



Kevin Dickie joins Valley Wildcats as Consultant

The Valley Wildcats organization is thrilled to announce that Kevin Dickie has joined the team in a consultant role for the 2021-22 season. Kevin is bringing with him 34 years of coaching and sport administrative experience, most recently as Executive Director of Athletics at Acadia University; a position from which he announced his retirement this past March. His hockey coaching journey in the Valley began in 1997 as head coach of the Axemen hockey program. Under his leadership the team had great success appearing in three straight AUS finals and won a silver medal at the 1998 CIS Men's Hockey National Championships. He returned in 2011 as Executive Director of Athletics and over a ten-year tenure, Kevin's program guidance and coach mentorship led to a 77% increase in cumulative winning percentage across all Acadia teams and resulted in 11 AUS Championship titles won.

A big part of the Wildcats excitement around this announcement is that Kevin will help highlight many synergies between the Wildcats program and his past experiences, including at Acadia. There will be much knowledge to draw on there and also from Kevin's five years as a head coach in Junior A in Melfort, Saskatchewan. While with the Mustangs he was the winningest coach in franchise history. He led that team to a 151-83-26 record over his time at the helm and appeared in the Royal Bank Cup national final in 1996. His head coaching career also included four seasons in the WHL prior to beginning his time in sport administration. He is a 2014 inductee and member of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Hall of Fame.

When asked what brought him to the Wildcats and the MHL, Kevin indicated that the desire to help a local team was a big draw. There was a relationship with team Owner and President Graham Baxter as well as Wildcats Head Coach & GM Brandon Benedict, who played for the Axemen hockey team. Although there were other opportunities in hockey that came calling after the announcement of his Acadia retirement, Kevin offered that at this stage in his career it will be very rewarding to share his expertise locally here in Nova Scotia as a consultant and stay involved in the game he loves at a reduced level. After fourteen years as coach and athletic director, his passion and loyalty for Acadia remain as strong as ever while supporting the Wildcats. This season Kevin will also serve as a consultant with the Cape Breton Eagles of the QMJHL.

Dickie describes the structure of his role with the Wildcats as three-pronged. The first being on an organizational level, looking at things from a wider lens through his experience in both junior hockey and program administration. Coaching mentorship is also a major piece, with the intention being to work with Wildcats coaches at all three levels of teams in the organization. He will also be providing more direct and focused support to Coach Benedict on the Junior side in multiple different areas.

The Wildcats head coach had this to say regarding Kevin coming on board, "We're extremely excited to have a guy of Kevin's caliber join our organization. His credentials speak for themselves. He is going to help us in so many ways on and off the ice and we're looking forward to the positive impact on our program and players."

Both the organization and Kevin have aligned on creating a strategic approach to growing team success and sharing in that with the local Valley community. If history is any indication, there will be many successes to celebrate in the years to come.

