



MEET OUR COACHES

Coach Blake Stone

Blake Stone joined Raptors Youth Lacrosse in Spring 2024 and he is a RYL Board Member and 8U Head Coach. He played lacrosse growing up in Florida, where he was a 3-time All-State selection as an attackman (2002, 2003, 2004), and played for Team Florida in a national tournament hosted at Johns Hopkins University. Blake was recruited by Denison University in Ohio, where he played one season of lacrosse, followed by two seasons of rugby. Blake has two boys playing for RYL (Turner & Hudson) and he thoroughly enjoys spreading the love of lacrosse to Nashville area youth.

Coach Stuart Goss

Stuart Goss brings a lifelong passion for lacrosse and a wealth of experience to our program. He played collegiate lacrosse as a goalkeeper at Wheeling Jesuit University, where he earned recognition for leading NCAA Division II in save percentage during his collegiate career. Following college, he earned opportunities to compete at the professional level, receiving two professional tryouts.

In addition to his playing career, Stuart has coached at the collegiate level and is passionate about developing young athletes both on and off the field. Away from the field, Stuart is a Certified Financial Planner™ professional, husband, and father of four. As a parent, he understands the importance of building character, teamwork, and a love for the game. He currently coaches two of his own children and is committed to helping every player reach their full potential while fostering a positive team culture. Coach Stuart believes success isn't measured only by wins and losses, but by the confidence, work ethic, and lifelong lessons players take with them long after the final whistle.

Coach Tyler Nielsen

Tyler began playing lacrosse at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where he competed from 2004 to 2008 as a midfielder and faceoff specialist. In 2006, Augustana won its first GRLC

Division B championship and advanced to the MCLA Division II National Championship in Plano, Texas.

After moving to Des Moines in 2010 for graduate school, Tyler and a friend helped establish and coach a team made up of students from West Des Moines Valley High School and surrounding schools. Recognized at the time as Iowa's first high school lacrosse team, the program competed in the Nebraska high school league for four years and helped lay the groundwork for the eventual formation of an independent Iowa high school lacrosse league.

Tyler became involved with the Raptors through his two children, who have participated in the youth program. He enjoys giving back to the sport and helping young players develop their skills, confidence, teamwork, and love of lacrosse.