



PROVIDENCE BRUINS

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEACH NAMED ATLANTIC DIVISION COACH FOR 2018 AHL ALL-STAR CLASSIC

Providence, RI – The American Hockey League announced that Providence Bruins Head Coach Jay Leach has clinched the honor of coaching the Atlantic Division at the 2018 AHL All-Star Classic presented by Turning Stone Resort Casino. The Bruins owned the best record in their division as of the pre-determined deadline: the end of play on Dec. 31. Sheldon Keefe of the Toronto Marlies, Pascal Vincent of the Manitoba Moose and Mike Van Ryn of the Tucson Roadrunners will be the other coaches at the event to be held January 28-29 in Utica, N.Y.

The AHL's All-Stars will be divided into four teams, one representing each of the league's four divisions, for the 2018 AHL All-Star Challenge on Jan. 29. The teams will participate in a round-robin tournament featuring six games of 10 minutes each, played entirely at 3-on-3. The two teams with the best records at the end of the round-robin will face off for the championship, a six-minute game also played at 3-on-3.

The 2018 AHL All-Star Skills Competition on Jan. 28 will pit the All-Stars from the two Eastern Conference divisions against those from the two Western Conference divisions in seven skills events.

Leach will coach the Atlantic Division All-Star team after guiding Providence to the best record in the Eastern Conference over the first three months of the season (21-8-3-0, .703). Leach, 38, is in his first full season as an AHL head coach but will actually be making his second All-Star appearance; he represented Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in 2016 following Mike Sullivan's promotion to Pittsburgh.

Playing rosters for the 2018 AHL All-Star Classic presented by Turning Stone Resort Casino will be announced later this week.

In operation since 1936, the American Hockey League serves as the top development league for the players, coaches, managers, executives, broadcasters and staff of all 31 National Hockey League teams. More than 88 percent of today's NHL players are American Hockey League graduates, and more than 100 honored members of the Hockey Hall of Fame spent time in the AHL in their careers. In 2016-17, over 6 million fans attended AHL regular-season and playoff games across North America for the 16th year in a row.

The Providence Bruins are the American Hockey League affiliate of the NHL's Boston Bruins, playing their home games at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, RI. Spanning more than 25 years, the Boston/Providence affiliation is one of the longest and most successful player development partnerships in professional hockey history.

For all the latest Providence Bruins news and updates visit **ProvidenceBruins.com** or follow the team on Facebook at **facebook.com/providencebruins** or Twitter at **twitter.com/AHLBruins**.

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