

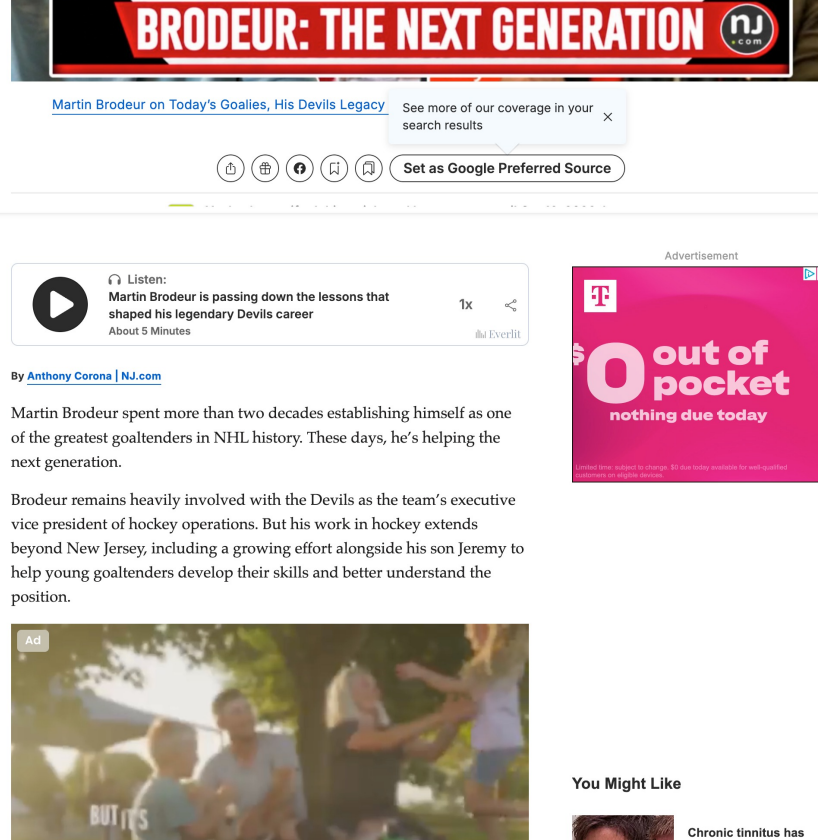
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DEVILS

Martin Brodeur is passing down the lessons that shaped his legendary Devils career

Published: Oct. 16, 2024, 4:58 a.m.

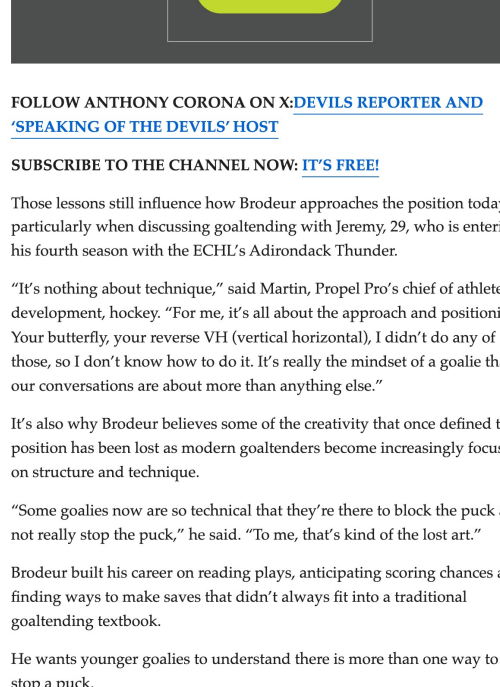


Martin Brodeur on Today's Devils, His Devils Legacy See more of our coverage in your search results

By Anthony Corona | NJ.com

Martin Brodeur spent more than two decades establishing himself as one of the greatest goaltenders in NHL history. These days, he's helping the next generation.

Brodeur remains heavily involved with the Devils as the team's executive vice president of hockey operations. But his work in hockey extends beyond New Jersey, including a growing effort alongside his son Jeremy to help young goaltenders develop their skills and better understand the position.



Through the *Brodeur Academy* and *Propel Pro*, an online coaching platform, the father and son are sharing lessons learned from their experiences in professional hockey.

For Martin, much of that knowledge can be traced back to one person: Jacques Caron, Brodeur's longtime goaltending coach with the Devils. Caron worked with him from the early stages of his NHL career through much of his remarkable run in New Jersey, where he won 691 games and posted a 2.24 goals-against and .912 save percentage in his career.

"He didn't try to change the way I played the game," Brodeur told NJ.com in a recent conversation. "He just really helped me focus and get to a point that every day I want to win and know exactly how I was going to feel."

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Those lessons still influence how Brodeur approaches the position today. Particularly when discussing goaltending with Jeremy, 29, who is entering his fourth season with the ECHL's Adirondack Thunder.

"It's nothing about technique," said Martin. Propel Pro's chief of athletic development, hockey "For me, it's all about the approach and positioning. Your butterfly, your reverse VH (vertical horizontal). I didn't do any of those, so I don't know how to do it. It's really the mindset of a goalie that our conversations are about more than anything else."

It's also why Brodeur believes some of the mentality that once defined the position has been lost as modern goaltenders become increasingly focused on structure and technique.

"Some goalies now are so technical that they're there to block the puck and not really stop the puck," he said. "To me, that's kind of the lost art."

Brodeur built his career on reading plays, anticipating scoring chances and finding ways to make saves that didn't always fit into a traditional goaltending feedback.

He wants younger goalies to understand there is more than one way to stop a puck.

"If there's a situation, I have two or three saves for that situation," he said. "These guys only have one, to a certain extent. I kind of want to have fun with the position more than anything."

For Jeremy, growing up around one of the greatest goaltenders in hockey history came with its own unique experiences.

As a kid, Martin Brodeur was simply Dad. Jeremy didn't fully appreciate the magnitude of his father's career until years later, particularly when his No. 30 was retired by the Devils and his father was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2018.

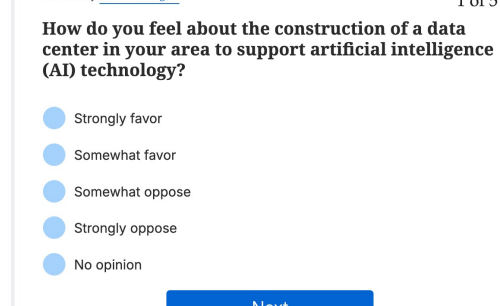
"That was kind of when you're like, 'Oh my God, my dad is who he is,'" Jeremy said.

Of course, carrying the Brodeur name also meant dealing with expectations from an early age.

Jeremy recalled that a youth hockey coach once asked Martin whether Jeremy and his brothers should wear their first names on the backs of their jerseys to avoid comments from other parents and players.

Martin rejected the idea.

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"It's going to be with them for the rest of their lives," Jeremy recalled his father saying. "They've got to either learn to deal with it or not play hockey."

Jeremy embraced the challenge, eventually developing his own identity as a goaltender.

Now he's using those experiences to help others.

Propel Pro allows young athletes and their parents to connect directly with experienced coaches, including Jeremy.

A player can upload video clips from a game and ask Jeremy to evaluate a particular save, goal against or situation. Jeremy reviews the footage, records his analysis and sends it back through the platform.

There are also opportunities for live sessions, and while the technical side of goaltending is important, Jeremy believes the mental challenges of the position deserve just as much attention.

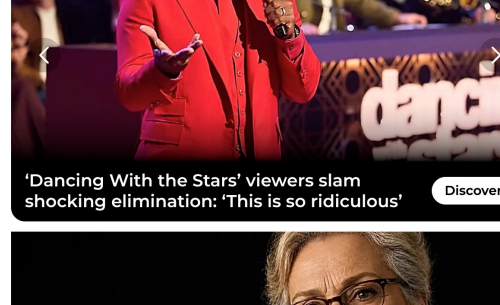
"You'll go through months where pucks are hitting you, pucks are hitting the post and not going in," Jeremy said. "Then you'll go a month where pucks hit you and they bounce in, or they deflect off a skate, and nothing goes your way. It is tough mentally."

Many youth hockey organizations have coaches responsible for developing an entire team, but specialized goaltending instruction can be difficult to find or expensive to maintain throughout a season.

"You can watch videos all you want, but if you don't have help from somebody who knows what they're doing, it's difficult," Martin Brodeur said.

Martin emphasized that the goal isn't to replace a player's existing coach or overwhelm young athletes with additional instruction. Instead, he wants to make experienced coaching more accessible while addressing the individual needs of each player.

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"They're not there to complicate things, overcoach or step on other coaches," Brodeur said. "They're really there to help the human being. It could be your technique, your mental state, physicality, strength and conditioning. It could be anything."

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For a player who spent his career doing things differently, it's fitting that Brodeur is now encouraging young goaltenders to find what works best for them.

And for Jeremy, the message is even simpler.

"At the end of the day, hockey is supposed to be fun," Jeremy said. "There's still hard work to be done to get to where you want to be in goaltending. It's not an easy thing to do. But I still think you need to find ways to make it fun."

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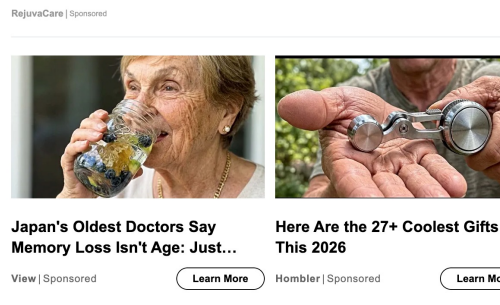
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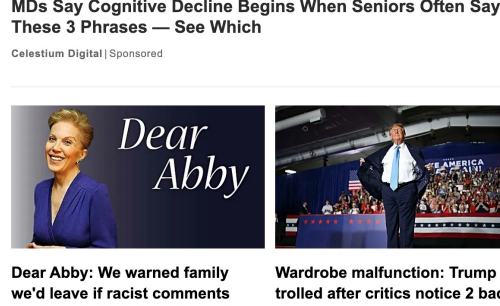
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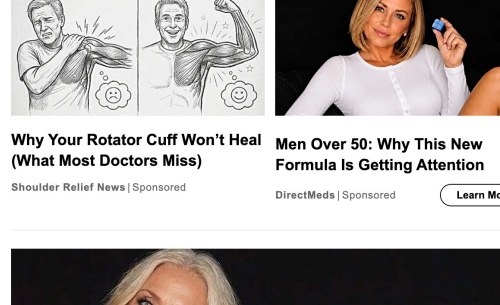
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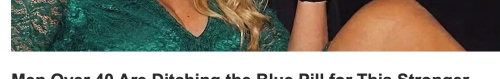
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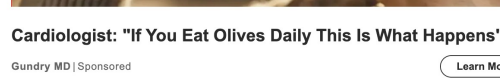
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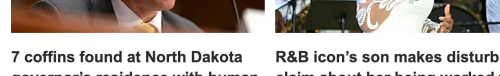
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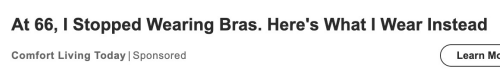
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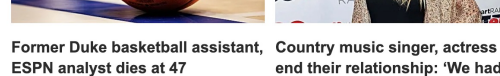
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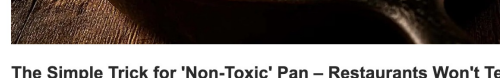
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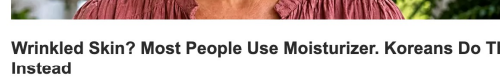
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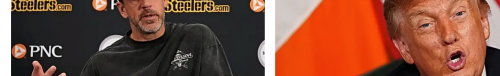
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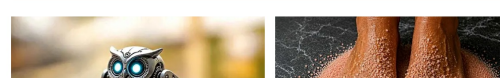
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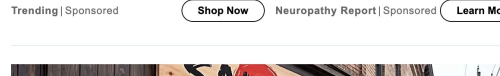
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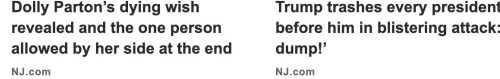
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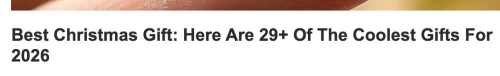
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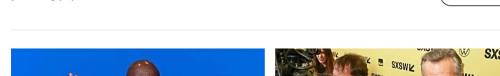
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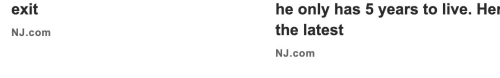
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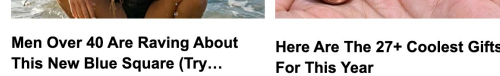
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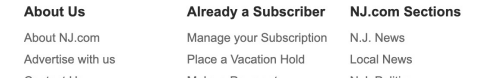
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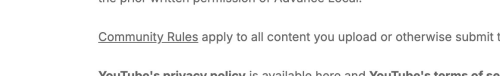


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