

## **ERIC PERARDI**

Original Hometown: Pekin, Illinois

CEP Certification Level: 3

Highest level played and team name: Division I R.P.I. ECAC and Pro Beach Roller Hockey

Number of years playing: 38+

Number of years coaching: 5+

Most recent team coached: 2015-2016 Texas Jr. Stars Squirt Minors

Personal statement: Hockey has been a part of my life since I was 5 years old. At 16 years old I went to Culver Military Academy in Indiana to play hockey for my junior and senior year. At CMA we won two state championships and numerous tournaments in the US and Europe. I made the decision to play Junior A hockey after high school to pursue my dream of playing Division 1, one year in Indiana and a year in the USHL for the Des Moines Buccaneers. That year I received five Division I offers and chose RPI as my school of choice. I had a great four-year career playing at RPI winning MVP in the Christmas tournament and playing in four ECAC Final Four tournaments, winning the ECAC Championship in 1995. Our 1994 and 1995 teams both played in the NCAA tournament, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in 1995. In 1997 I came out of retirement and played in The Pro Beach Hockey league in California broadcasted on ESPN and we won the league Championship. The game has taught me more about integrity, hard work, teamwork and life than any other profession or education I have ever received. To quote the great Herb Brooks, "Hard work will beat talent if talent doesn't work hard!" I know that the great coaches I had growing up helped shape me to an elite education, a great career, and the overall man, coach and father I am today. I look forward to bringing these qualities and commitment I have had over my life and career to your children and our team. I am truly honored to be named the head coach of the Squirt Major team this year, and look forward to taking our program to the next level. I think we are in for an exciting time in Austin Hockey. Thank you for entrusting us to bring the love of hockey to your children.