



Dear Ramapo Saints Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am both honored and excited to introduce myself as the new Hockey Director for the Ramapo Saints, a prestigious organization with a rich tradition and history in the Atlantic District. It is a privilege to join an esteemed community that shares my passion for the sport and commitment to player development.

I plan to utilize and integrate my years of experience as both a player and coach to help strengthen one of the longest-standing programs in the Atlantic District. I have been blessed to have successfully developed and coached all levels of players, from junior hockey to the youth levels encompassing a wide range of teams spanning the AAA to A level. More recently, I have coached teams that have been ranked among some of the best in North America. Last season, I led the NJ Rockets to a quarterfinal finish in the 15U division of the USA Hockey National Championships in Fargo, ND. My journey in coaching has strengthened my belief in the importance of player development and the need for a balance between gameplay and practice time. I have successfully trained, coached, and developed over 30 players in the last four seasons who have either committed to Division I colleges, been selected in the USHL draft, or attended USA Hockey's National Development Camps. The success of these players is a product of my belief in the training process and my ability to guide young players and their families through it.

As the owner of The Steel & MJ Total Hockey, I am proud to have trained and developed 300-400 players annually during the spring and summer months. My goal as Hockey Director of the Saints will be to implement the same player development model and training strategies that have been successful throughout my years of experience in and around the youth hockey community. These experiences as a Head Coach and Program Director will aid in our ability to motivate and guide our Saints players as they navigate their hockey journeys. In addition to coaching, I'm also an educator in the Newburgh Enlarged School District. Working with kids of all ages has been a lifelong passion of mine.

Prior to coaching, I played junior hockey for the Buffalo Jr. Sabres (formerly the Niagara Scenics) in the NAHL. From there, I moved on to play for SUNY Oswego for four years, where I had the honor of serving as a two-time captain for one of the most historic programs in Division III hockey. My playing experience has provided me with valuable insights into the dedication required to excel at every level of the sport. In addition, I hold two degrees: a Master of Science in Physical Education from Queens College and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from SUNY Oswego. I plan to draw on my experiences as an educator and hockey coach to deliver a product at the Saints that will help reach every player in our program.

I'm pleased to announce that two esteemed members of my MJ and Steel Staff will be joining me as Assistant Hockey Directors with the Saints. Joe Lofberg and Jon Fuchs will provide additional support and guidance. Both Jon and Joe have outstanding resumes in education and coaching. Coach Fuchs, a former "Saints" player, has coaching experience at all levels of youth hockey with the Saints and NJ Avalanche, in addition to being the Co-Head Coach for the varsity team at Saint Joseph's Regional High School. Coach Lofberg, also a former "Saint" and a Division III standout goalie for Oswego, will focus heavily on the development of the younger age groups, goalie development, and our coveted U6 and U8 programs. Joe has been an instrumental part of the coaching staff that has led Suffern High School to three state titles. Coach Fuchs and Coach Lofberg have worked closely with me in developing the training and development curriculum used for both MJ Total Hockey and The Steel. I'm extremely excited to partner with both of them on this journey.

Vision and Goals

My vision for the Ramapo Saints is to continue building on the tradition of excellence at both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels while ensuring that every player has the opportunity to grow within the fabric of the Saints program. Here are some key initiatives I'm excited to implement:

- **Skill Development Programming:** Addition of the Steel Skills Training Team for weekly skills training in conjunction with Saints team practices.
- **Coaching Education:** Investing in our coaches is essential to our players' success. We will provide ongoing education and resources to keep our coaching staff updated on the latest techniques and trends in the youth hockey community.

Looking Ahead

In the coming weeks and months, we look forward to connecting with current coaches and the families within the Saints organization. I'm fortunate to know many of the outstanding people in the Saints community already, and we look forward to establishing relationships with those we have not yet met.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already experienced. I am looking forward to a successful future filled with growth, challenges, and accomplishments for our players, coaches, and families.

Go Saints!

Sincerely,

Matt Juneau
Hockey Director
Ramapo Saints

