



Dear Mission Hockey Families:

We write to inform you that Mission Hockey Director Anders Sorensen has accepted a coaching position in Sweden and will be leaving the Mission. Beginning July 1st, Coach Sorensen will be the Assistant Coach and Director of Player Development for Sodertalje SK (“SSK”), one of the most storied clubs in Swedish hockey with seven (7) Swedish National titles to its credit. And it just so happens to be Anders’ home town team, so it’s a return home for the native Swede.

“This was a tough decision on many levels, and it will be difficult leaving the Mission, but ultimately my wife and I felt we couldn’t pass up,” said Coach Anders. “In many ways it represents a dream opportunity for our family and we are extremely excited about returning to Sweden for this next chapter in our lives.”

Anders has been a very valuable member of our staff for the past four seasons, including the last three as Hockey Director. He led the Mission U18 Midget Majors to the 2010 USA Hockey National Championship, the first Mission boys’ team to accomplish that feat. In addition, two of his Mission Bantam Major teams (the 94s and the 96s) finished their seasons as National runner-up. During his three-year tenure as Hockey Director, the Mission won 14 of a possible 21 boys’ AHAI State Championships. The Mission thanks Coach Anders for his years of service to our organization and wishes him the very best in his future.

We at the Mission have always viewed the development of our players as our top priority. That is the reason we hired Coach Anders in the first place, and that is the reason we reiterate that priority with you right now. It is this priority that has led to the proud developmental tradition we have established, a tradition that was present long before Coach Anders joined us, and one that will continue after he moves on. This tradition has resulted in more "home-grown" players being placed onto junior teams, USA Hockey’s NTDP Program and into college scholarships than any other organization in Illinois.

In fact, that is the tradition that defines Chicago Mission hockey.

Transitions like this can seem challenging at first, especially since Anders was to have coached the Mission 99s and the Mission U16s this coming season. But you don’t have to look too far in our past to see our commitment to our players and their families by providing the best coaches possible under these exact circumstances. Other past Mission coaches have moved on with their careers, including to positions with the NTDP, with the USHL, with the AHL, and even with the NHL. And the Chicago Mission organization has always done what it takes to continue to foster the best possible developmental environment for its players and keep our proud tradition alive. And we will simply never settle for second-best when it comes to our coaching staff.

And in this tradition, we are delighted to announce that Gino Cavallini will be assuming the reins as head coach of the Mission 99s, assisted by Jeff Green and Bob Nardella. Coach Gino brings an incredible list of coaching and playing accomplishments to the Mission, as do Coaches Jeff and Bob. Gino will also assume the duties of the Mission’s Hockey Director, a position he held with the Wisconsin AAA organization prior to his first stint with the Mission.

In a very short time, we will be sharing with you who we feel are the right people to step into the responsibility of coaching the Mission U16 team. We are not going to name a coach simply to

fill a void. We are going to name the *right* coaches. We owe that to our players who work so hard to fulfill their dreams, we owe that to the families who sacrifice so much in the way of time and money because they want their sons to realize those dreams. Rest assured that staff will meet the high standards we've set in the past, the very same high standards that will assure the future development and success of your player.

As a part of the Mission family, you know first-hand how much we pride ourselves on being the best. We believe that from top to bottom, the players and coaches in our organization understand and embody the honest pride it takes to be true champions. Our goal is to be the very best youth hockey organization in North America, and so we meet every challenge head-on. We will do so again here.

We want to again wish Anders the absolute best as he is a super individual and great hockey coach who represented our program in a first class manner. We wish him success in his new position and hope he and his family continue to prosper.

Thanks as always, for your continuing belief in us. We will live up to it.

Chicago Mission Tier One Hockey Club