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Cavs notebook: Hawks assistant GM has Canton roots

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CANTON ROOTS

Wes Wilcox, who worked nine years in the Cavs organization and was the Canton Charge's general manager for their first year of existence, is the Hawks' assistant general manager.

With former Cavs player and general manager Danny Ferry taking an indefinite leave of absence from Atlanta's GM job in the wake of him using a term deemed racially insensitive during a conference call this summer, Wilcox is handling the Hawks personnel duties with some help from head coach Mike Budenholzer.

"We're so lucky to have Wes," Budenholzer said. "He keeps us organized and keeps us moving forward, ready for any and every situation. He's on top of everything. Without him we'd be in big trouble. Very smart. Creative thinking."

FIRST IMPRESSION

While Budenholzer was on Gregg Popovich's staff in San Antonio, David Blatt visited the Spurs. Blatt was coaching the Russian national team.

Budenholzer remembers Blatt's "genuine curiosity about particular situations and his willingness to even kind of question how the NBA does it," he said. "That's part of being ready for the NBA. It's not just following everyone else's mentality, but to think outside the box and bring something different. I definitely remember him challenging some of the ways we thought about things, and he was open to hear our reasoning and share his."

QUICK CHANGE

The Lake Erie Monsters and Adirondack Flames played an American Hockey League match that began at 1 p.m. at Quicken Loans Arena on Saturday. The match went into a shootout, which led to a scramble from the arena's staff to transition it from hockey to basketball for the Cavs' 7:30 p.m. start against the Hawks. "Got to start with a big shout-out to the employees and workers here at the Q who can turn around an afternoon event on the ice to a basketball game at night," Blatt said at the beginning of his pre-game availability. ... Cavs rookie center Alex Kirk, on assignment with their D-League affiliate in Canton, missed the Charge's season opener Saturday night because of illness.