

# Jeremy Richardson

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Jeremy Derek Richardson was born to parents Robin and Mitch on July 1, 1982 at the Sturgeon General Hospital in St. Albert, Alberta. As the first grandchild, he was welcomed with overwhelming love and affection. Jeremy showed signs of unique athletic ability and focus from a very early age.

He was swimming competitively by the age of five and was involved in many team and individual sports. As he grew, so did his love for sports, especially hockey and lacrosse. Jeremy was an elite athlete whose talent was accentuated by his passion and determination.

His leadership and charisma were looked up to by friends and family, especially his brother, Lee and sister, Jordie.

Following graduation from high school in 2000, Jeremy chose to continue pursuing his hockey dreams. Jeremy played Alberta Junior Hockey and Junior A Lacrosse until he accepted a hockey scholarship to the University of Findlay in Ohio, where he planned to study international business.

In August of 2003, before entering university, Jeremy was diagnosed with stage 3 malignant melanoma (skin cancer). He underwent multiple surgeries and treatments and after exhausting the available options in Edmonton, he flew to the US where he was involved in numerous clinical trials. Jeremy's battle with cancer was truly inspirational; his grace and courage amazed everyone around him. Jeremy fought cancer like he played hockey – with his whole heart.

The happiest day of Jeremy's life was September 3, 2005, when he married the love of his life, Gillian Rauw. He walked proudly down the aisle as his family and friends looked on. The smile never left his face. The next week he traveled again to the US where he underwent his final surgery.

Jeremy passed away on November 5, 2005 surrounded by his family. Following his passing, Gillian became passionate about skin cancer and awareness. She developed an interdisciplinary program to promote sun safety awareness. The Canadian Skin Cancer Foundation has been using the presentations in Edmonton schools since 2006.

- the Richardson Family