

New leader for Long Beach Sharks off big 2017 season

By ANDREW COEN

Fresh off a successful 2016-17 season that ended with a berth in the North American 3 Hockey League (NA3HL) Silver Cup championships, the Long Beach Sharks have tapped a new head coach for next winter with professional experience.

Bobby Davis, who shined as a hockey player at Northeastern University before an eight-year pro career, was named head coach of the Sharks on Sunday for the 2017-18 season. The Woodhaven, Mich. native, who played in the West Coast Hockey League, Canada Hockey League and had professional stints in Europe, has worked as a skills coach for the past 12 years. He spent the past four years with the Palm Beach Hawks junior hockey team where he led a coaching staff focused on developing players looking to play on the collegiate level.

"I am really looking forward to the opportunity," Smith said in a statement. "Long Beach has a long history of producing scholarship and pro hockey players, which is a tradition I very much look forward to continuing."

Davis will be joined on the Long Beach Shark bench with his brother, Ryan Davis, who is a former standout college hockey player at Nichols College in Massachusetts. Since 2012, Ryan Davis has served as a goalie coach with the Palm Beach Hawks USPHL Junior



Courtesy Long Beach Sharks/Twitter

THE LONG BEACH SHARKS have tapped former professional hockey player Bobby Davis to lead club following a 2016-17 season that featured berth in the North American 3 Hockey League Silver Cup championships.

Elite and Empire teams. He works closely in his role with Robb Tallas, a goaltending coach with the National Hockey

League's Florida Panthers, as well as former Toronto Maple Leafs goalie coach Steve McKichan.

"The Sharks organization is a premier junior team in the NA3HL," Ryan Davis said. "We have really great recruits and prospects coming to camp. We can't wait to get on the ice with them."

The Davis brothers inherit a Sharks team that captured the Coastal Division title and advanced to the (NA3HL) Silver Cup championships in Romeoville, Ill. with seven other championship teams. The Sharks punched their ticket to the Silver Cup quarterfinals with a 4-3 win against the New England Stars on March 26 that featured two goals from Gunther Stange and single tallies by Alex Cerda and Martin Vitolins.

"We are excited for Bobby and Ryan to join the Sharks and look forward to returning to the Silver Cup Championship," said George Chalos, the new team president and director of hockey operations. "The coaches bring a huge universe of knowledge, experience and contacts. They are working hard to continue the team's great success on the ice and will bring more exposure for our players with college scouts and recruiters."

The Long Beach Sharks have scheduled a pre-draft and open tryout at the Long Beach Municipal Ice Arena for Saturday, May 6 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday May 7 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For further information, email gmc@sharksirhockey.com or log onto longbeachsharks.com.

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