

Parker's Players Now Shape the Game

Retired hockey coach's legacy at all levels of play

WITH THE THIRD most wins in NCAA hockey history, Jack Parker makes a tempting role model. It would be natural for an apprentice to want to mimic his every gesture and tic and keep a copy of his drills book in a locked vault. Yet the real secret to coaching greatness, says Parker, who announced his retirement this year after 40 years at the helm of the men's ice hockey team, is not trying to be Jack Parker: it's learning to be you.

That's the insight Parker (SMG'68, Hon.'97) passed to John Hynes, who played for him 20 years ago and now coaches the farm team of the National Hockey League's Pittsburgh Penguins.

"You have to coach to your personality," says Hynes (SED'97). "At BU, you were going to be coached aggressively. You were going to have to be able to handle Coach Parker's intensity. He recruited players who would respond to that type of personality."

Parker announced his retirement on March 11. His final season ended on March 23, when the Terriers lost the Hockey East Championship to the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He will remain at BU as a special assistant to President Robert A. Brown for the Campaign for Boston University, the University's first comprehensive fundraising campaign.



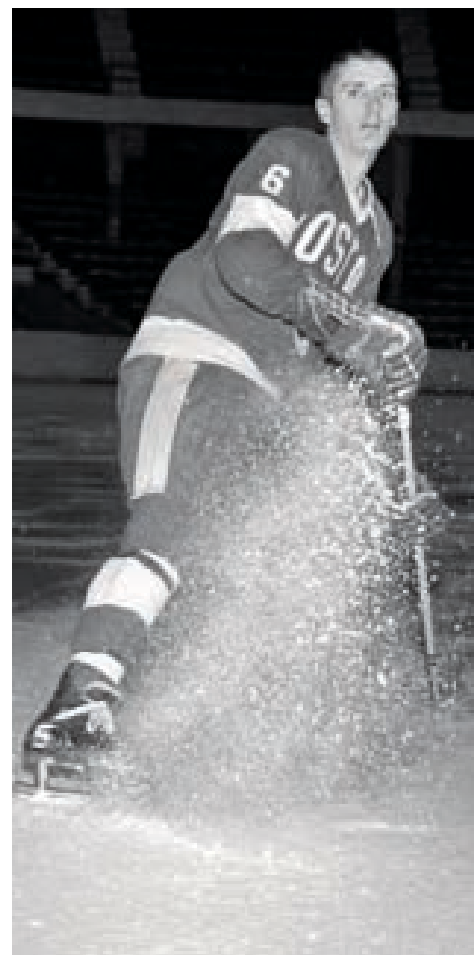
BU PHOTOGRAPHY



VERNON DOUCETTE



VERNON DOUCETTE



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT:

- Jack Parker (second from right) and assistant coaches John Danby (SED'72,'79) (from left), Brian Durocher (SED'78), and Peter Brown (SED'76) in 1980.
- Parker announces his retirement after 40 years as men's ice hockey head coach at a press conference in March.
- Parker skating for the Terriers in 1967.
- Parker and players during a 2011 team practice.

“Forty years is a long time to be at the same institution in the same job,” says Parker. “I think I’m a little long in the tooth. I haven’t lost a step, but I don’t want to lose a step.”

He says that he probably would have retired at the end of the 2011–2012 season, but stayed on after two of his players were arrested on sexual assault charges in separate incidents. “I wanted to see the team through the task force” appointed by Brown to investigate the team’s cul-

ture, he says.

Last fall, the task force report faulted what it called a culture of sexual entitlement among players and lax oversight.

The court case against one accused player was dropped, while the second pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

Parker’s career wins total 897, but his legacy is greater than the tally of his triumphs. It includes seeding the ranks of professional and college hockey with about 40 coaches, assistant coaches, and officials who once skated for him as Terriers.

David Quinn (CAS’89), one of the most highly regarded of Parker’s coaching progeny, takes over as the University’s head coach next season. Quinn has been a coach at BU, Northeastern, and the University of Nebraska Omaha, and has coached the US National

Under-17 team, the American Hockey League’s Lake Erie Monsters, and the NHL’s Colorado Avalanche.

Quinn, who was one of Parker’s assistant coaches during the 2008–2009 season, which culminated in a national title for the team, says he realized during that apprenticeship how much his coaching philosophy relied on Parker’s, particularly his demand for accountability from his players.

Many who played for Parker echo that sentiment, saying he branded their lives and careers with lessons learned on the bench and on the ice. One of those lessons—surprising from a coach who wasn’t shy about combating referees he disagreed with—was, don’t be seduced by your own wins record.

Kenny Rausch (SMG’95), manager of youth ice hockey for USA Hockey, the sport’s national governing body, borrowed two of Parker’s patented phrases when he coached boys’ hockey camps and US teams at the Junior World Cup: “Those who play well will be rewarded with further play” and “This is a simple game complicated by many.” Such phrases were among the tools Parker used to gain “complete control of the bench when he coached, and I try to do the same,” says Rausch. “Other than my father, he is the man who has had the greatest influence on my life. He gave me a chance as a walk-on and also gave me my first coaching job. I would not be in the position I am today without him.” **RB**

LONDON RATERS:

BU Among the World’s Best *Survey cites medical and science education*

BU IS THE toast of the Thames—and apparently quite a few other spots around the world.

Times Higher Education magazine, formerly part of the *Times of London*, puts the University 54th in its latest rankings of what the raters call the planet’s 400 top universities. The *Times* World University Rankings rely heavily on international research citations and the opinions of global scholars. BU held the same spot in last year’s survey and is up five notches from two years ago.

In the current survey, the University is the 32nd highest ranked American school. In clinical medical education, BU ranked 29th among the world’s top 50 such schools, 40th among life science schools, and 48th for physical sciences.

In the magazine’s World Reputation Rankings, a separate compilation determined by a different methodology, BU placed among schools in the numbers 81-to-90 bracket. (Only the top 50 schools get individual rankings for reputation; the rest are grouped together in brackets because their scores on the survey are close together.) The University’s standing is up from the previous year’s 91-to-100 bracket.

On the World University Rankings, BU ran ahead of such local peers as Tufts (87th), Boston College (150th), and Northeastern (listed in the 201-to-225 bracket).

The magazine says the World University Rankings are based on 13 criteria, the “flagship” of which is the number of times a faculty’s research is cited by international scholars. Among the other yardsticks: the amount of research funding received, including from industry, the number of scholarly papers published, the numbers of students and faculty from abroad, the amount of international research collaboration and a university’s research reputation among peers, and its teaching reputation as measured by a global poll of scholars. Institutions provide some of the data to the raters.

The World Reputation Rankings, meanwhile, are derived from a global questionnaire of more than 16,000 “experienced, published scholars, who offer their views on excellence in research and teaching within their disciplines and at institutions with which they are familiar,” according to the magazine. **RB**



WEB EXTRA

Watch a slideshow of photos spanning the career of BU hockey icon Jack Parker (SMG’68, Hon.’97) at bu.edu/bostonia.