

Moneris  ^{®/MD}

+





- The Ontario Blue Jays is a training facility for upcoming professional baseball players
- The club has grown to be a leading program in Canada
- The Ontario Blue Jays uses the iWL255 Terminal to process payments

Ontario Blue Jays



Line of business: Athletic Centre

Products used:

- iWL255



The coaches gave back to me through my years as a player and I want to give back to young players and help them form the base they need to be a successful athlete.



Joe Ellison,
General Manager of the Ontario Blue Jays



The Ontario Blue Jays in Mississauga, ON is a training facility for young baseball players. The focus of the club is to help athletes achieve their goals of playing on a collegiate and professional level.



I love knowing that there is some child who was trained in here who will become that person, that person we cheer for on TV.



- Stephanie Wilkinson,
Co-owner of the Ontario Blue Jays

Background

So many children fall in love with sport and it quickly becomes a dream to play on a professional level. But, how do these athletes make their dream come alive? They need to train in facilities with an atmosphere filled with the same objectives they have for themselves. The Ontario Blue Jays (OBJ) is just that place. When a young athlete takes their first steps into the OBJ, they are instantly welcomed by a professional/championship culture with an emphasis on supporting their fellow baseball players realize and achieve their dreams of playing on collegiate and professional levels. Stephanie Wilkinson, owner of the OBJ, talks about the athletic centre born with the purpose of helping young baseball players realize their potential. The OBJ was founded over 25 years ago in Hamilton, ON and is currently located in Mississauga, ON. According to her, the OBJ has continued to grow with the help of great leadership, tireless work and dedication to assert the program as the best amateur baseball program in the nation.

Wilkinson originally became involved with the OBJ in 2015 when she enrolled her son, a baseball player at the time, in order to help develop his skills. Along the way, Wilkinson and her husband took over ownership of the OBJ because of their interest in baseball and passion for bringing the community together through sport. Wilkinson grew up excited about the Toronto Blue Jays® and was in university during the World Series. She fondly remembers her thrill when she would watch players in action. It excites her even more to see players who have trained at the OBJ, including Jordan Romano and Josh Naylor, now competing in Major League Baseball™ (MLB). "I love knowing that there is some child who was trained in here who will become that person, that person we cheer for on TV," says Wilkinson.

Wilkinson brought many ideas to the table when joining the OBJ and knew she wanted to be at the facility full-time to empower young athletes and help them have a positive experience each day. Her focus was thinking about how the establishment could grow. She is responsible for administrative work at the OBJ and prioritizes making the path to success simple for the players.



Wilkinson talks about the leading reason work does not feel like 'work' for her. "When I come in each day, I am surrounded by incredible people and the day does not feel like a job because we come together and have so much fun."

Joe Ellison is the General Manager of the OBJ and has been with the organization since 2013. Ellison coached when he was in college and played with the organization from 2006-2010. "Ever since I played for the OBJ, I had it in my mind that I may want to coach," says Ellison. "The coaches gave back to me through my years as a player and I want to give back to young players and help them form the base they need to be a successful athlete."

The success of the OBJ has stemmed from a commitment to ensuring excellence through sport and developing participants of the program to not only be strong baseball players, but leading members of community. Each day throughout the year the facility places an emphasis on teamwork, discipline and dedication to baseball. The players have an intense training schedule. January is when rigorous training begins to prepare players for the season. The athletes train five to six days a week. In the summer, the training schedule depends on games and whether players are travelling in Canada or the United States. The fall is considered the rest period for athletes. Strength and conditioning sessions take place three to four times a week. Today, the OBJ has helped place 530 athletes in colleges, 120 to MLB draft picks and signings, 75 to the Canadian National Team and 8 athletes became MLB players.

The centre offers two major programs: the Academy Program (15-18U) and the Prep Program (14U). The Academy Program is for baseball players who are ages 15-18 and are striving to play baseball at the next level. The program prepares players for 'the college baseball experience.' Training includes professional level specific instruction year-round and exposure to the best competition and highest rated recruiting events in the United States. Unique travel experiences with a mission of developing baseball players physically and mentally are also offered to this age group. The Prep Program is for players who are aged 14 and are looking to join the Academy Program the following year. The program was created for players to build the foundations they need to continue their baseball journey. The opportunity to play at a collegiate level comes from athletes going on a yearly fall trip to various schools across the United States. The fall trip is typically a bus trip that goes school-to-school. Eating, sleeping and studying are done on the bus. Participants on the trip are 17 and 18-year-olds or post high school grads that have a gap year.

A major challenge the OBJ faced was the COVID-19 pandemic. For three months, the facility stopped taking payments and throughout the following lockdowns. Not being open and not being able to really operate the business was a threat. Hope has helped the OBJ survive the pandemic. Many athletes were sent to the United States during the pandemic for some training. Today, the OBJ team is grateful to be open again and helping young athletes meet their potential in person.



Why Moneris?

"Part of making the experience seamless is the way we take payments," says Wilkinson.

She talked about her experience looking around for options to take payments. "When it all comes down to it, nothing beats Moneris®. Prices, products and services Moneris offers are very competitive." She says she trusts that payments taken are kept safe. The OBJ is using the IWL255 wireless terminal to process payments. For Wilkinson, having a wireless terminal is an added convenience for parents because they can process payments wherever they are in the building. The terminal has therefore been an efficient and reliable payment option for the OBJ and has helped the club offer additional payment options to parents.



When it all comes down to it, nothing beats Moneris. Prices, products and services Moneris offers are very competitive.



- Stephanie Wilkinson, Co-owner of the Ontario Blue Jays

Looking forward

Wilkinson is very excited about the future of the organization. Looking into the future seasons, the roster is full. Trips are being planned and summer activities are continuously being organized. She is very excited to see the facility grow and watch players through the big screen after leaving the OBJ.





Visit moneris.com or call **1-844-455-4283** for details.

Follow us



MONERIS and MONERIS & Design are registered trademarks of Moneris Solutions Corporation. All other marks or registered trademarks appearing in this article are the property of their respective owners. Moneris Solutions Corporation ("Moneris") is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or currency of the information supplied in this article. This article does not express the views of Moneris or its affiliates. The information in this article is not intended to provide specific financial, investment, tax, legal, accounting or other advice to you, and should not be acted or relied upon in that regard without seeking the advice of a professional.