

# Rusk returns to help out his hometown Jr. A hockey club

## Joins Novak, Kalapaca behind bench

Longtime local hockey fans will see another familiar face behind the IceHawks' bench this fall besides Randy Novak and Mike Kalapaca.

The returning head coach and assistant will be joined by native Miltonian Mike Rusk — who recently moved back to

the area after spending much of the past decade patrolling the blueline in the professional ranks, including two games with the AHL's St. John's Maple Leafs.

A 1993 ninth round pick of the Chicago Blackhawks, the 32-year-old — a former teammate of Todd Bertuzzi and Jeff O'Neill during his OHL days with the Guelph Storm — has been coaching minor hockey in Dallas for the past few years.

"Mike can relate to the players," said Novak, who's known Rusk for most of his life and followed his career closely since his time in the Mississauga rep system. "He'll work closely with them to improve their individual skills and will play good cop at times when Mike (Kalapaca) and I will be the bad cops."

Novak said he's been quite impressed thus far with new owners Dean Piatt and Rob DeVincentis, who contrary to initial speculation seem poised to make a real financial commitment to the club.

Case in point is the allocation of extra ice time for summer skates, as well as recently sending their bench boss to the recent Performance 2 coaching seminar at York University.

"These guys have been very professional. They know what they're doing and I'm really pleased with how things are going," added Novak, who's expected to have a few player signings finalized this weekend.

The IceHawks' main camp begins in mid-August.

## Dig This volleyball camp back this summer

Hey all you volleyball players out there — Dig This.

The Ottawa Gee-Gees volleyball program will once again be hosting its summer camp for girls seven to 17 years of age at St. Mary's High School in

Hamilton.

The camp runs from July 30 to August 3 and will be broken up into two age groups — with mornings devoted to the seven to 12-year-olds and afternoons set aside for the older

players.

The cost of the camp is \$135 per player, which includes tournament play, prizes and a camp t-shirt.

To sign up or for more information, visit [www.ggvball.com](http://www.ggvball.com).

# Family Fun is Back!

Saturday, July 14th • Mohawk Racetrack  
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## Is your coach tops?

They're on the ice — or the field, or the court — early, and they're the last ones to leave.

They teach us not only the skills, but also how to have fun, whether we're winning or losing.



And they give of their time to make a major contribution to minor sports. So now is the time to reward great coaches in a significant way.

Local team members (and their parents) in any sport are invited to submit their nomination for the *Champion's 'Coach of the Month'*, which aims the spotlight on the men and women who make local teams shine.

One coach will be chosen each month, and they will receive a pizza lunch or dinner for the team — on us. In addition, the *Champion* will run an article on the winner.

Submissions should include the coach's name, the team and division name and why they make playing the game something special.

Entries can be e-mailed to [sleblanc@haltonsearch.com](mailto:sleblanc@haltonsearch.com).


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