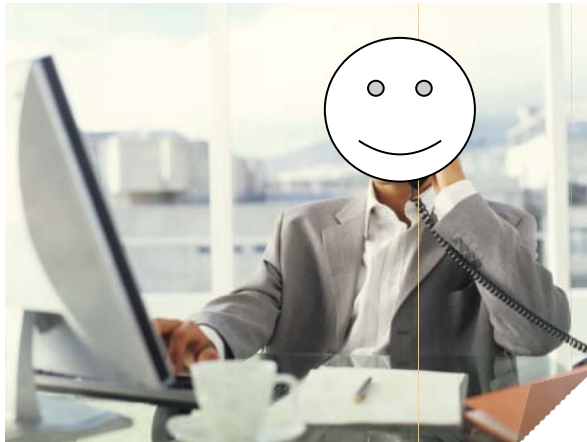


## TOP NINE GMs IN THE SCHL

Preface: I didn't get this edited by Cam, as I thought I would make it a surprise for him. So excuse the grammar and spelling errors.

This will piss people off I'm sure, but what the hell. This list details who I think are the top nine GMs in the SCHL. The reason I picked the top nine was because I would rank myself first, as anyone would, and there's no point in writing up a blurb on myself. Also, by keeping it to the top nine meant the less GMs I would piss off.

This list is how I feel the GMs shake out as of today, as opposed to just looking at their past track record. The better GMs know what it takes to win, what player values are, will know the game, and will know the ins and outs of the SCHL. I find a lot of guys are just out of touch with the SCHL, not that they don't follow it, but don't know what is what..etc.



So what are the qualities of a great GM? I've used four different categories to rank GMs:

- 1) Drafting Ability: The ability of the GM on draft day to pick those snipes. Some GMs are only good when given the 1<sup>st</sup> overall pick, some can find those gems anywhere in the draft and some can't do either.
- 2) Trading Skill: Two parts to this. One, is a GM willing to make the move to get better and two, is a GM good at trading. Some GMs are terrible at trading, or don't use their trade block, or accept the first offer that comes their way. Do GMs know the SCHL Golden rule? **Quality >> Quantity.**
- 3) Hockey Knowledge: This is pretty straight forward. Does the GM know their hockey, do they watch hockey, or do they rely solely on mags and other people's opinions.
- 4) SCHL Knowledge: Again, pretty straight forward. Does the GM know the SCHL, do they know what it takes to win, player values, or are they just floating around without a clue?

I've left Steve Dedrick and Derek Day off the list. I cannot opine on Steve at this point in his SCHL career and if I were to add Derek to the list, I'd be talking to myself as he hasn't been around long enough in the SCHL.

So without further adieu I give you my top 9 SCHL GMs...on the following page:

9) CAMERON MACKINNON (70%)



Snipers Cups: 0  
 Wayne Gretzky Awards: 0  
 Prime Minister Awards: 0  
 Division Crowns: 0  
 Earnings: \$152.67  
 Best SCHL Moment:

Last year's third place showing in the Wayne Gretzky race. Much of last season was dominated by the Jawas, so a season where they finally score some dough is a plus.

**Comments:** The Jawas have a team GMs around the SCHL can only dream about. So why the low ranking? Well the Jawas recent success is just that: recent! They've got zero hardware in their cupboard after a decade. They spent the better part of 10 years building, with five straight DNOs and oodles of first round selections. With the team they've built, they're poised to stay on top for a while. However, Cam's track record of spotty trades and constant building could hold this team back from really dominating. Does Cam have the ca-hoonas to cannibalize his future for an SCHL crown?

**Major Strength:** Cam's major strength is his drafting ability and patience for waiting on young top end talent. He knows what it takes to build a great core through the draft. Much of the Jawas assets have been farmed from scratch.

**Major Weakness:** Trading. Cam isn't a bad trader per se, but the timing of his deals is makes me scratch my head. For example this year he is protecting Ron Hainsey, along with 11 great players, but he did own the 3<sup>rd</sup> overall pick, which could have been another monster in the making. Getting that 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, was a thing of beauty as he auctioned of Nagy to the Horses. However, not selecting 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and taking more upgrades while moving down in the draft, the Jawas have just diluted their position and will now draft something of no consequence. This is similar to the Satan/5<sup>th</sup> overall deal in 2006. Again, quality over quantity.

8) CHRIS ROY (70%)



Snipers Cups: 0  
 Wayne Gretzky Awards: 0  
 Prime Minister Awards: 0  
 Division Crowns: 2  
 Earnings: \$300  
 Best SCHL Moment:

Finishing last place in the inaugural season to nearly capturing the Wayne Gretzky Award in season two. The crown seemed to be his, but a late season surge by Bure gave the Bullets the win.

**Comments:** Tarpan is a founding member having helped create the SCHL from day 1. The Horses are better known for their league administration than for their SCHL team. The Horses in recent years have

been nothing more than fodder having bounced around the SCHL from a team going for it, to a team rebuilding. Now it seems they are rebuilding, but like Prospal, their team shoots up from year to the next. Twice they've finished last while finishing in the top 5 in points in the following season and twice they've won the Most Improved Award.

**Major Strength:** No question Tarpan's major GM strength is his SCHL knowledge. He's well aware of what it takes to field a competitive team and is very cognizant of the ups and downs of the SCHL. Chris is not one to be blindsided by any rule change and is one the first guys to pounce. That's probably part of the reason he's always in the discussion regarding rule changes.

**Major Weakness:** Drafting. The Horses pipeline has dried up in recent years because of Tarpan's inability to draft home grown talent. The jury is still out on a few of the players selected in the 2007 draft, but prior to that Chris had not drafted a core player since Shea Weber in 2005. With two first round picks in the 2008 draft, the Horses had better hit the books in hope to curb this streak of duds.

## 7) RYAN PAIK (72%)



Snipers Cups: 0  
 Wayne Gretzky Awards: 0  
 Prime Minister Awards: 1  
 Division Crowns: 3  
 Earnings: \$197  
 Best SCHL Moment:

Capturing the Prime Ministers Award in 2000, while finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in points. The year was capped off by the Gryphons getting demolished in the finals by the Heartbreakers.

**Comments:** For much of the first six seasons the Gryphons were a mediocre lot, with one abnormal year in 1999-2000, where they won the PM award. The Gryphons never traded and just plotted along hoping to get better via the draft. In recent years, however, the Gryphons have elevated their team to top tier status and it's all flanked on their drafting. In the past two seasons the Gryphons have flirted with the Wayne Gretzky Award. Last year, injuries struck leaving them in 5<sup>th</sup> place after leading for a majority of the season.

**Major Strength:** Duh! Their drafting ability. In the past six years the Gryphons have drafted the likes of Semin, Prospal, Vokoun, Vanek, Ribeiro, Koivu, Boyes, and Stastny. Their 2007 top pick Giroux is still in the making. Granted some of those players are now on other teams, it still goes to show you how Ryan drafts. Being a top team, with just 20 trades in 10 years = a good drafter and arguably the best in the SCHL. They've also bagged two Snipes of the Draft awards along the way.

**Major Weakness:** This could be too early to tell, but I think Ryan's biggest down fall is his inability to make the moves to win it all. In the past three seasons the Gryphons have finished no lower than 5<sup>th</sup> place in the WG race, but haven't got the job done. Two big deals backfired on them and now they're gun shy and have retreated back into their cave. Ryan will once again have to face the 'stay put or go for it' decision this

season. They're poised to have another strong campaign, but do they have balls to move some of those younger valuable assets to make a run or will they wind up 5<sup>th</sup> place again, with their 2009 1<sup>st</sup> rounder untouched?

## 6) TONY ROY (75%)



Snipers Cups: 4  
Wayne Gretzky Awards: 1  
Prime Minister Awards: 0  
Division Crowns: 3  
Earnings: \$2,400  
Best SCHL Moment:

The Heartbreakers returning to glory in 2002 for their third championship. Most of us thought their best days were behind them, yet he managed to crank out another win. Definitely his most exciting win.

**Comments:** It's tough to rank one of the best teams ever this low on the ranking, but sixth is still good nonetheless. Tony Roy has proven over the years he's able to spot talent throughout the drafts with snipes such as Robert Lang, Dan Boyle and Daniel Briere. Although in recent years he's taken a beating in the drafts. In fact, in 2006, Tony didn't draft one player. This is partially due to Tony not being available for drafts in person and that has shown.

Recently, the Heartbreakers have come across some hard times after many years of success. Many of their former stars retired or just became old and redundant and the lack of farming has caught up with them. The Heartbreakers have made some monster trades in the past year or so, acquiring Ollie Jokinen, Zach Parise and Giguere. Tony has turned the ship around and the Heartbreakers are once again a tough team to play against.

**Major Strength:** Tony is by far the best at knowing what it takes to win. During his reign at the top of the SCHL, Tony traded anything and everything to win it all. If your team comes down to the wire against the Heartbreakers you better be prepared to mortgage the future to beat him.

**Major Weakness:** Lack of patience. Tony loves his vets and hates to farm. This could stem from the perception he is unable to farm out a prospect, but I don't think he knows one way or another...as he's never waited long enough to see one play out. The recent upswing for the Heartbreakers has come at the expense of their future draft picks.

## 5) RYAN HESKETH (78%)



Snipers Cups: 0  
 Wayne Gretzky Awards: 0  
 Prime Minister Awards: 0  
 Division Crowns: 0  
 Earnings: \$0  
 Best SCHL Moment:

Stealing Cammalleri from the Regime, sending that franchise back a year in the development process.

**Comments:** Frank has taken the SCHL by storm in the short time he has been a member. He's cranked off over 30 trades (15 per season) and his pace is near double to that of Tarpan, the SCHL's current trade leader. During the two years Heske had transformed the Goldminers from nothing into a team that is a serious contender for the Bronze Division.

**Major Strength:** Frank, isn't called 'Frank' for nothing, his strength lies in his knowledge of the SCHL and the leg work required to build a great team. Heske knows the ins and outs like a pro in only two years of being a member. There are other seasoned GMs left scratching their heads, while Frank is cruising by making moves they can't understand. Heske knows the game (the SCHL) and player values and tries to pound away to create value....but really, he's good with the math!

**Major Weakness:** What Heske makes up for in leg work, he lacks in hockey knowledge. Having not been around the game as long as others, Heske isn't a seasoned hockey fan. He relies heavily on others' opinions and stats. Sometimes there's more to tell than the boxscore. The good news, this will come with time and really it's only a hockey pool, so numbers are paramount.

## 4) GRIFFIN MITCHELL (79%)



Snipers Cups: 0  
 Wayne Gretzky Awards: 0  
 Prime Minister Awards: 0  
 Division Crowns: 1  
 Earnings: \$305.34  
 Best SCHL Moment:

With the paint still wet on the new logo, the Vanguard in 2007-2008 made it all the way to the finals before losing to the Bullets. They became the lowest ranked team to make the finals in SCHL history.

**Comments:** Griff took over a weak Road Runners team in 2000, so he did start out short handed compared to the rest of the SCHL, but it has been eight years since then and now this is his team. For much of the early part of his SCHL career, Griff was occupied with another league, for which he had a great team. I don't like to name drop on another league, but the tables have turned and now the Vanguard are the superior team and going forward I expect Griff to put all his efforts into winning the SCHL.

**Major Strength:** I'd say Griff excels most at SCHL & Hockey knowledge. He's a cagey vet who knows all

the ins and outs of the league. He's been around the SCHL for eight years and has made a great blend of trades, draft picks and moves to bring his team to the top. Griff is the kind of GM that can come to draft day unprepared and still come away a winner.

**Major Weakness:** Again, Griff is such a balanced GM it's hard to find a weakness in his game, but since we're here, I'd say trading is a soft spot. There have been a few deals Griff would like to have back or a few deals he may have rushed into. Sometimes the urge to get the deal done gets the best of us.

### 3) JON GROSSMAN (83%)



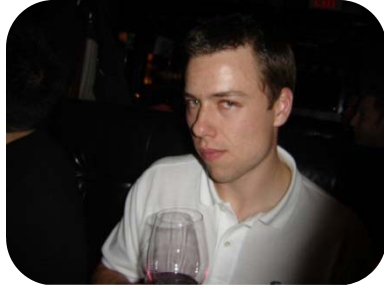
**Snipers Cups:** 1  
**Wayne Gretzky Awards:** 0  
**Prime Minister Awards:** 1  
**Division Crowns:** 2  
**Earnings:** \$1,566.03  
**Best SCHL Moment:**  
 Winning the 2004 Snipers Cup. No doubt about that.

**Comments:** The ever quiet, the ever stealth Flash, seen here in a mysterious stag photo no one heard about, are a staple in the SCHL, having racked up the winnings in the past number of years. In the past four seasons the Flash have finished no worse than 8<sup>th</sup> in the WG race and last year nearly won the WG. That wasn't always the case, however; their first five seasons were marred with DNOs and first round eliminations. It wasn't until the 2001 draft where the Flash acquired Kovalchuk and Nabokov and have never looked back.

**Major Strength:** The Flash make hay in the draft. They've drafted 11 of their 12 keepers. Over the past three drafts they've added Ryan Whitney, Derek Roy, Michalek, Duncan Keith, Filppula to their already stacked squad.

**Major Weakness:** The Flash suffer when it comes to trading and I don't mean he gets JR'd. The rarely seen GM would most likely have bagged a WG Crown by now, if they were a little more active in the overall SCHL. This is in terms of sniffin out deals, getting the most out of their drops, filling holes mid season and moving future assets to win.

## 2) LORNE WILSON (86%)



Snipers Cups:	1
Wayne Gretzky Awards:	1
Prime Minister Awards:	1
Division Crowns:	0
Earnings:	\$1,316.06
Best SCHL Moment:	Hoisting the 2008 Snipers Cup

**Comments:** What's there to say that hasn't been said in the past about this team? In you've been in a cave for the past two years, the Bullets burnt their team to the ground taking no prisoners. In the end they've ended up with arguably one of the most valuable teams and a ring. For many years prior to the monster rebuild, the Bullets plotted along, not trading just keeping the same ol, same ol. Once he shed the 'no trade' identity, the Bullets started to rise.

**Major Strength:** Think about what Lorne did...he took a reasonably good team and dismantled it at the right time and two years later won the cup...that's knowing your SCHL. His moves were controversial, bold and he took some clueless GMs to school gathering up high picks and getting coveted prospects. We can all bitch about it, but he did it and he's the defending champ.

**Major Weakness:** I would have said trading, had I cooked up this list two years ago, but like I said before, Lorne has dropped the self imposed no trading ban. So I've got to pick something, I'll say drafting. It's tough to find faults in the top end GMs, but the jury is still out on whether or not Lorne can build on his team without those super high picks. Prior to the tank regime, the Bullets hadn't drafted a player of any significance after the 2002 draft.

## 1) TANNER RATTRAY (92%)



Snipers Cups:	1
Wayne Gretzky Awards:	4
Prime Minister Awards:	3
Division Crowns:	4
Earnings:	\$3,514
Best SCHL Moment:	Finally hoisting the cup after the forth consecutive finals appearance in 2006.

**Comments:** Tanner loves tooting his own horn at any opportunity, so I'll keep this short. Ranking him tops on my list isn't hard. The Kilts have spent the better part of six years at the top of the SCHL, roping in four WG crowns and a Snipers Cup. It's hard to argue against that. How he's done it is controversial, but it still got done.

**Major Strength:** No question here, it's trading. If there's a sucker in the SCHL (there always is) Tanner will find it. We tease on Daryl, but there are others that are guilty of being seduced in by the loudest hype machine in the SCHL. Like the Leafs, Tanner makes sure the spot light is always on his players and other

GMs eventually start to think 'hey I've heard of him before, he must be good.' On top of that Tanner knows when to deal his assets. During his reign at the top he's went through, Palfy, Sakic, Jagr, Zetterberg..etc. He has no trouble making business decisions to better his team. Most GMs cannot divorce themselves from their players like Tanner can.

**Major Weakness:** Again, when you're ranking the highest on the list it's tough to come up with weaknesses, but there's gotta be one somewhere and I think it's his drafting. Tanner will note that he trades away his top picks, but other than that Gio snipe in 2005, the Kilts have come up pretty dry of late. But hell, he usually dumps off his table scraps to another team mid season for a gem.

There you have it, the top GMs in the league, at least in my opinion. But I don't want some GMs to go away empty handed, so here are comment or two on the rest of the GMs alphabetically.

## **BARRETT, RICK**

### What I like about his GMing:

Knows what it takes to build a core. Outside of the Iggy blunder, his record of drafting/trading is pretty good and before last year the Millionaires where a top team.

### What I don't like about his GMing:

Rick comes from the school of Kevin, he likes to complicate the situation by thinking it's nearly impossible to win without the perfect storm.

## **BELLAMY, NATHAN**

### What I like about his GMing:

Nathan likes to go for it and isn't the type to sit back and tank. He's slowly learning the SCHL ropes and in due time will have mastered it. It really isn't that hard to get good!

### What I don't like about his GMing:

Nathan needs to pick up his drafting ability. His record is subpar and he relies heavily on the mags for their advice. Also, Nathan will need to learn the game of hockey to better analyze value, so he's not left always asking for advice on the lesser known players in the game.

## **DAY, DEREK**

### What I like about his GMing:

Derek would have made this list had more history in the SCHL. But, as you will see, Derek knows what it takes to win and knows his hockey/SCHL. There are a few GMs that have that magic combo.

### What I don't like about his GMing:

This isn't what I don't like, it's more just a question, but without his gullible buddies around, can Derek survive?

## **DEDRICK, STEVE**

### What I like about his GMing:

Not enough time.

What I don't like about his GMing:

He needs to learn the SCHL and learn the NHL as it relates to the SCHL.

**DENROCHE, BRIAN**

What I like about his GMing:

Like Nathan, Brian loves to compete and will never tank. Also, Brian in the past has unearthed from real nuggets in the draft.

What I don't like about his GMing:

About those nuggets, can he hold on to them? Brian has had his lunch money stolen on a few occasions with dreams of winning it all. Once Brian realizes/d you can't build Rome in a day he'll be better off. On top of that, Brian needs a calculator to learn how math applies to the pool.

**DIAMANTAKOS, PETE**

What I like about his GMing:

In the short time, like Heske, Pete has learned the ins and outs of the SCHL. He also knows the NHL quite well.

What I don't like about his GMing:

He's had a hard time to date divorcing himself from his players and is always timid to deal. This has led to other teams trying to rip the Spartans GM off with low ball offers.

**FRANSON, ADAM**

What I like about his GMing:

Adam will always try to win and realizes building a good team isn't as hard as some make it out to be.

What I don't like about his GMing:

In addition to not being a good prospect farming, Adam's valuation of players of mind boggling at times. If you've ever got a trade offer from Adam, you know what I'm talking about.

**LEE, DAVID**

What I like about his GMing:

Davey Boy knows the league inside and out and he knows players valuation. Not many GMs have as good as a grasp as Dave does on how to blue print a successful team.

What I don't like about his GMing:

Easy here, trading. Dave is nearly impossible to trade with, which can be good as he'll never get ripped, but sometimes, even in the most relaxed talks, Dave is grinding for a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> upgrade. Those immaterial upgrades sometimes kill otherwise good deals.

**MA, KEVIN**

What I like about his GMing:



Similar to Mr. Lee, Kev knows the league inside and out and he knows players valuation.

What I don't like about his GMing:

Kevin willingness to rebuilding at the first sign of disaster. He's always convinced it takes more than he's got to have a good team and this signals some regrettable trades.

**MORAN, SEAN**

What I like about his GMing:

Sean knows his player's value and isn't the type to get JR'd.

What I don't like about his GMing:

Doesn't know the ins and outs of the SCHL, always confused about rules and the timing of his trades, he's in three different directions at once.

**SAMPSON, DARYL**

What I like about his GMing:

Daryl loves to build quickly and go for it. He's like Adam in the sense he's not convinced you need the perfect storm to win.

What I don't like about his GMing:

Player values. Daryl is out of touch in what players will garner in the trade market, this leaks over into his trading and drafting which is near the bottom of the SCHL.

**STEIER, ASHLEY**

What I like about his GMing:

Knows what it takes to win and knows the SCHL in and out. Sometimes simple is better. Plus he's really acquired some gems via trading and drafting in his time in the league.

What I don't like about his GMing:

Apathy. If he cared a bit more his team would be rocking.

For the SCHL, I'm Blake Johnston