

GETTING TO KNOW THE BETTER HALF

GAVIN spoke with SHANNON TUCKER, the spouse of Darcy Tucker, and LAUREN GIORDANO, Mark Giordano's wife, to gather insights on being the partner of an NHL hockey player.

GAVIN: WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF AN NHL CAREER?

LAUREN: Mark and I have been together since he was in the AHL, so it has been amazing to see his career progress to where he is now. I am so proud that his hard work and passion for the game has allowed him to establish a long career in the NHL.

GAVIN: ARE THERE ANY UNIQUE CONCERNS THAT AFFECT A PLAYER'S PARTNER?

SHANNON: I was always fearful that Darcy would be traded, especially when we were settled and happy in a city. I also often worried about the team's success and his individual success. Knowing how competitive Darcy is, I always wanted him and his teammates to do well. Watching them lose was always very tough.

GAVIN: WOULD YOU HAVE DONE ANYTHING DIFFERENTLY?

LAUREN: We don't have any regrets but that's not to say there weren't any difficult decisions. In 2007, we chose to leave the NHL to play in Russia. It was a very risky choice with so much uncertainty. But, looking back, we are very fortunate with how things worked out and obviously we are very happy with the decision we made.



LAUREN GIORDANO SOURCE: GAVIN

GAVIN: WHAT BROUGHT YOU THE MOST HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER?

SHANNON: Watching Darcy succeed on the ice and sharing that success with our children was very special. I wish our kids could have been a part of the playoffs in Toronto. Those were amazing years, but unfortunately, they were too young to remember. Of course, Darcy's career enabled me to stay home with our kids while they were growing up. As a mother of three, this was always very important!

GAVIN: WHO HAS HELPED YOU ALONG THE WAY?

LAUREN: Both of us are close with our families so we talk to at least someone back home pretty much every day. We also have a really great group in Calgary. It is nice to form a support system with the other wives who understand this 'wacky' lifestyle that we live.



SHANNON TUCKER SOURCE: @SHANNONTUCKER16

GAVIN: ARE THERE ANY MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT BEING THE SPOUSE OF A PLAYER THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT?

SHANNON: It is not as glamorous and fascinating as people may think. I am not a socialite, I am a regular hockey and baseball mom that worries about what to make for dinner every night.

LAUREN: I think a lot of people assume we spend our days travelling, shopping, and going to dinner every night, which couldn't be further from the truth. The reality is you are alone a lot. The players are often on the road or occupied with practice or other events. We end up doing a lot of parenting by our self. But, we see a lot more hockey games.