

Kirk Tomlinson

Kirk Tomlinson played 8 seasons of professional hockey after being drafted 76th overall in 1986 by the Minnesota North Stars. Prior to turning pro, Kirk had an illustrious Major Junior career, spanning five years, and including two OHL All Star teams.

After Major Junior, Kirk graduated to the American Hockey League where he spent the next three seasons with the Adirondack Red Wings. A Calder Cup Championship highlighted his tenure with the Wings. He then moved on to the International Hockey League to complete the final three years of his playing career. During the 95/96 seasons with the Peoria Rivermen, he sustained a career ending shoulder injury. This injury ended his playing days, but did not keep him away from the game for very long. In 1997-98 Tomlinson joined the Quad City Mallards of the United Hockey League as an Assistant Coach, and helped guide the club to a league championship. His next move was to become the first Head Coach and Director of Hockey Operations for the Colorado Gold Kings of the West Coast Hockey League. He spent three successful seasons with Colorado where he was named Coach of the Year. It was in Colorado that Tomlinson helped establish a minor hockey association, named after his team, the Jr. Gold Kings. Kirk oversaw the development of the league, coaches and players. It was also in Colorado where he ran a very successful hockey school for three years.

Tomlinson's next move was to Michigan, taking his winning ways to the Flint Generals of the United Hockey League. He then wound up his coaching career in Lubbock, Texas, for the CottonKings in the Central Hockey League.

In 2004, Tomlinson made the tough decision to retire from a professional coaching career to raise a young family and settle down. He and his wife Betts, and twin daughters Abby and Brooke, now live in Hammonds Plains. According to Tomlinson, "What I want to do now is carve out a niche in minor hockey here in Nova Scotia. I want to teach the *game of hockey* to young players. I believe that I have the experience and understanding of the game, to do just that, and I look forward to the challenge!"

His first step was to take the reigns of a faltering hockey club, the Halifax McDonalds of the NSMMHL. This was a club steeped with tradition, but one that had only won 8 games in their regular season and needed a serious infusion of life. Since taking over, Kirk has systematically turned the organization around. Each year he has drastically improved the team's record. He was awarded COACH of the year for the 2008/2009 season. 2009/2010, Coach Tomlinson guided the newly named Halifax Taylor Made Security Titans to a league leading 28-5 record clinching first place overall for the regular season. The Team went on to compete in the Atlantic with a 4-1 record capturing the Bronze medal.

For his achievements and volunteer work with Hockey Nova Scotia's High Performance Program Kirk was awarded Hockey Nova Scotia's Coach Of The Year Award and Director of Hockey for the Taylor Made Security Titans.

Another undertaking for Kirk started three years ago as he assumed the part time position as Coaching Mentor with TASA Minor Hockey. Since then this relationship has evolved into Tomlinson serving as TASA's Technical Director. Kirk sits on the board, develops, implements, monitors, and manages the entire technical portion of the associations development program.

In 2006 Tomlinson Elite Hockey Ltd. was established to better serve the ever-growing Nova Scotia hockey community. Parents and players alike have sung the praises of Kirk and his successful way of teaching kids the game of hockey. Another piece of the hockey puzzle for Kirk is dedicating time to the High Performance Program with Hockey Nova Scotia. To his credit thus far:

- 2008 Hockey Nova Scotia Male U-15 HPP Assistant Coach/Evaluator
- 2009 Hockey Nova Scotia Male U-15 HPP Assistant Coach
- 2009 Hockey Nova Scotia Male U-15 HPP Head Coach Atlantic Challenge Cup Gold Medal Champions
- 2010 Canada Game Staff Member

Tomlinson's latest project is being awarded The Major Bantam franchise for TASA/Chebucto and is the acting CEO/Governor/President for Gulls club.

Kirk is in the process of obtaining Hockey Canada High Performance 1 Coaching accreditations.