

Elgin Middlesex Canucks

2026 - 2027 AAA Coaching Staff

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are proud to announce an exceptional group of Head Coaches for the 2026-2027 AAA season.

This distinguished coaching staff represents a powerful combination of high-level playing experience, proven coaching leadership, and a deep commitment to athlete development. More importantly, they share a unified philosophy: developing outstanding people first, and elite hockey players as a result.

Each coach within our program is dedicated to fostering character, accountability, discipline, and resilience alongside advanced technical and tactical skill development. Their leadership extends beyond the ice-emphasizing mentorship, personal growth, and the habits required for long-term success in hockey and in life.

From U10 through U18, our athletes will benefit from a structured, purposeful development pathway guided by coaches who demand excellence while providing the support and guidance necessary for growth. Every stage of the Canucks program is intentionally designed to challenge athletes, strengthen character, and prepare them to compete with confidence and integrity.

The 2026-2027 season reflects our continued commitment to building complete athletes within a culture defined by professionalism, development, and high standards.

U10 AAA – Steven Hillier

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are thrilled to announce Steven Hillier as Head Coach of the U10 AAA Canucks for the 2026-2027 season.

Steven brings extensive experience as both a player and hockey professional, having competed in multiple junior and senior leagues across Ontario, including the WOJCHL, WOHL, GOHL, and WOAA. His playing background provides a strong foundation in team play, competitiveness, and early-stage player development.

Following his playing career, Steven transitioned into coaching and scouting, serving as an Assistant Coach with the St. Thomas Stars (GOHL) and as a Scout with the Saginaw Spirit (OHL).

Steven's blend of playing experience, coaching leadership, and talent evaluation makes him an excellent fit for the U10 AAA program.

The Canucks are confident his energy and development-first approach will set the tone for long-term success.



U11 AAA – Jordan Berk

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are excited to welcome Jordan Berk as Head Coach of the U11 AAA Canucks for the 2026-2027 season.

Jordan brings a diverse and well-rounded hockey background spanning elite minor hockey, junior, university, and international competition. A product of the Alliance, he developed in the Elgin Middlesex Chiefs U15 AAA program before advancing to junior hockey across Ontario and Western Canada, including the BCHL with the Salmon Arm Silverbacks and the AJHL with the Fort McMurray Oil Barons.

Jordan also competed at the NCAA level with Cornell University, continued his career at Dalhousie University (U SPORTS), played professionally in Norway, and gained senior hockey experience in the WOAA. His exposure to multiple development systems gives him a unique and adaptable coaching perspective.

Having joined the organization for the 2025-2026 season, Jordan has quickly established himself as a strong teacher of the organization's development model. His experience and passion for player growth will have a major impact at the U11 AAA level.



U12 AAA – Jamie Wallace

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are proud to announce Jamie Wallace as Head Coach of the U12 AAA Canucks for the 2026–2027 season.

Jamie brings a proven record of success and momentum to the program, highlighted by three tournament championships and an Alliance Championship over the past two seasons. Known for his detailed preparation, strong leadership, and ability to connect with athletes, Jamie consistently creates competitive, high-energy environments that challenge players to improve every day.

Since joining the organization during the 2024–2025 season, Jamie has demonstrated a strong understanding of the organization’s development pathway and long-term vision. His emphasis on skill development, hockey IQ, and accountability ensures players are not only competitive now, but prepared for continued success as they progress through the AAA ranks and beyond.

The Canucks are confident that Jamie’s experience, intensity, and commitment to player development will make an immediate impact on the U12 AAA program and help set a strong foundation for future success within the Canucks organization.



U13 AAA – John Lee

The Elgin Middlesex Hockey Alliance is proud to announce John Lee as Head Coach of the U13 AAA Canucks, bringing with him over 20 years of coaching experience and a deep-rooted passion for the game of hockey.

A dedicated leader in the minor hockey community with more than 1,000 games coached across all levels, John has built his reputation on commitment, consistency, and a genuine love for developing young athletes. His journey has taken him across Ontario, including six seasons within the Canucks organization, where he has become a respected and trusted presence.

As a past Alliance Champion, John pairs his extensive bench experience with a unique perspective gained from officiating over 2,000 games, giving him a well-rounded understanding of the game that benefits his players in every situation. Known as a strong motivator, he creates a competitive, high-energy environment where players are pushed to elevate their performance, build confidence, and compete at their best every day.

John places a strong emphasis on development, believing that success is built through skill progression, hockey IQ, and the life lessons the game provides—including accountability, resilience, and teamwork. His approach ensures players are not only prepared to compete at the AAA level, but are positioned for long-term success both on and off the ice.

Under John's leadership—alongside a dedicated and experienced coaching staff committed to the same high standards—players can expect a structured, supportive, and demanding environment focused on maximizing potential.



U14 AAA – Andrew Power

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are proud to welcome Andrew Power as Head Coach of the U14 AAA Canucks for the 2026-2027 season.

Andrew brings an elite hockey background and a relentless commitment to player development. His playing career spans junior, university, professional, and international hockey, including time in the OHL with the Oshawa Generals and London Knights, along with professional experience across North America and Europe in the WPHL and EPIHL.

He also competed in junior hockey with the St. Thomas Stars, university hockey at St. Francis Xavier University and the University of Western Ontario, and senior hockey with the Tillsonburg Vipers.

Since joining the organization for the 2024-2025 season, Andrew has embraced the organization's development model and earned a strong reputation for preparing athletes to compete and excel.

Andrew's energy, hockey knowledge, and high standards will create a demanding, positive, and high-performance environment for U14 AAA athletes.



U15 AAA – Ryan Rupert

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are proud to announce the appointment of Ryan Rupert as Head Coach of the U15 AAA Canucks for the 2026-2027 season.

A former professional ice hockey forward from Grand Bend, Ontario, Ryan brings an elite playing background and a fast-rising coaching resume to the program. A graduate of the EMHA U16 AAA program, he went on to star with the London Knights in the Ontario Hockey League, where he was a productive centre and a key contributor on successful teams. His performance at the junior level led to him being selected by the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 6th round (157th overall) of the 2012 NHL Entry Draft.

Following his junior career, Ryan competed professionally across North America and internationally, playing in the AHL, ECHL, EIHL (UK), and Erste Liga (Europe). His pro career included time with organizations such as the Binghamton Senators, Indy Fuel, and Orlando Solar Bears, giving him firsthand experience across multiple high-performance environments.

Since joining the organization in the 2024-2025 season, Ryan has transitioned seamlessly into coaching, most recently serving as Head Coach of the Elgin Middlesex Canucks. He has combined his extensive playing experience with a strong player-first development philosophy, helping athletes grow both on and off the ice while preparing them for the next level of competition.

Known for his energy, leadership, and competitive drive, Ryan is poised to make an immediate and lasting impact on the U15 AAA Canucks program, instilling high standards and inspiring players to elevate their game.

Joining Ryan on the bench once again will be Assistant Coaches Matt Rupert and Tyler Kettler, providing continuity, familiarity, and a strong support system for player development within the program.



U16 AAA – Pat Powers

The Elgin Middlesex Hockey Alliance is proud to welcome Pat Powers as Head Coach of the U16 AAA Canucks for the 2026–2027 season.

Pat brings an exceptional resume as both a player and coach, with experience spanning junior, university, and professional hockey. With more than a decade dedicated to athlete development and building championship-calibre programs, he arrives with a proven track record of leadership and success at every level of the game.

Pat spent nine seasons coaching in the GOJHL with the St. Thomas Stars and London Nationals, where his teams captured four consecutive conference championships and made three finals appearances. His ability to build winning cultures continued at the university level, where he brings seven years of experience — including five seasons with the University of Western Ontario, highlighted by a Queen’s Cup Championship and three University Cup appearances, as well as two seasons as Head Coach at St. Thomas University.

Currently, Pat serves as General Manager of the St. Marys Lincolns (GOHL) and as an Alliance Hockey scout with the Kingston Frontenacs (OHL). He also coached the EMHA U15 AAA Canucks during the 2025–2026 season, further strengthening his connection to the Alliance and its long-term player development pathway.

Pat’s championship experience, elite hockey knowledge, and commitment to developing players both on and off the ice provide a powerful foundation for the U16 AAA program.

The Alliance is confident his leadership will set a high standard and drive continued success for the Canucks.



U18 AAA – Derek MacNair

The Elgin Middlesex Canucks are proud to announce Derek MacNair as Head Coach of the U18 AAA Canucks for the 2026-2027 season.

Derek brings an exceptional combination of elite playing pedigree and championship-level coaching experience to the program. As a player, he competed across top-tier minor and junior hockey, including the Timmins Majors U18 AAA, St. Thomas Stars, St. Thomas Wildcats, London Wildcats, and junior experience with the Huntington Blizzard, Kingston Voyageurs, and the Kingston Frontenacs. His firsthand exposure to high-performance environments has shaped a deep understanding of advanced systems, preparation, and winning standards.

With over 20 years of coaching experience, including the last decade at the U18 level, Derek has built a proven track record of developing athletes for elite competition and the next level. His resume includes a 2025-2026 International Silver Stick U18 AAA Championship, reflecting his ability to lead, compete, and succeed on the international stage.

Since joining the organization in the 2025-2026 season, Derek has been a key contributor within the EMHA pathway, earning respect for his leadership, structure, and player-first approach. His commitment to excellence and accountability aligns directly with the standards of the U18 AAA Canucks program.

The Canucks are confident that Derek MacNair's experience, leadership, and competitive drive will elevate the U18 AAA Canucks and set a championship standard moving forward.

