



LSSU Hires Club Hockey Coaching Staff

Steven Kaunisto, born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, played his youth hockey in the Soo AND played NCAA DI hockey for the Lakers. Steve earned his BA degree from Lake Superior State University in Finance and Economics with a minor in Marketing. Steve went on to play 10 years of professional hockey in the ECHL, CHL, and SPHL. Coach Kaunisto served on the executive committee for the Professional Hockey Players Association and was a Player-Assistant Coach for the Elmira Jackals. Steve and his wife Abby live in Brimley and Abby is the Clinic Coordinator at Bay Mills. When Steve isn't playing or coaching hockey he enjoys gardening. "Coach Kaunisto's biggest strength is his wealth of knowledge of the game and the ability to teach hockey skills and systems to his players. He also has an honest, compassionate, direct communication style that players respect and appreciate. Along with being the Head Coach of the men's program he will also assist the women's hockey program with scouting, recruiting, campus visits, and practice planning execution." Ruthann Cantile, LSSU Director of Club Sports "I am very excited to be able to stay in the game of hockey and to help the student-athletes continue to grow both on and off the ice. I am also looking forward to be able to grow the sport of hockey in my hometown that helped make me the person I am today. I am looking for student-athletes that strive to push themselves to be better in the classroom as well as on the ice." Steve Kaunisto, LSSU Men's ACHA DII Head Hockey Coach

Matthew Parker, born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, played his youth hockey in the Soo as well AND has been a proud supporter of the LSSU NCAA DI team since birth. On the night he was born his mother actually went into labor right after an over-time win for the Lakers! As a USA Hockey Certified Level 4 Coach he has over 15 years of coaching experience with the Soo Firehawks, St. Ignace Firehawks, and the LSSU ACHA DII men's hockey club 2015-2017. His wife Abby is an ER Nurse at War-Memorial Hospital and supervises Nursing Clinical at LSSU. Matt and Abby have two daughters that enjoy skating, being outdoors, and working on projects with their parents. "Coach Parker's enthusiasm, dedication, and loyalty to Laker Hockey shines through and through. We look forward to him sharing that passion in the recruiting process with our current and future student-athletes. He is a student and a teacher of the game. His ability to connect with people and maintain solid relationships are a huge asset to our program. He will do well serving the LSSU community with his time and talents. Along with being the Head Women's Hockey Coach he will also assist our Men's program with scouting, recruiting, campus visits, and practice planning execution." Ruthann Cantile, LSSU Director of Club Sports "I am beyond ecstatic to be offered this opportunity to be a part of this ground up program at LSSU. I look forward to the challenge of creating a competitive team, but more importantly helping young people develop on and off the

ice. This is going to help draw more positive attention to the University and give the students a great college experience." Matthew Parker, LSSU Women's ACHA DII Head Hockey Coach