five seasons.

#### **Bantam A1 Head Coach Nick Sczerbinski-**

Nick Sczerbinski is in his second year with the Warriors organization. Following high school, Nick attended Quinnipiac University and currently works for the Athletic Department focusing on the Men's Ice Hockey Team. Born in Cranston, Rhode Island, Nick began his youth hockey career with the Edgewood Hawks in the Rhode Island State League. Nick also competed in the prestigious Metro Boston Hockey League before moving on to Cranston High School and winning a State Championship in 2009.

Prior to his work with the Warriors, Nick coached youth teams for the Providence Capitals and has experience at the high school level at his Alma Mater Cranston High.

#### **Pewee A Head Coach Bill Sweet-**

Coach Bill was born into a hockey family and was skating by the age of two. As a Mite with Hamden Youth Hockey, he was a state champion and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the New England Regionals as a Squirt. Bill joined the CT Wolves Tier 1 organization for his Pee wee through Bantam seasons allowing him to experience strong competition from Maine to Washington D.C. Bill then played 3 seasons at Fairfield Prep for his high school career, leaving to re-join CT Wolves at the Junior level from age 17 – 20. Bill experienced a high caliber and extremely competitive brand of NHL style hockey. Coach Sweet then went on to play in college at Western New England College.

Through his playing career Bill was a team captain, leader, high scorer, but most importantly a team player. His years of playing have produced a love for the sport and a desire to give back to others the same passion has for the game. He began his coaching career with the Warriors in 2014 and has since coached at the Mite A, Squirt A and Pewee A levels. He has had great

success with his teams over the years and always goes above and beyond to ensure his team's success. Bill most recently joined the Daniel Hand High School Men's Hockey coaching staff for the 2017-2018 season as Assistant Coach.

#### **Peewee A1 Head Coach Bryan Leitch-**

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#### **Peewee B Head Coach Mike DeFelice-**

Coach Mike has been playing hockey since he was 5 years old in the Hamden Youth Hockey organization and varsity hockey at Hamden High School. Since 2009, Mike has been a youth hockey coach. He gained experience as a coach from the Peewee, Bantam and HS Junior Varsity levels. Coach Mike believes in players setting individual and team goals. As coach, Mike will use practices and games to help support his players as they achieve their goals.

Mike has extensive experience working with youth. He is currently a K-8 physical education teacher in New Haven. His training and experience as a teacher has given him a deeper understanding of how to relate to and coach kids of all ages. Coach Mike looks forward to the 2018-19 season as one in which he can help to grow the sport of hockey and help players reach their fullest potential.

#### **Squirt A Head Coach John Castiline-**

Coach John has been with the Warriors for the past six seasons. He takes over as the Squirt A Head coach after multiple years as a Mite and Squirt assistant coach with the Warriors. He has also coached at the high school level with the Division 1 Hamden High School Dragons.

His youth hockey playing career began in Hamden with their youth hockey program before moving on to the CT Flames. John was the captain and All-State Selection his senior year Hamden High. Following youth hockey, John played Juniors with the Valley Junior Warriors while he attended Merrimack College. Following Merrimack, John transferred to and played hockey for four years at Quinnipiac University.

#### **Squirt A1 Head Coach Jon Faitsch-**

Development of players' individual skills and game is just part of Coach Jon's philosophy. Coach Jon has two years of experience as a Mite coach. He has also been a high school cross-country and track coach for 20 years in Amity and Guilford. Jon was twice named the New Haven Register Coach of the Year-Cross-Country in 2004 and 2010. His coaching led his team to many state and tournament conference championships. He also coached 2 time All American runners and many other athletes that went on to participate at the NCAA Division 1 level. Coach Jon looks forward to emphasizing skating fundamentals, game sense, and overall enjoyment of hockey in the 2018-19 season.

### **Squirt Coaching Pool Jason Hooper, Bill Conlan, and Matt Wellins**

Our Squirt coaching pool includes three coaches who have been both head and assistant coaches in the Warriors organization. After tryouts coaches will be assigned to teams.

### **Mite A Head Coach Jesse Hoffman-**

Jesse has been with the Warriors for four seasons. He began coaching at the Mite Development and has moved on to be both an assistant and a head coach at the Mite Travel level. This past season Jesse was the head coach of the Mite A1 team with the Warriors. Jesse grew up locally playing for area youth programs before moving onto Amity High School. Jesse made the Varsity team as a Freshman and went on to letter all four years at Amity High.

### **Mite Coaching Pool Jimmy O'Brien, Dan Montabana, and Shawn DeRosa**

Our Mite coaching pool includes three coaches who have been both head and assistant coaches in the Warriors organization. After tryouts coaches will be assigned to teams.