

## Past Player/Current Coach Profile:

### **How old were you when you started skating? Why did you start?**

I was 3 years old and started skating outdoors at Battle Creek Rec Center. My Dad bought skates for my brother Brent and me, and our older cousin spent some time with us on skating basics. After that, we were at the Rec Center as much as we could be, learning how to skate and play hockey. We developed a love for the game immediately.

### **When did you know you were hooked on hockey?**

It was all we did in our neighborhood. We played a lot of street hockey in our driveway. Our garage door had tennis ball marks and holes all over it. Between street hockey and skating at the Rec – it was non-stop hockey in our neighborhood. I was hooked at a young age.

### **What was your favorite local rink?**

Aldrich Arena. My Dad would take Brent and me there to watch Hill-Murray when we were younger. We were fortunate enough to play for Hill-Murray in the 90s and call that our home rink, and now I am enjoying watching my oldest son, Dylan, play for the Pioneers in the same rink. That place holds a lot of special memories for our family.

### **Did you rink rat a lot growing up? Favorite place to do so?**

We were always around a rink. We spent a lot of time outdoors and at Ramsey county rinks.

### **Your Dad was one of the original founders, correct? What are your thoughts on the tournament's impact on you and so many other young players?**

My Dad is one of the original founders for MN Selects. The tourney was brand new, and it was a way for us to meet players from all over the state and measure your game against them. I have still have friends today from all over the state that I first met thru the Selects tourney.

### **As a former player for MN Selects - what is it like now coaching in the tournament?**

It is an honor to coach in this tournament. When the tournament was first put together, it was unique and there weren't a lot of other tournaments like it. Nowadays, kids can play in a tournament every weekend, but the Selects weekend is still special to our family and we are proud to be a part of it.

### **What do you remember about playing in Selects? What was your favorite part?**

I remember meeting new kids from different areas and then seeing them during the winter for their hometown associations. It was cool to have a connection with good players at other communities. My favorite part was the games. As a competitor, you always play to win and the games were intense, but looking back on it years later your perspective changes and you appreciate the time your parents and volunteers put in to make the Selects tourney happen.





## Q & A with Jason Godbout



### **What do you think is the best thing for today's players to view about Selects?**

Use your time at the Selects tourney to make friends and develop new relationships. The hockey part of it is top notch, but watching other games and meeting other kids at different age groups is just as important. You might end up college teammates down the road somewhere. That's what happened to me. I first met Reg Berg and Nate Miller during the Selects tourney, and years later we were college teammates.

### **How many guys you grew up playing with and or against do you still have contact with?**

The hockey community is a great group, and I reconnect with a lot of guys when I go to my son's games. It seems that we all had kids around the same time, and it's fun to see old hockey buddies around the rink.

### **What is your overall favorite hockey memory?**

It's either winning the State high school

championship with Hill-Murray in 1991, or watching Dylan's Hill-Murray team win it with his teammates in 2020. I can't choose one over the other; they were both very special. There is nothing like watching your child fulfill a dream!

### **Any advice for young players?**

Be a good teammate. I've been fortunate enough to coach in the Woodbury youth program for several years and the wins and losses and goals and saves will stop at one point, but your character and reputation will live with you forever. The game of hockey reveals a lot about your character.

It's not an easy sport, but being a good teammate doesn't take a lot of talent.

### **Anything you'd like to add?**

Thank you to all of the current and past board members and all of the volunteers that put on the MN Selects tournament. You guys do a great job with the tourney, and your hard work is very appreciated!

