

HONOURS

Tristan Murray

Supervisor: Dr. Chris Shields

Research Focus

Motivated by his own family experiences with elite hockey, Tristan became committed early in his time at Acadia to understanding the phenomenon behind the development of elite level hockey players. Breaking new ground in the understanding of elite athlete pathways in Canadian hockey, eight former professional hockey players from Western Canada were interviewed to gain insights into their perspectives on specialization, parental involvement, and talent identification in the sport of hockey. While interviews of professional hockey players exist within the literature, this study is the first to obtain the perspectives of former professional players with regards to their own experiences as developing athletes, and the first to record their perspectives on the development of current and future players. It is hoped that the themes that emerge from responses to these interviews will depict the current landscape of player development in hockey within Western Canada, and to provide a better understanding of what it takes to become an elite level hockey player.

The Researcher



Working under the supervision of Dr. Chris Shields, Tristan is a mature student and a member of the varsity football team here at Acadia. The oldest of three sons to former NHL winger Chris Murray, Tristan has lived in various cities across North America but calls Kamloops, British Columbia, home. Tristan's plans for the immediate future involve further work as a researcher in the field of Kinesiology before applying for further schooling.