



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Coast Hockey Academy Announces Mike Vandekamp as New U15 Prep Head Coach

Victoria, BC – August 10, 2026 – Pacific Coast Hockey Academy (PCHA) is proud to announce Mike Vandekamp as the new Head Coach of the U15 Prep program.

This was not simply a search to fill a coaching vacancy – Mike Vandekamp was the coach PCHA wanted.

Vandekamp brings more than 30 years of experience as a Head Coach and General Manager in junior hockey, along with an impressive record of winning and player development. His career includes championships in the BCHL and AJHL, an Allen Cup Championship, and most recently a VIJHL Championship in 2025–26.

While his résumé speaks for itself, it is Vandekamp's leadership, ability to develop players and understanding of the pathway to the next level that made him the ideal fit for PCHA.

"Mike was our first choice, and we made it a priority to pursue him," said PCHA Director, Kelly Shields. "His experience speaks for itself, but what really separates Mike is his leadership. He knows how to build a culture, establish standards and get the very best out of the players and people around him. We believe he is the perfect person to lead our U15 Prep program."

Throughout his career, Vandekamp has built a reputation for identifying talent, recruiting and developing players, building winning teams and helping athletes progress to the next level. His extensive knowledge of junior hockey and relationships throughout the hockey community will provide tremendous value to PCHA athletes as they pursue future opportunities.

"Mike has spent decades evaluating, recruiting and developing players for the next level," said Shields. "That perspective is incredibly valuable to our athletes. He understands what it takes to earn opportunities and, just as importantly, what it takes to succeed once they get there."

Vandekamp is equally excited about the opportunity to work with the next generation of players at PCHA.

"I am honoured to be named Head Coach of the U15 Prep Team at PCHA. This is an exciting new chapter for me in my coaching career and an opportunity to work with a group of focused and hungry young players who are committed to taking the next step in their hockey journey. I am looking forward to sharing my experience with them and helping them develop both on and off the ice."

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"I want to thank Kelly and his management team for presenting me with this opportunity, and I am excited to help continue the strong culture and vision already in place at PCHA."

Vandekamp joins PCHA following his championship 2025–26 season and will begin working with the U15 Prep program immediately as the Academy prepares for the 2026–27 season.

A New Chapter for U15 Prep

Vandekamp takes over following the departure of Brett Hopwo, who recently accepted a new position as Director of Player Personnel with the Portland Winterhawks of the WHL.

PCHA thanks Brett for his contributions to the Academy and the U15 Prep program and congratulates him on this outstanding opportunity and next step in his career.

"We were fortunate to have a number of strong candidates, but Mike was the person we wanted," said Shields. "His experience, leadership, hockey knowledge and ability to develop and move players forward made the decision clear."

Pacific Coast Hockey Academy is thrilled to welcome Mike Vandekamp and his family to the PCHA community and looks forward to the impact he will have on the continued development and success of the Academy's athletes.

The next chapter of U15 Prep hockey at PCHA starts now.

Welcome to PCHA, Mike.

Go Sea Devils Go!

About Pacific Coast Hockey Academy

Pacific Coast Hockey Academy is a high-performance hockey and academic program based in Victoria, British Columbia. PCHA is committed to providing student-athletes with an environment that combines elite hockey development, academic achievement, personal growth and preparation for the next level of hockey and life.

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