



Two HEO officials have been selected to join the American Hockey League (AHL) roster! Please join us in congratulating Shawn Oliver and Charlie Millen who both received the call last week.

Shawn Oliver grew up playing hockey with the West End Minor Hockey Program before moving on to play with the Ottawa Sting and Ottawa Golden Knights. He joined the District B Officiating Association (DBOA) during the 2015-16 season at the age of 15 years old. He quickly moved through the ranks and was invited to join the OHL as a linesperson last season. Shawn said he was excited to get the call to join the AHL and thought about all the coaches who helped get him to this point in his officiating career. He also knew that this was a great opportunity. "I wanted to make sure I was reviewing all of the AHL rules and learning everything because you have to be so dialled in at that level" said Oliver. As for advice for younger officials, he added, "You are not going to work a perfect game every night. You have to trust the process and know that with practice you'll get better. Listen to your coaches and learn from your mistakes."

Fred Cosgrove, the Referee in Chief of the DBOA, said that he was not surprised that Shawn was selected to work in the AHL. "It was apparent to all of us early on that Shawn had a real talent for officiating. He constantly pushed himself to be better. He listened to his coaches, read his rulebook and had a great attitude. We couldn't be more proud of him".

Originally from Peterborough, Charlie Millen played for the Ottawa Jr. Senators before playing professionally in the SPHL and ECHL. He fell in love with Ottawa and decided to move back to the city. He started officiating during the 2019-2020 season and was invited to the NHL Combine in Buffalo that August. Millen said that he is excited to be working in the AHL and credits the support he's received from his colleagues with the HEO Officiating Program. "One thing I can say to any official trying to pursue the next level is to listen to the veterans that have experience and work hard. There are many people that have helped me along the way. I appreciate all of the support I've received from my colleagues and coaches with the HEO officiating program and specifically Senior Body."

In addition to congratulating both officials on this tremendous accomplishment, John Reid, the Referee in Chief of Hockey Eastern Ontario, highlighted the contributions of all those who work behind the scenes to help develop officials. "There are a lot of dedicated officials and volunteers who help develop officials across the Branch. We have an excellent program and it's fulfilling for all of us to see officials advance to the highest levels of competitive hockey. These two officials have worked hard to get to where they are. We are all rooting for them!"

Charlie will work his first AHL game on March 8th while Shawn works his first game on March 10th.