**2021 – Taylor Hawks Coach – The Best of Everything**

2021 is shaping up well for the Taylor Hawks. They have secured a fantastic coaching line-up and the players have definitely responded by signing on.

Adam Forde came on board with the team back in July 2020 as the Head Coach. This helped us to get a headstart on the planning for 2021. Drawing on Forde’s wisdom and experience, a strong foundation was set for 2021. Forde’s talent in the coaching arena was clearly recognised and in the wider basketball world and he was snapped up by the Sydney Kings as their Head Coach.

Like most of 2020, it was time for the Taylor Hawk’s to launch into action and move to plan B. Adam Forde was instrumental in helping the team to recruit a high calibre replacement as the Head Coach. He will continue to stay on board in a consultative capacity, giving the team the ‘best of both worlds’ drawing on Adam’s experience, with an amazing replacement on the ground in Jacob Chance. “While I’m disappointed I couldn’t continue my commitment to coach the Hawks for this upcoming season, I am happy that I am able to stay on as a Special Consultant. It’s been great being part of Hawke’s Bay and helping to recruit like-minded individuals, which is why securing Jacob Chance as our Head Coach is another step in the right direction.” said Forde.

Jacob Chance, an Assistant Coach for the Perth Wildcats, has been a part of four Championships in five years with them (2016, 2017,2019 and 2020). He started in 2015 as a volunteer - intern video coach and continued to work as a video coordinator and development coach from 2016-2019. He has now spent the last two years as an Assistant Coach for the team. Jacob has helped create and develop the Perth Wildcats Academy/Development program for local West Australian high level junior products. He has worked with Trevor Gleeson, Matt Nielsen, Adam Forde, Scott Roth and Luke Brennan in that time. He was also the Under 16 Western Australia Metro Head Coach at 2019 Australian Junior Championships and had direct involvement with the Basketball WA High Performance Program. In addition to all of this he was Junior Rockingham Product, Assistant Coach with Rockingham Men’s NBL1 West team from 2016-2018

With glowing references and a great track record, the Taylor Hawks were quick to sign Chance up. “Working previously with Jacob at Perth Wildcats, he brings an analytical approach to the game and has vast knowledge working in a professional environment. His background in player development and game coaching makes him the ideal candidate to lead our team into the 2021 season.” Said Forde. “*I am extremely excited to be joining the Taylor Hawks program for the 2021 season following our current ANBL season.  I would like to thank Amy & Keith for this opportunity as well as the amazing work that has already been done behind the scenes for this upcoming season.” said Chance*

With Head Coach, Jacob Chance, and Special Consultant Adam Forde in place, it was time to recruit our local stars to make up the coaching team. Kaine Hokianga has been recruited as the team’s Assistant Coach. Playing for 15 years in the NBL and having four years in the captaincy role at Manawatu provided him with the experience to draw on for his coaching roles.

He held second assistant positions, which meant that he experienced the NBL from a different point of view, and it helped shape a wider understanding of the league for him. During his time with the Taylor Hawks in 2018 he gained experience with scouting opposition in preparation for upcoming games as well as working alongside the rest of the coaching team. He “hopes to continue giving back as much as [he] can.” to basketball, said Hokianga. This group is further complemented by the return of Chris Treacher as the Strength and Conditioning Coach and Everard Bartlett, another playing veteran, who will work with Hawke’s Bay’s young talent to help them prepare for the Open Trials to be held at the beginning of April. Keep an eye on Social Media to look for the upcoming opportunities. *“I am really looking forward to working with Kaine, Everard, Chris & fellow support staff as we look to build a team that the Hawke’s Bay Community, Sponsors and members will be proud of.” said Chance.*

With a fantastic foundation set in the Coaching Team, the Taylor Hawks have been able to recruit an all star team. You will get to see the line-up over the next month as the team releases the names.

*“I am thrilled with the team we have been able to put together to date, and looking forward to getting to work with a group of ambitious and competitive individuals. We will be striving every day to be the best versions of ourselves and I look forward to helping put on an exciting style of basketball that our fans will enjoy supporting.” said Chance.*