

The Hawks Nest

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER, 2017

Lehigh Valley Steelhawks



Steelhawks Name Kohler Head Coach

Upcoming Event:

◆ 2/2: 6th Annual
Partner Apprecia-
tion Mixer - 6:00-
8:30pm

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Featured Sponsor:
Lehigh Valley Interna-
tional Airport

NAL Expansion

At a press conference on 11/28 from the PPL Center the Lehigh Valley Steelhawks were excited to announce the position of Head Coach and Assistant General Manager has been filled following a three-week vacancy. Bob Kohler, a native of the Lehigh Valley, has been chosen to take the reins. Kohler has been on staff with the Steelhawks for six of their seven years, and spent the last two seasons as the Defensive Coordinator.



After Chris Thompson announced his resignation and promotion to the AFL, the Steelhawks began a nationwide search to find their next Head Coach and Assistant General Manager. Kohler, a person with more than 40 years of coaching experience, was the consensus choice to become the team's third leading man in the team's existence. As the team's Defensive Coordinator the last two seasons, the Steelhawks have been ranked among the league's top units. Specializing on the secondary, the team has been dangerous in pass defense; the team had a +19 turnover margin in 2017 behind 22 interceptions.

Kohler has coached in the Lehigh Valley, at every level of football for the past 45 years. He spent his first three years at the High School level with William Allen and then 40 years at the collegiate level (Kutztown University - Division II, Muhlenberg College - Division III, and Moravian College - Divi-

sion III); coaching all positions throughout his career. He has coached 12 All-Americans, scores of All-Conference players, coached in nine NCAA Division III National Championship Tournaments, and four Eastern Collegiate Conference Division III Bowl games. In addition to his time with the Steelhawks, Kohler has spent three years at the professional arena level with the Lehigh Valley Outlawz, New Jersey Revolution, and Trenton Freedom where he was Defensive Coordinator.

In 2013 and 2014, he also served as the Head Coach for the Lehigh Valley Storm Minor League football team where he amassed a 22-5 record, two Conference Championships, and advanced to the National Championship game in Memphis, TN. Kohler was inducted into the Lehigh Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 2013. He has a son and daughter, as well as three grand children; and he is a retired Public School Teacher/Administrator from the Allentown School District.

The consummate football coach, Kohler already is looking at shaping the 2018 season, "This is quite a humbling appointment. To be considered worthy of being the Third Head Coach of the Steelhawks and working with the Clark family and staff is a unique honor at this point in my coaching career, especially in my home town. Our main objective starting out is to continue to travel on the same road that the Clark

family and Coach Thompson have paved for the Steelhawks over the first seven years; as an organization built on integrity and doing things the right way. As for our team, the goal is to enhance our visibility and respect within the arena football world and even more important our local community, the Lehigh Valley and beyond. We will work hard to be competitive through consistent and persistent effort on and off the field."

After having Kohler on his staff for so many years, Thompson couldn't be happier to see him take over, "First off, I want to thank Glenn and Mike Clark and the Clark family again for the last six seasons. I am leaving with so many wonderful memories with great fans, partners, players, and coaches. I was not surprised to hear of the interest from coaches all over the country to be a part of this elite professional franchise but I couldn't be more excited for Coach Kohler as we have worked together for so many years and he is without a doubt very deserving of it. I have always said it before, our success over the years is because of the great people we have surrounded ourselves with and Coach Kohler and the rest of the staff are definitely some of the best in the business. I can't wait to continue working with Coach Kohler and the Steelhawks organization as I now embark on my new awesome opportunity with the Albany AFL team."

Albany ALF Names Thompson Director of Football Operations

Will Serve As Offensive Coordinator During the Season

Albany AFL announce that it has named Chris Thompson as director of football operations for the team. Chris will serve as the offensive coordinator for the team during the season. Per League and team rules, terms are not disclosed.

Chris is coming from the Lehigh Valley Steelhawks of the NAL where he was the team's head coach/offensive coordinator and won the 2017 NAL coach of the year award. In his 7 seasons as head coach, he has posted a 54-35 overall record including 7 straight playoff berths. Lehigh Valley also won the 2017 Franchise of the Year award where Chris also served as the team's assistant general manager.



Prior to being promoted to head coach, Chris was an assistant general manager and offensive coordinator in the IFL, PIFL and AIFL. In total in his coaching career, Chris has a 122-60 record including 11 playoff berths in 12 seasons.

"Chris has a tremendous record for success in the indoor game," said head coach Rob Keefe. "He has proven to be a consistent winner in every role and situation he has been in. He has a brilliant football mind along

with an energy that is consistent with this organization. Chris has all the tools to run a championship football operation as well as high-powered offense."

"I've been waiting for an opportunity to coach in the Arena Football League for a long time, said Thompson."

"The opportunity to work with the ownership group in Philadelphia that I have gotten to know so well, along with new group in Albany and with a proven leader in coach Keefe is a dream come true. I can't wait to help put together a championship caliber team

and offense."

Release from Albany AFL

A statement from Chris Thompson: "For the last seven years (six seasons) now, I have had the honor to be the Steelhawks Head Coach/AGM and I can't thank everyone enough what that has meant to me and my family," stated Thompson. "I am forever grateful to the fans and the Steelhawks organization for the ride we have en-

joyed. Lehigh Valley will always hold a special place in my heart. We have accomplished so much together and I know none of it would have been achieved without your continued passion, love, and support of the Black and Vegas Gold. I will be leaving with only one regret though, and that is we couldn't bring the Steelhawks first ever League Championship to the Valley, like I promised, but I know the best is yet to come for the Nest. However, I am completely content in knowing the Steelhawks are in a better place from where this journey started six years ago and that gives me great pride that I was able to be a part of that with you. I am forever in debt to the Clark Family, the best fans in arena football, all of our awesome partners that have continued to support us over the years, and the players and coaches that did everything I/we asked of them. I know with the Clark family at the helm and the best fans in arena football, the tradition, professionalism, and excellence as one of the elite professional sports organizations in the country will continue. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU! This was an awesome ride and I will miss the Nest and Steelhawks Nation tremendously."

Featured Sponsor:

Lehigh Valley International Airport

A Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority Operated Airport

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) is excited to continue their ongoing partnership for a second straight season with the Steelhawks and the Steelhawks Jr. Football League (SJFL).

In 2016, approximately 688,000 passengers traveled through ABE enjoying a first class experience driven by the convenience and comfort of using a customer-centric regional airport in their own backyard.

“Delivering the highest level of service to every passenger is critical, and we accomplish this goal by reducing the stress of travel by creating a hassle-free environment,” said Thomas R. Stoudt,

Interim Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority.

Operated by the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA), the Airport is serviced by four commercial airlines and features (11) Non-Stop destinations:

American – Philadelphia, Charlotte

Delta – Detroit, Atlanta

United – Chicago, Newark

Allegiant – Fort Lauderdale, Clearwater/St. Petersburg, Orlando/Sanford, Punta Gorda, Myrtle Beach (Seasonal)



2017 has produced another year of enhancing the customer experience highlighted by the arrival of a Children’s Play Area through a partnership with Lehigh Valley Health Network. For young children and their families, this special place helps pass the time while waiting for their plane to depart.

Additionally, the new \$5.2 million Multi-Modal Transportation Center opened in August, which provides a central location for all ground transportation options including: Rental Cars, LANta, Trans-Bridge Lines. The Airport also has a designated ride-share area on the 2nd Level of the Main Terminal (near departures) for users of Uber and Lyft.

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2018 NAL Season - Expansion

From the League Website...

After a successful first season of play in 2017, the National Arena League is excited to kick off their 2018 campaign. Returning franchises include the defending Champion Jacksonville Sharks, Columbus Lions, and the Lehigh Valley Steelhawks with the previously announced expansion franchise Jersey Flight. With higher expectations and new requirements set in league bylaws, league officials set out to expand in new markets, with ownership groups and operators that reflected the league's ideals.

The National Arena League is proud to announce they conducted a press conference on Wednesday, November 15th at 3pm from the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts to announce their latest franchise.

In addition, future press conferences in Greensboro, North Carolina and Portland, Maine will be scheduled later in the month. Upon completion of expansion announcements, the league



will unveil the 2018 National Arena League Schedule.

"In only our second year, the NAL is poised for a breakout season"

stated NAL Commissioner Chris Siegfried. "Our returning teams, coupled with these additional new markets will continue to build upon the firm foundation of the sports premier arena league. April can't come soon enough to showcase what we have accomplished this offseason."



www.lvsteelhawks.com
 Facebook: Lehigh Valley Steelhawks
 Twitter: SteelhawksLV
 Instagram: SteelhawksLV

COME FLY WITH
 US!

The Greatest Show on Turf returns to the Lehigh Valley! The Lehigh Valley Steelhawks, founded in 2010 are a professional indoor football team that plays in the Arena Developmental League (ADL). The season runs from February all the way through June.

We hope to see you at the PPL Center to cheer on your hometown team this season, as they strive to bring a Championship to the Valley.

Our mission is "To consistently serve our Guests [Ticket Holders], Partners [Sponsors], and our Homes [Teams Cities] at the highest possible level and to do so with integrity, kindness, affordability, and passion on the field, in our front offices, and around the communities in which we play."

Season Ticket Packages will be on sale soon!!! Call 610-282-3100 to reserve yours today!