

Q&A with Coach Boe Leslie

Hometown: Carman, Manitoba
Canada

College: Union College D1
then professional hockey in Europe
for 8 years

1. What was your position and number as a youth hockey player? Was this picked for a particular reason?

As a young player, I tried to get 9 as much as possible. Being in a small town, the youth club owned a set of jerseys at every age level. The set of jerseys got passed down from one group of players to another each year. I think there were probably only jerseys 1-15 for every age level plus either a 0 or a 30 for goalies.

2. What was your greatest moment/moments or memory/memories as a youth player or college player? I am so fortunate to be able to say that I have spent my whole life in a rink. I have a lot of moments, I think these are a few good ones to share...

My father was a professional player as well and then became a professional coach. As a kid, my brother and I were so fortunate to grow up in the rink. My father worked a lot for Hockey Canada and then started coaching professionally in Europe. We got to live in Europe as kids as well as in Canada. He was part of Team Canada coaching staffs at the Spengler Cup and World Championships. I was at the rink and in the locker room as much as possible.

Receiving a scholarship to a Division 1 Hockey School was a massive moment itself for me. My family had moved back to Canada when I was in high school though they returned to Europe when I was in college. After high school I played Junior and had a dream to play Division 1 hockey. I will never forget my recruit trip or my first days on campus realizing I had made it there.

Once I started my professional playing career, I was invited to a 2 week conditioning camp with the Winnipeg Jets. I was young and got to skate along side some legends at camp for those two weeks. Teemu Selanne, Thomas Steen and Tie Domi were a few on the Jets roster at that time.

In 1999, the Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup. I had grown up down the street from Hall of Fame Goalie Ed Belfour. My Dad had coached him as well. He brought the Stanley Cup home to our hometown and invited friends to celebrate with him. It was a night to remember!

During my career, I played for a team in London, England. The team was owned by the owner of the Los Angeles Kings. He owned 5 European teams. London, Stockholm, Prague, Berlin and Geneva. 5 teams, 5 European Countries. All of the teams were full of former NHL players and a tournament was held at the start of the season amongst the teams. The coaching staff, management and owner of the Kings were all in attendance at the tournament, It was a big stage and amazing to be a part of it.

Another memorable night also came during my time in England. The lead singer and guitarist of AC/DC dropped the ceremonial face off puck at one game! AC/DC was played in every locker room and rink that I was ever in to play. It was such a thrill for all of us!



**Hockey
Director and
8U Skills
Coach**

3. Did or do you have a nickname? As a young kid- I was called Digger.
4. Who professionally or personally inspires you? I was so fortunate to grow up with a father who worked in the game. Coaches always get labelled. He was always labelled a players coach, which means that players like you. There are obviously coaches in every sport who have not been liked by players but who had success. I have always wanted to be labelled a players coach also. Every time I run a session, I want to put players in a position to be challenged, have a blast and improve.
5. What is your philosophy as a coach? Hockey is such a great game. I have always told players it can be the best part of your day. Life can be so busy. Players have school, homework, chores, part time jobs for older players. But when we come to the rink, we work hard and have fun! Being on the ice as a player, I always loved to be first on the ice for practice. A full sheet of clean ice and my skates got to touch it first. I love the sound of my blades carving through fresh ice. I always want hockey to be a great experience for players of every level and hope that they can love being on the ice like I always have.
6. What adjectives do you associate with the best hockey teams?
Speed, pressure, skilled, hard-working, relentless, poised, passionate
7. Aside from hockey, what else do you like to do in your free time? I have always loved to travel and study languages. Being a kid living in a foreign country gave me the itch to see more and immerse myself in other cultures and languages as much as possible. I have always been a sports fanatic and play as many as possible. Baseball, golf, skiing, wake boarding, surfing is my latest passion but still a beginner.
8. Do you have a favorite quote or line from a movie/book/someone famous?
People have to know you care, before they care what you know.
9. What is your favorite pregame power food? Pasta and salad.
10. Dogs or Cats, or if neither, what is your favorite animal and why? We have 2 dogs and 2 cats and at one time there were 4 cats.