



Cobourg Cougars' Joe Aiello Awarded OJHL Trainer of the Year

March 11, 2016, COBOURG, ON—The Cobourg Cougars of the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) are pleased to announce that Joe Aiello has been named the 2015-16 recipient of the OJHL Trainer-of-the-Year Award.

Joe has been with the Cougars for 5 seasons now and had another busy season. In addition to his regular trainer duties with the club, which saw the club endure through an unprecedented injury-plagued season, Joe was the trainer selected by Hockey Canada to assist the Team Canada East entry into the 2015 World Junior A Challenge co-hosted in Cobourg and Whitby this season, where he did an excellent job according to head coach Jason Clarke.

“At all times, Joe is the consummate professional and he places player safety and wellness right at the centre of his job,” said Cougars’ General Manager, Brent Tully. “Simply put, Joe is a valued and integral part of our team,” Tully went on to say.

Joe started his career as a trainer in 2001-02 with the Port Hope Predators, prior to that team’s relocation to Trenton (now known as the Trenton Golden Hawks). After many years within the Predators’ organization and subsequent to that squad’s relocation to Trenton, the Junior “C” Port Hope Panthers' organization, Joe moved back into the Junior 'A' ranks by joining the Cougars in 2011 and in so doing stayed in Northumberland County.

Over the years, Joe has received his Level I, II and III Trainer’s Certification, which is the highest level of trainer certification offered by the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA). During his tenure with the Cougars, Joe has made an indelible mark on the club and has become an influential member of the dressing room. “Routinely, Joe quietly mentors other staff members; however, his biggest contribution is centered on his unequivocal and unconditional support of the players,” Tully went on to say.

The Cougars also learned today that Joe is the recipient of the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario's (HDCO) Hockey Trainer Recognition Award for the 2015-16 season. Joe received this award, which is presented to an individual in recognition of their outstanding contributions to

the ideals of safety, enjoyment, fair play, sportsmanship, education and honesty in the game of hockey. The HDCO presents the Hockey Trainer's Recognition Award in partnership with its respective Member Organization; in this case, the OHA in cooperation with the OJHL.

Outside of hockey, Joe sits on the Port Hope Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee and fills-in when needed as the trainer for the Clarington Green Gaels Junior 'B' Lacrosse Club.

Congratulations to Joe – the entire organization is proud of your work and the accolades received from the OJHL and the HDCO. The club would also like to congratulate Sarah Ditmars of the Trenton Golden Hawks, who was runner-up in the OJHL award selection to Joe. Sarah has spent the past 3 seasons as the Golden Hawks' Athletic Therapist after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Brock University. This past season she also represented the OJHL as the Athletic Therapist for Team OJHL Coffey at the 2015 Eastern Canada Cup All-Star Challenge that was held in Cornwall, Ontario.

Having just completed its 50th anniversary year of operations, the Cobourg Cougars is a strong, community-based and well-supported junior hockey organization. For more information on the Cougars, including the selection of the organization by Hockey Canada to host the prestigious RBC Cup in May of 2017, please visit www.cobourgcougars.com and follow the Cougars on www.twitter.com/CougarsHockey. For more information on the OJHL, please visit <http://ojhl.pointstreaksites.com/view/ojhl>.