



Kansas City Youth Hockey Association

[www.kcyouthhockey.com](http://www.kcyouthhockey.com)

11936 W 119th St #242, Overland Park KS 66213

# 2015-2016 TRAVEL COACHES

Below is the background information on the coaches of the KC Mavs travel teams for the 2015-16 hockey season.



## KCYHA TRAVEL DIRECTOR

Simon Watson is the KCYHA Travel Director. Simon retired from professional hockey and was named the Mavericks' Assistant Coach in August of 2011. The Waterloo, Ontario, native played for the Mavericks during the team's first two seasons and closed out his five-year career in the CHL with 95 goals and 125 assists in 298 games played and one CHL All-Star appearance (2007). Watson was named the CHL's Man of the Year following the 2010-11 season for his contributions to the community off the ice.

Prior to playing pro, Watson played 4 years (2001-2005) of Division 1 college hockey at St. Lawrence University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Watson was fortunate enough to play Junior hockey for his hometown Waterloo Siskins from 1998-2001.

## SQUIRT TRAVEL COACHES

Coaches will be identified at the conclusion of tryouts.

## PEEWEE TRAVEL COACHES

Dean Nelson- Dean is from Rochester, Minnesota and played hockey through High School. He coached for 15 years in Rochester at all levels from Mites to High School Elite. Dean has coached Squirt Travel for three seasons as well as camps and clinics. Dean is also the General Manager at KCIC and the KCYHA Hockey Director.

Chris Johnston - Chris was born and raised in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada where he both played and coached at the AAA and Junior Hockey levels. He has been coaching travel hockey in Kansas City the past 14 years at all levels including: Head Coach for the Russell Stover AAA U16 team, Head Coach for the Mid-West High School Hockey League for four years, and an Assistant Coach for the KC Stars U18 National Finalists.

DJ Wiles - DJ Wiles was born in Des Moines, Iowa where he played travel hockey until he moved to the Overland Park area and continued playing travel hockey at the AAA level for the Stars program. DJ played in the Stars program for 6 years while also playing for his

high school team Blue Valley Northwest. DJ was coached & trained by both Pat Ferschweiler and Jason Herter. This will be his first year as head coach, but has been assisting travel programs for the last two years.

## **BANTAM TRAVEL COACHES**

Jim Krueger - Jim Krueger grew up in Des Moines, Iowa playing AA travel hockey for the Des Moines Jr. Buccaneers and high school hockey for the Des Moines Capitals. Hi played junior hockey for the Utah Jr. Grizzlies and college hockey for Drake University. Jim has coached travel hockey for 10 years now. He coached two teams to Missouri State Championships, two years in a row.

Jeff Madill - Jeff was born in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Jeff played hockey in Ohio State before being drafted into the NHL. He played for the New Jersey Devils and appeared in 7 Stanley Cup games. He spent a number of years in the IHL where he was voted to the All Star Team three times. Jeff has coached A/AA hockey for the past 12 years.

Matt Pestka - Matt grew up in St. Louis playing multiple sports, including hockey, baseball, soccer and golf. He played hockey for the North Star organization in Missouri before they merged to become Twin Bridges. Throughout his career, he has played in the A and AA levels, as well as High School hockey in St. Charles, MO. Matt began coaching seven years ago for the Kansas City Junior Outlaws, where he coached all levels from Squirts to Bantams. In 2011, he began coaching Peewees and Bantams with the Kansas City Jr. Mavs, where he co-coached the PeeWee Select Mid-West League Champion Team in 2012. From there, Matt went on to become the head coach of the Jr. Mavs PeeWee Travel team, and his team went on to become the 2014 Regular Season Champions in MO Hockey. Matt is currently a Level 4 USA Hockey certified coach and has served on the Jr. Mavs Board for the past two seasons.

## **MIDGET TRAVEL COACHES**

Matt Tully - Matt Tully grew up as a multi sport athlete playing basketball, baseball and football in the Pacific Northwest. Matt was introduced to the game of hockey twenty years ago. Over the past eleven years he has coached at every age group from S squirt to Midget Major AA. The past three seasons he assisted with the Stars Major AA team helping lead the team to a league title game appearance in 2015. Matt has coached with several former professional and collegiate players. In addition to coaching Matt served as President of Front Range Amateur Hockey Association in Denver, CO.

Mike Kempkes - Mike is a Kansas City native with over 14 years of coaching experience. His experience includes being head for the Midget AA Lincoln Stars and the Midget AA Omaha Lancers. He also been an Assistant and Head coach at the Bantam and Midget AAA levels for Russell Stover Hockey. Most recently, Mike was the Assistant Coach for the Midget AAA Mavs Elite program. He is currently a Level 4 USA Hockey certified coach.