

The Sport In Everything
Steve Nash, The Greatest Canadian. Ep.1

How has Steve Nash impacted Canada and why does he deserve the title of greatest Canadian, today's episode, host Noah Louie will take you through the life of Steve Nash, from how he trained as a kid to his success in the professional leagues, and even his role in basketball after he retired. We are also joined with guest interview from Martin Nash.

Noah:

“People can be great at sports, but does that make them great people? Today we are going to be talking all about this and more on the Sport in Everything hosted by me, Noah Louie and as you know on this podcast we look at things through an athletic point of view. I am very excited to kick off this podcast series with this episode about why I believe Steve Nash is the greatest Canadian from an athletic point of view. Now if you don't believe me well I am here to try and change your mind with some evidence I have laid out, with that lets begin”.

Synths, transition into fast beat and plays whistle sound synth
Cross fade

Kids in school
Hit hot

Noah: As child Nash excelled in sports, his family played a wide variety such as hockey, soccer, baseball, rugby. He went from elementary school to doing very well in high school sports as well,

Noah: I know it would be hard to try and convince you unless I had some solid evidence so I asked Martin Nash who is a Canadian soccer player, coach and former Vancouver white Caps member. Now if you couldn't connect the dots, Martin is Steve Nash's brother and has an incredible insight into what Steve was like growing up and also what he was like on and off the

court. Martin was so generous as to help me out with this podcast so I present to you an inside look on Steve Nash's life.

Noah: How active was your family in sport, how did I kind of go?

Martin Nash: ah yeah from a very young age we were engaged in sport our dad was a semi-professional soccer player so from a very young age we were interested in sport we were always playing soccer, but when we got to about five or six, our parents being new to Canada gave us chances to play in a variety of different sports, we played soccer hockey, baseball, golf tennis, we kinda of tried everything we were just those type of kids who were always active we just had so much energy, and were just always out playing, we didn't stay in the house much, so we were very involved in sports,

Noah: I see and were there any sports beside soccer that you were particularly interested in?

Martin Nash: I think the other one at the time was hockey and the we both developed into serious baseball players for a time until 12, well maybe between 10 and 14 we were very into baseball, it was kind of seasonal, whatever the sport of the season was we just jumped right in and we were playing it in our spare time, and just got right into it.

Noah: Do you think overall he was able to impact you or vice-versa?:

Martin Nash: Yeah I think so, we were two years apart in age but one year apart in school, so I would, when I was young I would always play up on his team, we had one car so I always played a year up, so we were always competing at practice and when we got home it didn't stop, we would be out and whatever sport of the season, we would be out playing one-on-one practicing hitting or shooting or whatever the sport of the season is, so we were always competing against each other, and we always pushed each other to strive in a good way, and obviously the odd time it would end up in a little bit of a scrap but no I think we definitely pushed each other and it was always good to lean on someone who was heading in the same direction as you were.

old upbeat music.

Fade

Noah: After a successful high school career Nash moved on to university, in 1992 Nash earned a scholarship to Santa Clara university, even though he had been turned down by about 30 university's before that. He immediately had a huge presence on the court and we could see the impact he had in his very first year as he helped them make it to the NCAA tournament and even beat the fifth place Arizona Wildcats. This would not be his only win however in the four years he was there he helped the Broncos make it to the NCAA tournament 3/4 years. In the end he graduated with a degree in sociology in 1996.

Noah: In that very same year he would be going pro as he would be playing for the Phoenix suns, however he wasn't as welcomed as he thought he would, the fans didn't know him well, so their reaction was rather negative in the beginning. Along with that his position had already been taken by players like Sam Cassell, Kevin Johnston, and Jason Kidd, who were more established and known better with the fans. He would only end up playing 10 minutes in the end, image that being 22 and going into your very first year of professional basketball only to realize your position had been taken, wouldn't that be devastating, it would for me at least, not for Nash.

Noah: This season he would only start about 2 games but despite that he continued to grow and by his second season he was even 13th in the league for three point average. Pretty good for a player who was only able to play 10 minutes per game.

Martin Nash: *Yeah I think his biggest thing through his career was that once he got a grip of any sport he got completely obsessed, and basketball obviously was the best of that, he was complete obsessed. I remember when he was young in soccer his was so obsessed with getting his left foot better that if you watched him how you would think he is left footed to his day because he worked so hard. He had that same obsession when he got it in his head that he would make it in basketball he became so obsessed with every little thing he could do to make himself better, I remember in gr.9 we had a 15 minute walk to school we would dribble the basketball to and from school, you know any little thing he could do to, any little edge he could get, he said a quote once when he was in the NBA, " if everyone worked as hard as I did then I wouldn't have a job" he wasn't the most talented but he worked harder than everyone else and that's how he got to where he is today.*

fast beat with deep base

Fade

Noah: He would only further develop when in 1998 he was traded to the Dallas Mavericks, this is where he found his real positive environment, in his first year he started 40/40 games unlike on the suns where he only started 2 which is kinda of an incredible difference. His game started to get so much better and his point average went up to 8 points per game with 3 rebounds and 5 assists. He even was able to help his team make it to the final for the first time since 1980. From here it was pretty obvious that not only did he improve tremendously but he was also making quite a big impact on the Mavericks as well, he was the type of player who was able to change games with his skill alone, as shown in his example, and he was the type of player who could develop his skill quite quickly and build off of the positive environment which was crucial in order to be a successful athlete.

Noah: After a successful run with Dallas he was then traded back to the suns, which felt like redemption as he was able to prove himself, the suns had suffered quite a bad loss in the last season with only 29 wins and 53 losses, and they were prepared to have a similar season. Their head coach Mike D'antoni like it when his team could out shoot and out run the other team which was exactly Steve Nash's style. When he joined the suns he was able to claim 62 wins and 20 losses in that season, this had been an NBA all time record and hadn't been done in over a decade, they were also able to score 110 points in an average game which was also something that had not been accomplished. At the turning point of the season of course was Steve Nash, who had an average 14.5 per game with an additional 50% from the field and 43% from on his three pointers. We can obviously see how much of an impact his player had on his team, literally taking a team from a terrible season and turning it into an NBA history record. So is there any other Canadian athlete who could do something like this, take a season and make it into something maybe it wouldn't be without it.

Noah: After feeling a little redemption after going back to the suns and making such a huge impact, in 2012 Nash went to the Lakers, as it was the best fit for his family, however Steve Nash had some concerns with his back, he also decided to change his number from 13 as it was already retired for Walt Chamberlain, so he changed his number to 10, in the 2012-2013 season he received a fracture to his leg which was quite major, and with concerns to his back and a fracture to his leg, his point average dropped to 12.5 and things weren't looking so good

for Nash. However he was still able to achieve a NBA history record as he was the 5th person ever to reach 10,000 assists in a career, which was an incredible achievement.

Noah: On March 25 2015 he announced that he was going into retirement, because of the concerns with his back and leg, just because he couldn't play it didn't mean he wasn't going to give back to the game, on September 25 it was confirmed he would be part time consulting for the Golden State Warriors, with Nash guiding them they achieved a record breaking, 73 win 9 loss season and in the next season with the Warriors they would end up winning the 2017 NBA championship title against the Cleveland Cavaliers, it would also be Steve Nash's first NBA title with any team, in addition he was also inducted into the hall of fame along with some former teammates.

Noah: In 2020 it was announced that he would be the head coach of the Brooklyn Nets, and so he continues to nurture the next generation of athletes.

Noah: Does your or your brothers success impact your coaching ?

Martin Nash: *I think the way we approach sport, we weren't the most athletic so we really had to find every little way we could to take advantage of the game and so I think we both read the game very well and so we see things that maybe other athletes who rely on skill could've seen, so I think that definitely helped our coaching, to this day we have had a lot of conversations about coaching stepping into that side more and how to approach things and making sure people are getting along, so y'a I think it is really growing now how we can help each other as coaches. I think as players we were also coaches on the floor, in the way we approached the game, the interest we took and the game as we were playing.*

Lighter music

Fade

Noah: We have talked a lot about his career but there are some achievements we have to mention as well. So far he is the only Canadian to ever receive the MVP award back to back, he is also the third person ever to join the 50-40-90 club, he has been an 8 time NBA all star, he has even been inducted into the order of Canada which is the highest Honor a Canadian can receive.

Noah: Was he able to change the game at all because of his obsession?"

Martin Nash: *I think so because of how well he did and I think the way he carried himself as a person I think he kinda exemplifies Canadian Values the way he carries himself which is very important, he really endeared himself to Canadian people I think he really opened peoples eyes to being an option to Canadian kids and now you see a steady stream of Canadian athletes in the NBA.*

Light music

Fade

Noah: To recap, in order to prove to you that Steve Nash is the greatest I have presented you with evidence from his career, he was able to change team just by joining them and even giving advice was able to make a team's chances at winning a whole bunch better, he is an inspiration to all Canadians and a great example to go by, we also had some achievements no other Canadian could ever match and he continues to give back through charity, he provides

opportunities for all people in Canada to continue playing basketball or even get engaged in sport.

Noah: So to conclude based on the evidence I have presented you, we can all see that Steve Nash was not only a great athlete but an amazing guy as well, and that is why he deserves the title of greatest Canadian from an athletic point of view.

Noah: He set a really good example do you think he is someone Canadians can look up to?

Martin Nash: *I think so he had the Canadian core values he is not one you would see around vandals he holds himself very well for how hard he has worked it doesn't matter if you are into sport I think he is an example of if you work hard enough for it you can achieve anything.*

Noah: He has reached limits in which no other Canadian athlete has matched, he has created opportunities for the next generation of Canadian Basketball players and he has become a source of inspiration for Canadian athletes alike. "With that we come to the end of this episode of The Sport in Everything, tune in next time for an episode on WW2" "we hope you enjoyed what you heard and if you did consider subscribing, its one click and you can change your mind any time" ([intro music plays again](#))