

STOP CONCUSSIONS

By Scott Taylor
Photos courtesy Kerry Goulet
and stopconcussions.com

Winnipeg's Kerry Goulet Gives Back to the Game

KERRY GOULET IN GERMANY

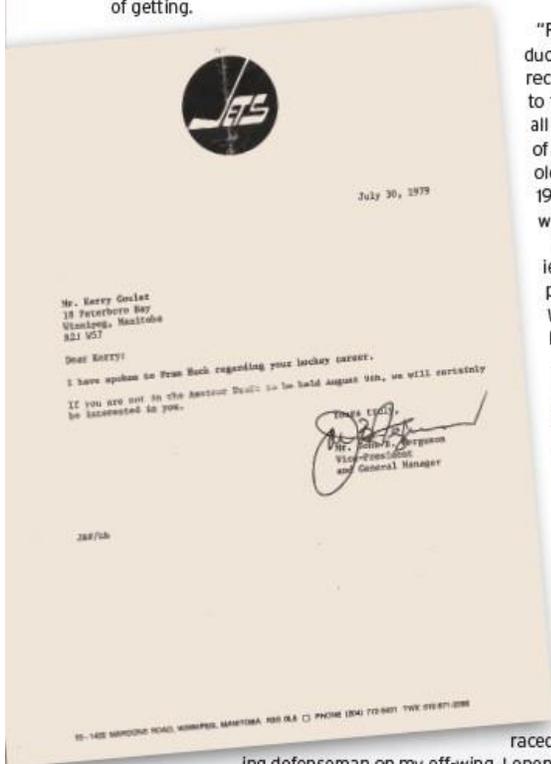
Kerry Goulet will be the first to admit that he's an experienced communicator. Read: A great talker. That also means that he's a really good salesman. In fact, it's kind of what he does. But in the midst of all the organizing, all the designing, all the creating and, yes, all the cajoling, convincing and selling, Kerry Goulet was once a terrific hockey player.

Kerry Goulet does not have the same high-profile North American hockey name that his friend and colleague Keith Primeau does. But make no mistake, the kid from Winnipeg was a tremendous hockey player.

The man who joined forces with former NHL star Keith Primeau and created the Stop Concussions Foundation, even caught the eye of the Winnipeg Jets back in 1979.

"I guess you might call the letter I got from John Ferguson, the highlight of my career," said Goulet with a smile. "But then again, I've had plenty of highlights."

Goulet was born in Winnipeg, learned to skate with his mom at St. Vital Park at the age of two and after starting his hockey career at Winakwa Community Centre, he progressed through Ralph Borger's St. Boniface Saints organization. He then moved over to the Winnipeg Monarchs, played in the Western League and finally got the letter he'd always dreamed of getting.



"Former Jets player Fran Huck introduced me to John Ferguson Sr.," Goulet recalled. "Awhile later I got an invitation to the Jets pre-rookie camp. I think, in all honesty, it was the greatest moment of my life. But at the mini-camp at the old Winnipeg Arena, as a 5-foot-10, 190-pound winger, I got beaten up. I was a mess."

Goulet wasn't asked to attend rookie camp by the Jets, and decided to play some senior amateur hockey in Winnipeg and went into business. He bought Centurion Sound and then moved on and opened up Friday's Night Club. He played senior hockey with St. Boniface and later with the Thunder Bay Twins where he won the Allan Cup in 1986-87.

Then, almost out of the blue, he got a call asking him to play in Germany. It was an amazing situation. In Germany, in his 30s, he was the playing the best hockey of his career and winning championships with his buddy Mark MacKay but little did he know that he was already on the edge.

"It all started in my second game in Germany," he said. "As I raced down the ice and around an opposing defenseman on my off-wing, I opened up in front to shoot. The defenseman had fallen and swung his stick, which took my feet out from under me. The next thing I

“ I WAS HIT FROM TWO SIDES AND KNOCKED OUT COLD. I WAS OUT WITH MY EYES OPEN UNTIL I GOT TO MY FEET ”

remember is waking up in a hospital with five German doctors standing over me, speaking a foreign language. Needless to say, I didn't understand anything that was happening or had happened. In very blunt terms, I was scared.



KERRY GOULET AND WAYNE GRETZKY THIS SUMMER



GOULET WINNING 1995 GERMAN CHAMPIONSHIP

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"It was a Sunday night, and I was in a hospital bed—alone, shocked and concerned. I knew I had hurt my head and shoulder, but I did not know to what extent. A few days went by, and I didn't fully comprehend the level of damage I had done to my body or to my brain, but I was experiencing minor headaches and pain in my left shoulder. The emphasis from the medical team was on my shoulder, but my brain was mentioned in passing and I was advised to stay in the hospital for 10 days for observations."

It was the first of many concussions. In fact, his second concussion was frightening and on the pages of his book, *Concussed* he retold a horrifying story: "I was hit from two sides and knocked out cold. I was out with my eyes open until I got to my feet. Then I was taken to the bench and three smelling salts later, I did not miss a shift. Gladiator or stupid?"

Ultimately, it was probably stupid, but at the time, it didn't end what was already a remarkable European career. Ultimately, the head trauma concerned him so much that Goulet vowed to learn as much as he could in order to give back to the game he loved.

Fact is, stopconcussions.com and the Stop Concussion Foundation were co-founded out of a pure desire to do just that. Today, stopconcussions.com is proud of the platform that has been created with the help of many ambassadors and supporters, people like Wayne and Keith Primeau and the great Toronto Maple Leafs star, Ron Ellis.

It's becoming so big that this summer's Canada-USA Tour of Australia, a tour that featured the Great One, Wayne Gretzky, was a rousing success.

"Concussions end careers, end lives and dreams and the founda-



GOULET SPEAKING TO THE CROWD IN AUSTRALIA THIS SUMMER

“ BOTH KEITH AND I HAVE THE PHYSICAL SCARS BUT ALSO THE INHERENT EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS THAT CONCUSSIONS BRING WITH THEM

tion's goal is to address the management of concussions, head on," said Goulet, who was indeed a tremendous player and has given back to the game in more ways than he ever could have imagined. "Both Keith and I have the physical scars but also the inherent emotional and mental impairments that concussions bring with them. The foundation's simple and singular focus is to ensure that players of any sport do not suffer as unnecessarily as they have. Education and prevention propel all of our efforts. However, I always want people to be clear, Stop Concussions is looking to change the mindset, not the game.

"Only education can reduce the incidence of concussions. For additional information go to our website www.stopconcussions.com."

Stopconcussions.com, co-founded by Kerry Goulet and former NHL star Keith Primeau, is a concussion/neurotrauma educational and awareness platform for all sports, established to address the growing trend of concussions in sports. It is an educational portal that players, parents, coaches, and officials can visit to seek the most up-to-date information regarding concussions. The main goal of stopconcussions.com is to ensure a level of concussion awareness that ensures that all parties involved in sport can play it safe in their respective sport. Stopconcussions.com Foundation is a not-for-profit organization consisting of employees and ambassadors.

90 GAME ON 2016-17 REGULAR SEASON EDITION



KERRY GOULET BLEEDING FOR HIS TEAM

CONCUSSIONS

“HAPPEN IN ALL SPORTS”

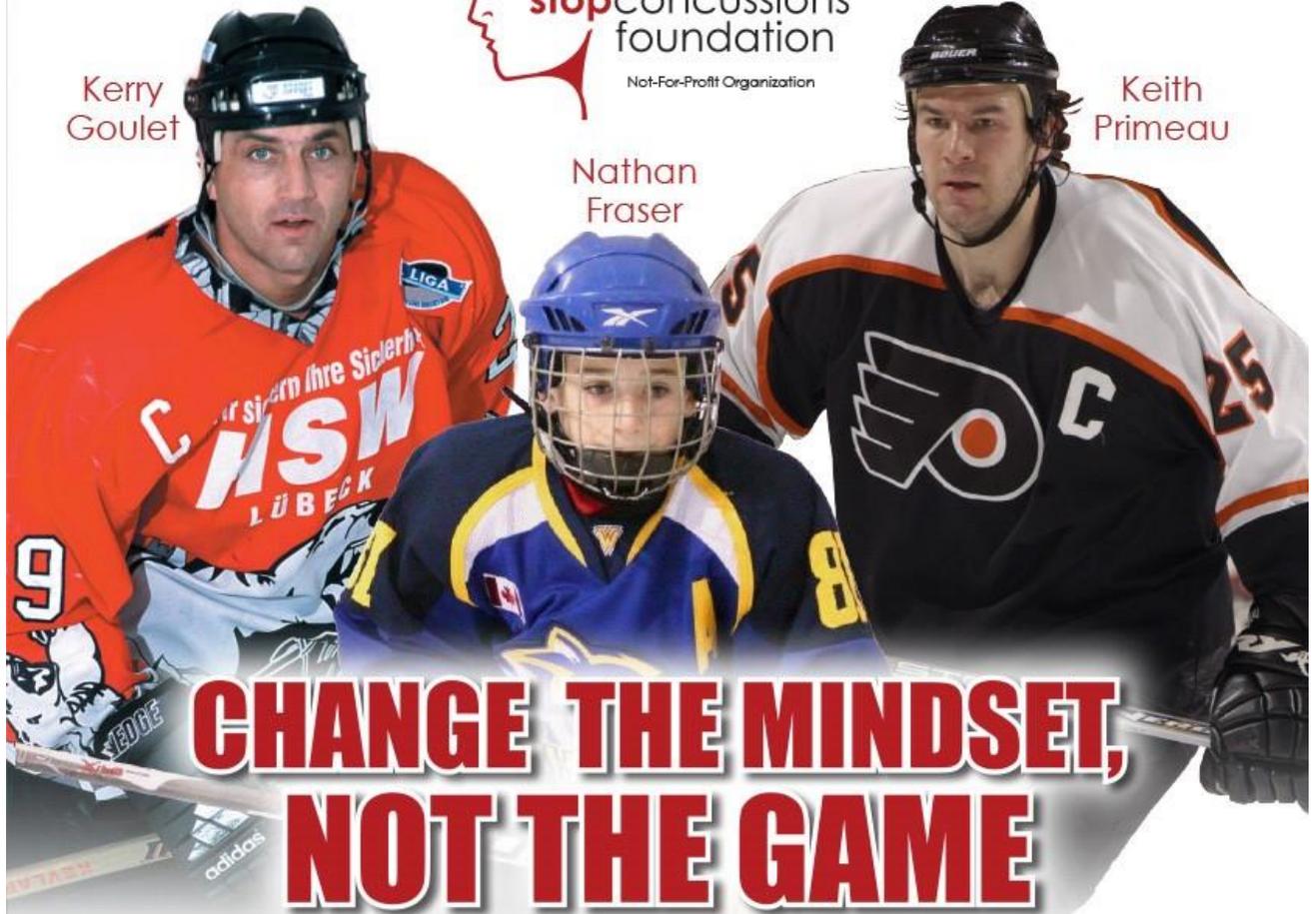
Keith Primeau
(Photo by Bruce Bennett Studios/Getty Images)



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