

The Ottawa-west Golden Knights Jr. Hockey Club are pleased to announce the hiring of their new head coach, Sylvain Chaput, for the upcoming 2010/11 season.

“The game has been evolving over the last 3-4 years and is going back to more offence. I knew we had to take the team in that direction so I simply went out and got the right man for the job, and our club couldn't be happier.” stated Golden Knights owner Blake Sinclair.

The OWGK's success over the last decade has come primarily due to the fact that they have concentrated on defensive systems, making each player accountable at both ends of the ice. Change however is a good thing and Chaput will be counted on to provide guidance and encouragement while challenging the players to be more creative. Over the last couple of years the club has been blessed in acquiring a number of extremely talented, offensively minded players who can put the puck in the net.

The Golden Knight's old defensive minded style of play may have held some of these players back, however under Chaput they will be able to really flourish by showing what they can really do offensively. Sinclair believes they have 4 or 5 players up front who, if they work hard and really want it, could score 50-60 points a season. We also have a good defensive core who can really move the puck up the ice quickly for transition and a couple of guys who can quarterback a power-play from the blueline.

“I have coached against Sylvain over the last 4 years while he was with Gatineau Mustangs. I have always liked his teams style of play. He is a good young coach who was admired and respected by his players. Sylvain is an intelligent and competitive person and combined with a good sense of humor is a good fit for our club” Sinclair went on to say, “under his tutelage you couldn't take a penalty against Gatineau Mustangs otherwise you were going to pay for it. Their power play was tremendous, nine times out of ten it would turn into a goal. The major keys we focused on when we played against them were to stay disciplined and be patient, because if you didn't the game could be over quickly.”

Although Chaput is only 37 he has been coaching a long time. It all started about 15 years ago with minor hockey. Over the years he gained valuable experience working his way up through the system before landing as the head coach of the Intrepid AAA midgets where he had a great deal of success. Through the years he has gained an excellent reputation of developing younger players for junior before jumping to the EOJHL as head coach of the Mustangs. Chaput also has close ties with major juniors, Gatineau Olympique's of the QMJHL, where he had discussions with the Olympique's about an opportunity of becoming an assistant coach prior to accepting the position as head coach with the Golden Knights.

“The decision to hire Sylvain Chaput as our new coach was easy,” said Sinclair. “He is a good coach, who not only knows and reads the game extremely well, but has knowledge of our league and its players. His ties to the Olympique's and other young players from the Outaouais region makes Sylvain a huge asset to our club.

The OWGK's philosophy and goals have always remained the same. Acquire the best young talent you can, nurture and develop that talent, strive for success and above all else, win! Chaput's offensive coaching style and techniques are expected to bring a breath of fresh air not only to the players but to the fans.