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MEET OUR 2025/26 U18 REP COACHES

AAA- <u>ANDY HYVARINEN</u> AA- <u>STEVE LOCKE</u> A- COMING SOON!

BB- FRANK TASSONE

HEAD COACH, 2025/26 Guelph Jr. Gryphons U18AAA ANDY HYVARINEN

I strive to develop players to succeed at the next level, and want them to become confident hockey players and people.



GMHA is excited to announce the return of Andy Hyvarinen as the U18AAA Head Coach. A native of Thunder Bay, Ontario, where he started his playing career, Hyvarinen moved to Guelph where he burst onto the Hockey scene by joining the Guelph Storm. After playing with the Storm for 3-years, he finished his junior career with the Eagles in Canmore, Alberta, ending his final season with over 100-points. Hyvarinen returned to Thunder Bay where he attended Lakehead University, and played 3-years with the Lakehead University Thunderwolves.

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Hockey in the City of Guelph remained in his blood, and he returned to coach at the AAA level at some of the younger age groups of GMHA before taking the lead of our U18 AAA group. Under his leadership, the U18AAA team has been one of the strongest teams in GMHA, consistently placing highly in terms of junior placements and team success. At press time, his Guelph Jr. Gryphons sit first in the OMHA West division and Coach Hyvarinen has led them to a 100-48-18 over his most recent three seasons at the helm of the team. This season has seen his Jr. Gryphons win the Blueline AAA Tournament in Kitchener, and he has won several tournaments over his tenure. The U18 AAA 2023-24 season earned the position of OMHA semi-finalists and several players on the roster moving on to the OJHL and GOJHL levels. Hyvarinen also led the 2021/22 U18AAA Guelph Jr. Gryphons OMHA Champion Team. During his time with the GMHA U18AAA program, 6 players have been drafted into the OHL in their U18 draft year, and over 20 players have signed cards to play junior hockey directly from his program. As Hyvarinen gears up for what looks to be a promising playoff run in the coming months, we wish him luck and look forward to welcoming him back for the 2025/26 season.



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HEAD COACH, 2025/26 Guelph Jr. Gryphons U18AA STEVE LOCKE

I stress teamwork as a key to success, and the traits of dedication, hardwork and commitment are important to me.

We welcome back Steve Locke as the Head Coach of the U18 AA team for the 2025/26 season. This will be Locke's 8th season as a non-parent head coach of the U18 AA age group, and his 13th season as a Coach with GMHA; primarily coaching at the AA level among all age groups. A highlight of his years in Guelph has been his experience behind the bench of the U18 AAA SCTA vs ETA All-Star game in the 2018-19 season.

Locke was also the Head Coach of the Cambridge Hornets Sr. A team, and he played Jr. B, Jr, C and Senior hockey for various teams locally. Locke was born and raised in Guelph, and he led the Guelph Jr. Gryphons to a 15-7-4 record in the 2024/25 season. Locke is a Development 1 Certified Coach and looks forward to building on past success at this level for the coming season.



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HEAD COACH, 2025/26 Guelph Jr. Gryphons U18A COMING SOON!



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HEAD COACH, 2025/26 Guelph Jr. Gryphons U18BB FRANK TASSONE

I develop confident, well-rounded players by fostering a fun, safe environment focused on individual growth, teamwork, and leadership

As a long time leader with GMHA with 20 years of experience behind the bench at various levels, we welcome back Frank Tassone as Head Coach of our Guelph Jr. Gryphon U18 BB team for the upcoming season. Boasting a regular season record of 19-3-4 for the 2024/25 season with the U16 BB team, Tassone is looking forward to continued success in the playoffs.