

John Harrington returned to college coaching after a 7-year hiatus when he was named Head Women’s Hockey Coach at Minnesota State University on May 18th, 2015.

Harrington had left the college coaching ranks in 2008 after 24 years to pursue a professional coaching career in Europe. In 2008-2009, he was Head Hockey Coach of Hockey Club Ambri-Piotta in the Swiss National League. In 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, he led Hockey Club Asiago of the Italian Serie “A” League to Italian National Championships. He was also Head Coach of the Slovenia National Team, and in April 2010 he won the Division I, Group B World Championship, advancing Slovenia to the World “A” Championship for 2011 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

A member of the 1980 and 1984 U.S. Olympic hockey teams, Harrington guided the Saint John’s University (MN) Johnnies to a 241-142-31 (.620) record over 15 seasons, including five MIAC regular season titles, 13 MIAC playoff appearances and five NCAA tournament appearances. Harrington's 15 years at SJU is the longest tenure of any hockey coach in school history.

The most successful hockey coach in SJU’s history, Harrington coached 17 All-America selections, including one Sid Watson Memorial Trophy recipient as Outstanding NCAA Division III Hockey Player (2006, Adam Hanna); 50 All-MIAC first-team selections; two MIAC Player of the Year recipients; five Academic All-America selections and eight Academic All-Region selections.

A four-time honoree as MIAC Coach of the Year, Harrington in 1995-96 directed SJU to its first MIAC regular season title since 1950, its second trip to the MIAC playoff finals and its first bid to the NCAA Division III tournament. In 1996-97, the Johnnies repeated as MIAC regular season and playoff champions and entered the NCAA Division III tournament as the No. 1 seed in the west region. The Johnnies proceeded to advance to the NCAA Division III Hockey Championship and brought home the third-place trophy.

A 1979 graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Harrington was an assistant hockey coach at St. Cloud State University from 1990-93. Prior to his move to St. Cloud, Harrington worked as an assistant coach at the University of Denver from 1984 to 1990.

As a player, Harrington was a standout prep athlete at Virginia (Minn.) High School and starred with Minnesota-Duluth from 1975-79. He gained fame as a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team that captured the gold medal at the Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York.

Harrington played hockey in Lugano, Switzerland, for the 1980-81 season before returning home to earn a spot on the U.S. National Hockey Team, representing the United States at the 1981, 1982, and 1983 World Hockey Championships. He completed his international playing career as an Alternate Captain of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Hockey team that competed in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

A member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame, Harrington received the Lester Patrick Award in 1980 for outstanding service to hockey in the U.S. He is a charter member of the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, a 1990 inductee into the Minnesota Olympic Hall of Fame, a 1997 inductee into the Virginia (MN) Hall of Fame, and a 2001 inductee into the University of Minnesota-Duluth Athletic Hall of Fame.

In addition to his collegiate coaching experience, Harrington has been involved with numerous USA Hockey summer development camps and National Team coaching staffs. He served as an assistant coach at the U.S. Junior Olympic Festival (1992) and National Sports Festivals (1983 and 1990). In 1995, Harrington served as head coach of Team North at the Olympic Sports Festival in Denver, Colo. Team North won gold medal honors at the festival, which featured some of the top prep and collegiate players in the country. During the winter of 2006-07, Harrington was a staff member of Team USA at the World Junior Championships held in Leksand and Mora, Sweden, in which Team USA won the 3rd Place bronze medal.

Harrington was appointed to the American Hockey Coaches Association Board of Governors in 1996 and served as president of the American Hockey Coaches Association in 1999-2000.

Harrington was also a member of the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee from 2002-2008 and served as the Secretary-Rules Editor from 2006 to 2008.

In December of 2010, Harrington was selected by the University of Minnesota-Duluth Hockey Alumni as a member of the UMD All-Time Duluth Arena Hockey Team.

Harrington worked for FHIT Players, a player training and player advancement company located in Blaine, MN, as Director of Hockey Development, and as Director of Hockey for the Herb Brooks Foundation from 2010 to 2011.

Harrington was employed by the Colorado Avalanche of the National Hockey League as an amateur scout from 2011 to 2015.