

# Graeme Ryder

Whoever said great players don't make great coaches has obviously never met École Sir John Franklin grad Graeme Ryder. Not only is Graeme one of the best basketball players to ever come out of the NWT, he is also an impressive coach who is on the rise in the Canadian basketball world.

Graeme, who attended École Sir John Franklin High School from 2001 to 2004, was a standout on the court during high school and was a major reason why Sir John was so successful during his tenure. Graeme's talents did not go unnoticed territorially, as he was selected to represent the Northwest Territories in several major national events including the 1999 Canada Summer Games and the Arctic Winter Games in 2002 and 2004.

Following high school, Graeme attended Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) where he starred for the men's basketball team, the Wolves, from 2005 to 2009. In three of those seasons, Graeme was the starting point guard and team captain. On the court, Graeme was a strong leader and a deft playmaker, evidenced by him leading the ACAC North Division in assists per game during one of his seasons at GPRC.

Graeme would return to his alma mater in 2012 as an assistant coach for Wolves women's basketball team. He would hold this position for three seasons. Following the 2014/15 season, Graeme was promoted to be the head coach for the Wolves women's team for the 2015/16 season. During that season, Graeme led the Wolves to 14 and 10 regular season record and a post season appearance. His success as a head coach did not go unnoticed, and after only a single season



as head coach, he made the move to the Canadian U-Sports level as an assistant coach with the MacEwan University Griffins men's basketball team where he has been for the past three seasons.

Graeme's coaching has not been confined solely to the world of college and university athletics. He has also coached multiple Alberta Summer Games teams and several different Alberta provincial teams, including the U16 Girls Team that won gold at the 2014 Western Canadian Championships.

Despite now calling Alberta home, Graeme continues to come back to the North to assist in various basketball camps including Basketball NWT's 2016 Super Camp, which helped identify participants for the 2017 Canada Summer Games and the 2018 Empower Basketball Camp. These camps were designed to help young Northern basketball players develop skills on the court as well as teach them about mental health awareness, nutrition and sports psychology.