

New Blades GM brings ‘hunger’ to building championship team

By Herb Garbutt
Oakville Beaver staff

As the Oakville Blades prepare to celebrate their past, they are entrusting their future to someone who hasn't been around for a large portion of their 50 seasons.

The Blades have handed the general manager's reins to 28-year-old Jordan Selinger, who served as assistant GM to Mike Daley last season. Daley will become the vice-president-hockey operations and will oversee more of the off-ice operations.

"It's been something I've been working toward for a number of years," Selinger said. "To have that control and to be able to put my vision into the construction of team, it's something I've wanted to do. I have great support with Mike Daley and (Blades coach) Mike Tarantino, who have both been GMs in this league, but ultimately it's my ball to run with."

Selinger has worked with both the OHL's

North Bay Battalion as a hockey operations intern and scout and as an OHL/NHL draft scout for the International Scouting Service.

Selinger's introduction to the Blades came through his brother Joel, who was a student of Tarantino's at Iroquois Ridge High School. Joel told Tarantino about his brother's background and asked if there would be an opportunity for him with the team.

Selinger came in for an interview and immediately impressed Daley.

"He was so enthusiastic and for such a young guy had a very professional demeanor," Daley said. "He really takes this seriously. And as much as people complain about millennials, this is a guy with a real hunger."

Selinger said his love of hockey dates back as long as he can remember.

"Since I was a little kid, this is what I want-

ed to do," he said. "I was born in Vancouver and even when I was four or five, I knew every player on the Canucks' roster. When I found out I could go to school and turn something I love into a career, it just took off."

The former Minor Oaks Hockey Association player studied sports administration and sports management at both Laurentian University and Durham College.

While the hiring of Selinger follows a trend of younger hockey executives with analytics backgrounds in the professional ranks, Daley said the only consideration in the appointment was seeing somebody ready to step into the role.

Daley said Selinger will bring an element of analytics to the team. "I'm a little too old for that stuff," he said with a laugh.

Selinger said his time with the Battalion,

working alongside assistant GM Matt Rabideau, was a valuable experience.

"I definitely knew it took long hours, but when it's right there in front of you — Matt would be so busy he would forget to eat lunch — you see what someone at that level does to get the job done."

The Blades remain a development team and Selinger looks forward to helping players achieve their goals, whether it's getting drafted (Blades defenceman Patrick Kudla, was selected by Phoenix in this summer's NHL draft) or moving on to the NCAA (leading scorer Josh Kosack is headed to Union College in the fall) or the OHL (Tyler Rollo and Ian Blacker).

But he also realizes a successful team can maximize player's exposure and so while he'll be learning on the job, his outlook for the team is not diminished.

"The expectations are high for us," he said. "It's the 50th anniversary season and we want to have the best club possible and take a run at a championship."



Bouchard named to Canadian team for Hlinka tournament

Oakville's Evan Bouchard has been named to the Canadian under-18 team for the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup in Slovakia.

"The Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup is a unique event for us because it's one of the few opportunities we have to assemble the very best players in the country," said Hockey Canada's Ryan Jankowski.

The former Oakville Ranger defenceman had two goals and 15 assists in 43 games in his rookie season with the London Knights, who won the Memorial Cup.

Last year, Bouchard was named to the all-tournament team while helping Canada White claim the gold medal at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.



Oakville's Kristin O'Neill soars over Russia's Anna Klimkina at last year's World Women's Hockey Under-18 Championship in St. Catharines. O'Neill, Lindsay Agnew and Kristyn Capizzano were invited to Hockey Canada's women's development team selection camp. | photo by Scott Rosts — Metroland Media Group

Oakville players invited to Canadian selection camps

Oakville's Brooke Jovanovich and Rachel Marmen will take part in Hockey Canada's women's under-18 team selection camp, which begins this week in Calgary.

Jovanovich finished second in scoring for the Oakville Hornets with 10 goals and 16 assists in 38 games.

Marmen, a defenceman for the Stoney Creek Sabres, had six assists in 38 games.

Also invited to the camp are four of Jovanovich's Oakville Hornet teammates, led by Emma Maltais of Burlington, a member of last year's Canadian team that was edged in overtime by the United States in the gold medal game at the World Women's Under-18 Championships.

Hornets blueliner Meaghan Hector and forwards Sarah Fillier and Victoria Klimek are also among the 43 players invited to the camp.

Twenty-three players will be selected to play in a three-game series against the United States Aug. 18-21.

Three Oakville players will vie for spots

on the Canadian development team. Kristyn Capizzano, who is going into her senior season at Boston College, will be joined by Lindsay Agnew and Kristin O'Neill.

Capizzano had nine goals and 21 assists in 41 games for the Eagles, who reached the NCAA championship game where they were beaten 3-1 by the University of Minnesota.

Agnew is going into her freshman season at the University of Minnesota while O'Neill will begin her college career at Cornell University. Both earning a pair of silver medals with Canada at the under-18 worlds.

Agnew finished third in the PWHL in scoring with 20 goals and 26 assists in 33 games for the Mississauga Chiefs.

O'Neill was sixth in league scoring with 19 goals and 17 assists in 30 games for the Stoney Creek Sabres.

Twenty-three players will be selected for a three-game series against the United States Aug. 17-20 in Calgary.

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