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*Q&A from NJP*

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Covering New Jersey Ice Hockey

## PLAYER PROFILE

*This edition features*

*WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN*

## SHAUN MCTIGUE

### **Tell us about yourself? What are your hobbies or interests?**

Well I am a very competitive person and I hate to lose no matter what sport I'm playing. I love playing sports. I was lucky to live in the neighborhood I did because there were a lot of kids my age and we would always play sports, especially hockey.

### **How long have you been playing ice hockey? Tell us what youth teams and levels you played?**

I first started playing hockey when I was three years old. I played for the American Eagles, Brick Hockey Club and the Mercer Chiefs.

### **How did you get started playing?**

One day my friends and I just started playing street hockey in front of the house. I was only three years old when I first started skating.

### **Who was your greatest hockey influence as you grew up?**

I would have to say Mario Lemieux, I loved watching him play. He was a wizard with the puck. He was the first player that kept me on the edge of my seat while watching a game.

### **Do you have a hero?**

Yes, my dad is my hero. He and my mother have both sacrificed a lot so I could play over the years.

### **You played with a variety of youth clubs growing up. What memories stand out regarding your experience in the NJYHL?**

When I was with the American Eagles we went to Lake Placid, and it was a thrilling experience to play on the 1980 Olympic rink. When I was with Brick, we won an overtime game in districts to go to regionals and I got the assist on the winning goal. When I was with the Mercer Chiefs, all the tournaments we went to, simply because of the high level of competition. I played with and against some of the best players under 18 years of age.

### **Who was your favorite coach on youth teams prior to High School and why?**

I would have to say Alex DePalma my coach from when I was on Brick. I learned a lot and it was always fun to come to the rink. You could always joke around with him, but he also commanded respect and would get on you if you slacked off.

### **You led the team in scoring both years at St John Vianney High School. Can you tell us about your experience while with the Lancers?**

It was an experience too short lived. I liked plying high school because if you played well it was all over school the next day. Whether it was teachers, administrators, or the student body, everyone knew about it.





**You started your Junior career with The Hitmen in the EJHL and then moved to the Titans in the MJHL. How did these experiences differ and which did you like better?**

When I played with the Hitmen, the quality of players and level of competition was higher than the Titans, but playing for the Titans was still a high level of hockey, and we were allowed to fight, wear half shields, touch up icing, and shootouts after a five minute overtime. But playing for the Titans really rejuvenated my love for hockey.

**Who was your favorite coach at Junior and why?**

I would say Dustin DePalma, he was a great coach and I learned a lot from him, he treated us like men rather than boys. He preached discipline and accountability and he made practices fun, but they were also very intense.

**What was the most exciting game you have ever played in?**

This past year while playing on WPU we played Temple in the Southeast Regional, and the game ended up going into 4 overtimes, and that was my first game playing since I broke my hand, and I ended up getting the game winning goal.

**What factors influenced your decision to attend WPU?**

The cost of the school was definitely a large factor, also Coach Scarpa and Coach Carnthan were relentless while recruiting me, and they both told me a lot of things that I liked to hear. And the fact that the school is far enough away from home but close enough for me to go home on weekends if I want.

**Which player on your WPU team do you have the most respect for?**

Ryan LaCorte, he has hockey smarts, and you can't teach that. He is a workhorse and will do whatever it takes to win. He hates to lose.

**Who are your favorite role models?**

My favorite role model is my dad. He taught me to carry myself with class, always do something to the best of your ability, and really ingrained in my head that my education is more important than athletics.

**Do you view yourself as a role model for younger players?**

I don't know how younger players see me, I just play the game as hard as a can and let the rest take care of itself. I guess in that sense I am a role model for younger players.

**If there was one thing you could change to improve your program at WPU, what would it be?**

I would like our team to be on the ice more and have some off ice training, and I wish we could move up to the NCAA Division 3 level.

**Which school is your biggest rival and why? How did you do against them this year?**

I would say our biggest rival is Montclair State. We had their number this year going 3-0 against them winning each game by 2 goals or more.

**Do you think you will ever coach hockey in the future?**

Absolutely I think I will be coaching in the future.

**Which coach would you like to emulate?**

I don't know which coach I would emulate. I think I would have my own style of coaching.

**Is hockey still fun?**

I think hockey is always fun. When hockey's not fun anymore, that's when its time to stop playing.

**You chose to stay in NJ for your college hockey career. Are you happy with your choice so far?**

Absolutely I am happy with my choice, I have made a lot of new friends so far and our team is very close. We are always hangin' out with each other and it's a good group of guys.

**How do you find your college experience outside of hockey? Would you recommend WPU to friends and other NJ hockey players?** Yes!

**The WPU program had an outstanding year completing the season ranked third in the ACHA? How do you think the team will fare next season?**

I think if we played the way we did last season, and tweak some things up than we won't have to worry about Regionals and we'll go right to Nationals. We have a lot of depth and we are a very fast team which is difficult for a lot of teams to handle.

**How is college hockey in the ACHA different from Juniors?**

College hockey is different in the sense that there's a lot more hooking and hacking and there's no fighting. In juniors, if you're repeatedly hooked and hacked and hit someone in the mouth with your stick, you better get ready to dance cause your gonna have to square up and drop the mitts.

**What was your favorite part about this past season?**

I would have to say setting new team records. We had the most wins, goals, and points in ACHA Division 2 this year.

**Did you have a favorite linemate during your hockey career?**

Yes, Chris Moser is my favorite linemate. I played with him for 3 years on the American Eagles and now again at WPU.

**What do you hope to accomplish in your next 3 years at WPU?**

Well first and foremost, I hope I get my Bachelor's Degree, but I want to see us winning Nationals all three years. I think that we definitely have the talent to do it. We just need to put it all together.

