

## Interview with ND's Kevin White

1. Kevin, can you comment on the current Maritimers and Andrews Graduates at Notre Dame and their impact on the hockey program?

Well, Doug Maritimers are sprinkled throughout our hockey program. Andre Guay and Mark Roper, both from Moncton, NB play on our Junior "A" hockey team. Bryce Milson from Miramichi, NB and Ryan Cuzner from Glace Bay, NS play for our top Midget "AAA" team, the Hounds. Mary Jane Roper from Moncton, NB and Roberta Carson from Stillwater, NS play for our Senior Female "AAA" team. Ryan MacKinnon from Summerside, PEI and Brayden Wood from Oromocto, NB play for our Bantam "AAA" team. MacKinnon (a former Riptide player and current Andrews Instructor) has shown real well so far. As you can see we have a definite Maritime flavor to the top teams in our program.

2. ND has always focused on Maritimers and scouted heavily at events such as the Atlantic Hockey Showcase/Atlantic Female Prospect Camp. Can you comment on this?

Notre Dame has always focused on trying to get the best players available from all parts of Canada and the World. The Maritimes has been a very good resource for the school for many years. Dating back to Scott Pellerin and Dwayne Norris continuing with players like Brad Richards, Logan MacMillan, Andrew Joudrey and Andrew Gordon to most recently Brandon Gormley and Sean Couturier, the top two picks in last year's QMJHL draft. We rely on the Atlantic Showcase for an opportunity to watch and meet players from the Maritimes interested in attending our school. It provides us with an excellent chance to meet not only the player but the parents as well and answer any questions they may have about Notre Dame. The Showcase is an excellent recruiting tool for ND and we look forward to it every year.

3. What makes the ND program special?

There are many things that set us apart from your normal hockey program however the one that I think makes us the most unique is the fact that when you come Notre Dame you surround yourself with student athletes just like you who have big dreams and goals and just like you will do the necessary work to fulfill them. You will be pushed every day to be a better student athlete not only by the staff but also by your own peer group. I believe this is the reason we produce so many high caliber hockey players. Our student athletes push each to be better when you live in that type of environment 24/7 you have no choice but to get better. We also provide our players with the necessary resources to be successful. From our Olympic sized ice surface, on site training room, on site world class fitness center and a strength and conditioning coach we provide our hockey players with the opportunity to reach their goals and beyond. Finally, being a boarding school our student athletes are ready for any challenge that lies ahead of them. They have lived on their own and have learned how to become self sufficient and dependable.

4. Being from PEI and a Maritimer, I am proud of the opportunities Notre Dame has provided for our Maritime students. The misconception is because we are in Saskatchewan that you will not get scouted by the "right people" or you will get lost out here. Well I think our track record would indicate otherwise. Whether you are looking to further your education by playing US College hockey or you want to move on to the Major Junior ranks, Notre Dame can provide either one of those options to you. For example since I have been here I have seen Andrew Gordon and Andrew Joudrey play with our Junior "A" team, receive a full scholarship to a top Division 1 School in the US and finally end up getting drafted into the NHL. Brad Richards would be our most famous Maritimer but in my time at the school we have had many players drafted highly into the QMJHL and subsequently into the NHL. At Notre Dame you can achieve any hockey related goal you have and we have the reputation and name to give you an upper hand in doing so.

\*\*\* Roper, Cuzner, Roper, MacKinnon, Carson, Richards, MacMillan, Joudrey and Gormley are all Andrews Graduates.