

CATCHING UP WITH JIRI TLUSTY

GAVIN: WHAT HAS BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY SINCE YOUR HAND INJURY CAUSED YOU TO RETIRE IN 2016-17?

Jiri: I moved back to the Czech Republic and live in Prague full-time. I recently partnered with a friend and we started a supplement company, [Maxim Pharm](#). The products are distributed under the brand name *fit4you*. The company is progressing well in Czech and Slovakia and we will shortly have distribution in other Eastern European countries and potentially China. I am enjoying it and it has been a lot of fun learning the different aspects of running a business and finding new ways to grow it. I also own several apartments in Czech that are investment properties. Czech house prices are rising strongly as demand continues to exceed supply. So, these rental units have been an exciting investment for me. Going forward, we are expecting our first child in September, so I am sure that will take a lot of my time.

GAVIN: LOOKING BACK, WHAT FINANCIAL ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A YOUNGER JIRI TLUSTY?

Jiri: I made some mistakes, but they are ones I can live with. One thing that I am happy about is that I kept things simple. I never bought a house while playing in North America. Investing in real estate in Czech made more sense for me because I knew I would return home. During my career, I lived in many cities and eventually my time in the NHL ended abruptly. Owning a home would have complicated the transition from city-to-city and team-to-team.



JIRI TLUSTY SOURCE: @JIRITLUSTY11

GAVIN: ARE YOU STILL INVOLVED IN HOCKEY AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

Jiri: I am still involved in hockey in the Czech Republic. As a result of my injury I am unable to play, but I was asked to become involved in the Czech Extraliga television broadcasts. I provided colour commentary for about 30 games last season and I was quite busy during the playoffs. I enjoy it because it keeps me engaged in the game. I love joking around with the guys in the league, especially the players who were former teammates. I was kind of surprised with how challenging it is to be thoughtful and analytical when you are on-air. It requires a lot of preparation and focus throughout the game. It is a lot more difficult than a typical post-game interview!

GAVIN: DO YOU MISS THE FEELING OF HEADING INTO A NEW HOCKEY SEASON?

Jiri: Of course. The start of a season brings excitement. It was always tough to leave home in August or September and travel to North America for training camp. But as soon as I got on the plane, I would become eager because it signaled that the hockey season was approaching. And, I loved playing hockey and being with my teammates. At the end of the day, injuries happen, and I am very grateful to have played in NHL and for the opportunities it provided for me and my family.