

Darren MacMillan

Darren MacMillan is the current General Manager and Governor of South Alberta Hockey Academy located in Medicine Hat, AB. He played two seasons in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League for the Nipawin Hawks, recording 23 points in 76 games.

JM: What are you watching on Netflix/TV right now?

DM: I've been watching some MLB lately, but I'm looking forward to the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs is always my favourite TV to watch.

JM: Thing you're most excited to do once the world gets back to normal?

DM: I'm looking forward to travelling, to going places and seeing things. I'm also looking forward to traveling to visit family.

JM: If you can do any job in the world, not related to sports, what would it be?

DM: That's a tough question. I'm happy doing what I do.

JM: Favourite place to travel? Dream vacation? Dream place to live?

DM: I've spent my entire life in the prairies. I like going to both the ocean and the mountains and can't wait to enjoy them both soon.

JM: Tell me a bit about the family, friends, pets' situation. Where you live now and where you grew up?

DM: I've spent my entire life in Alberta with a few stops in Saskatchewan. I come from a hockey family. My uncle (John MacMillan) won two NCAA championships with the University of Denver and two Stanley Cup championships with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Me and my three brothers (Tavis, Brad and Dax) all played junior hockey. Tavis and Brad played some pro hockey. Tavis played at University of Alaska Fairbanks and is currently coaching at the University of Denver. He was a scout for Atlanta Thrashers and Winnipeg Jets before Denver University. My nephews (Torrin and Jaeger White) both played in the WHL and USPORTS.

JM: What do you like to do away from the rink/in the offseason?

DM: Like a lot of people that spend their winters in the rink, I like to spend my summers on the golf course. I also enjoy biking and playing tennis.

JM: How did you get involved in your current role?

DM: I've been teaching in Prairie Rose School Division for 24 years and at Eagle Butte High School for 16. In 2018 I became the Program Development Coordinator of the school division. It was my goal to bring elite level U18 hockey back to the southeast corner of Alberta. This pursuit

led to the relocation and purchase of Banff Academy and my role evolved into the General Manager and Governor of SAHA.

JM: What about the CSSHL model do you like?

DM: Education-based hockey. For me, being able to embed a hockey program into educational setting, into the school day, is extremely beneficial to students. The wholistic develop of the students on the ice, in the gym, and in the classroom is unparalleled.

JM: What advice would you give young players?

DM: I know you have dreams to be a hockey player, don't underestimate the role education is going to play in your life. Work just as hard in the classroom as you do on the ice.

JM: Favourite and or funniest hockey memory

DM: When it comes to live sporting events, I was spoiled growing up as a kid as we had Edmonton Oilers season tickets in their hay day. I'll never forget all the things I got to experience as a child at Northlands Coliseum. Multiple Stanley Cup celebrations, seeing Wayne Gretzky break countless records such as scoring five goals vs the Philadelphia Flyers for his 50th in 39 games, heartbreak like the Steve Smith and Grant Fuhr own goal vs the Calgary Flames, meeting players and getting autographs outside the dressing rooms, the 1984 Canada Cup final vs Sweden, the list is endless.