



Jim Kyte

Jim Kyte, the first round draft pick of the Winnipeg Jets in 1982, enjoyed a 13 seasons in the National Hockey League with Winnipeg, Pittsburgh, Calgary, Ottawa and San Jose.

The Ottawa native is the first legally deaf player to ever play in the NHL. All the boys in the Kyte family were hard of hearing and the Ottawa school board where they attended school wanted to send the Kyte boys to the Ontario School for the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (now Sir James Whitney School) but Jim's mother Gayle would have no part of it. She fought the school board and ensured that her children would be integrated in the regular school system. All the boys had to sit in the front row of the classroom and as long as they performed well academically, they were allowed to continue. As a result of her tenacious advocacy, all the Kyte boys are perfect oral communicators today.

Jim was twice nominated for the NHL's Masterton Trophy. A tough physical defenseman, Kyte has been awarded many honours for his community service and was nominated for the NHL's King Clancy Award while playing for the Jets.

After sustaining a career-ending injury in an auto accident, Kyte retired in the summer of 1998 and is now an active member of the Ottawa Senators Alumni.

Jim spearheaded the new Graduate Certificate in Sport Business Management program at Ottawa's Algonquin College which focuses strictly on the business of sport – the only program of its kind in Canada.

In addition to public speaking, Jim is a frequent commentator on issues within the realm of hockey in the media and through his "Point Man" column in the Saturday edition of the Ottawa Citizen during the National Hockey League season.