

Glenn Tackaberry's Lacrosse Involvement

After watching his older brother Keith play lacrosse Glenn Tackaberry knew he had found a game he had to play. He started in 1970 as an under-aged novice with a team from the community of Fairview in southeast Calgary. As the youngest player on the team, Glenn was appointed to the position of goaltender. That positional career was short lived however as the other players determined it would be better to have someone in goal who would not continually jump out of the way. Glenn still maintains that he was not afraid of the ball, but that the felt chest pad was much too thin.

Glenn, like the rest of the males in the Tackaberry clan, has been called Tack for as long as he can remember. He lived for lacrosse as a child and could be seen, along with a group of like-minded friends, carrying his stick on most occasions when the weather permitted. In fact, it may be some of his friends that are responsible for the bars on Fairview School's windows.

As a minor box player Tack, played in Fairview, Southwood, Acadia and Willowridge, as programs closed and merged together throughout the 1970's. His minor box highlight is having the good fortune of playing in the Keith Tackaberry Midget Nationals lacrosse tournament that was named after his brother who tragically died in a car accident. He started making appearances in the tournament as a peewee when guest teams would encourage him to dress in his equipment and play a very quick shift or two. Tack played competitively in the tournament as a first-year Midget in 1978 with a Southeast Calgary team. He also played the first year the tournament was played outside of Calgary, in Halifax in 1979.

Tack's major box career started when he played for the senior Calgary Shamrocks as a 17 year-old in 1980. Calgary lacrosse was struggling and there were only two senior teams and no junior teams in the city during that year. He often refers to this year playing with men several years his age as one of his most important educational experiences.

Fortunately, in 1981, a group of former players from Tack's high-school had heard that the Canada Summer Games had an intermediate aged lacrosse component. With the support of their parents the players decided to form a team to compete for the right to represent Alberta. Tack was the captain of that team. The team ended up going to the Canada games, but more importantly, junior lacrosse in Calgary was revived.

Tack played for junior and senior teams over the next few years. He ended up playing in two Founders Cup National Junior B tournaments; one with Calgary in 1982 and as another as an affiliate with Enoch Tomahawks, from the Edmonton area, who captured a silver medal in 1983.

He took what he thought was a one year hiatus that turned in to a almost permanent vacation from his playing days, until he started to play masters lacrosse 20 plus years later. Tack still plays masters lacrosse with many of the players he played with and against during those formative years. One of his best lacrosse memories came in 2005 because of continued contact with a former junior team-mate Brad Banister. Banister asked Tack to be a part of the radio broadcast team on the Fan 960 for Calgary Roughnecks and as he was fortunate to be involved in the game in which the Roughnecks won the NLL Champions Cup.

Lyle and Trude Tackaberry, Glenn's parents, and many other volunteers who spent countless hours organizing lacrosse, made huge impact on him as a child. Looking back, he realizes the good fortune he had in being dragged along to help out with everything from ice removal, line painting, registration, equipment handout, and even t-shirt and ticket sales at tournaments. He is extremely thankful for the efforts of all those people and has been influenced to the point of making the recreation industry his chosen career.

During the years between Tack's involvement as a player and volunteer, he could always be seen as an observer at local major and minor box games. He was often along side his parents, who always seemed to know someone's son or grandson who was playing in a game.

The moment Tack's oldest son Brendan registered in lacrosse as a six year-old with the Calgary Axemen that he knew the passion had returned full force. As with many new parent's, it wasn't long before Tack started offering unsolicited organizational advice to anyone within earshot.

By the time Brendan's second year rolled around, his little brother Aaron had also decided to play. Their coach asked Tack to be an assistant on the team in large part to keep the two boys separated from one another. With encouragement from organizers, other coaches and friends, Glenn continues to coach and has alternated between coaching his two sons at various levels from Tyke to Midget. He has not yet coached his daughter Dannica, who plays girls lacrosse, because she has decided that separation from dad during lacrosse season has its merits.

During his time coaching Tack observed that it is important to keep in contact with organizers to stay aware of what is happening on the organizational level. As he continued to offer suggestions for improvement, he was encouraged to get involved to implement some of the ideas he had. One season Glenn whined so much about the Axemen Lacrosse evaluations process he was challenged by the club president to develop a better system. Tack encouraged a group of volunteers who had a desire to develop a better process to form an evaluation committee. Over a nine-month period the committee developed a process that at the core, is still being used by the Axemen and has been requested by other clubs throughout the province to be used as a model. This experience showed Glenn that change and improvements can happen at the organizational level, but that there has to be someone willing to do the work.

Other volunteer roles soon followed because of Tack's desire to see things improve. For instance, in hopes of reducing some of the noise and confusion in the stands, Tack developed a course for Axemen Parents called Lacrosse 101 to help them learn the basics of the game. These clinics were well attended and positive feedback was received from the participants.

Through out the years Tack has also been involved on the Club level as coach of travel teams on several occasions. Has been on several working committees, has been on the Axemen board of directors as Director of Coaching, Vice-President, and President.

He served on the Alberta Lacrosse Association (ALA) as Alberta Editor for Lacrosse Talk for five years. He was interim Promotions committee chair for a very short time. He was on the Board as the Minor Box Chair, the Provincials committee on several occasions and has also had a seat on disciplinary hearing committees. Tack has never been afraid to voice his opinion at ALA meetings and has started debates in controversial or challenging areas that have led to positive change even though some of the issues were difficult to deal with.

Tack has also been active in the Calgary District Lacrosse Association (CDLA) over the years. He has been chair of several committees, has been the Axemen Board representative and is currently Vice-president of the CDLA.

His personalized licence plate says it all. Tack is a certified LAXNUT.