

Marianne Delaney-Hoshek - Mainland Tactix



The Mainland Tactix have seen their fair share of hard times since Marianne Delaney-Hoshek became head coach in 2018.

She temporarily stepped into the head coach role in 2017, after a run of 19 losses and immediately brought a difference to the team.

Delaney-Hoshek has moved the team forward from being constantly at the bottom of the table, the Tactix contesting two grand finals, but still remembers the tough times.

“I think you acknowledge them because obviously we came from winning one to two games a season, the history is quite bleak there,” she admits.

“I just move on, definitely, but you’ve got to acknowledge what’s happened before as well and try and learn from it.”

In a year where the Tactix were unable to make the final, Delaney-Hoshek and her team made the decision to give her young players some experience.

“You have different things that you try to achieve, so for us it was pleasing to get those players out at that time, rather than worrying too much about the scores,” she explains.

Delaney-Hoshek brought up her 100th ANZ Premiership match as coach of the Tactix this season, a milestone she’s very proud of.

“That was amazing cause you never know in coaching, how long you’re gonna be there, cause often the coach is the first that gets changed up,” she laughs.

“We have come such a long way in terms of our performance environment, the amount of games we’ve been able to win over the years.

“I’ve absolutely loved it and it’s been an awesome opportunity to be able to do it.”

Being able to change the belief of a team was a hugely rewarding experience for Delaney-Hoshek.

“When you’ve lost a lot of games in a row over many years, winning doesn’t become the expectation, so that was massive there,” she says of turning their results around.

In 2020, Netball Mainland went into liquidation, after the financial pressures brought on by Covid.

The Tactix had limited staff and still made the grand final, a really proud moment for Delaney-Hoshek and the region.

“We only had one home game and we actually packed the stadium... the community really got around us, which was amazing, so that was an awesome moment,” she says.

“Seeing everyone in red and black was the moment when I saw how far we’d changed the narrative about the Tactix.”

Delaney-Hoshek believes that team environment is a huge factor to success.

“We do a lot of work to ensure that in the environment, everyone’s themselves and they’re seen and they’re heard,” she says.

“But also that it’s a performance environment, that you can actually have the tough conversations. You don’t want the one that’s just harmonious all the time, you need to have people that are willing to challenge as well.

She stresses that they do still have fun, with the team going out to social events often. She also brings the fun to her coaching.

“I’m how I am as a person generally as a coach, but you know if I do get upset about something, it’s really effective because I don’t do it often,” she laughs.

“I always think everyone needs to be themselves as a coach, bring what you bring as a person, what your strengths are, because it would be really boring if we were all the same.”

Delaney-Hoshek believes there’s always growth to be had as a coach, and looks to other environments for inspiration.

“I have mentors within the coaching environment, so this year I’ve got Leigh Gibbs for the netball side, and I’ve got Razor [Scott Robertson] for the cultural side, just for bouncing ideas off,” she says.

“We’ve had some good catch ups around different systems and processes that the Crusaders use, cause I wanted to smooth out some of our systems and processes.”

Delaney-Hoshek’s brother, Glenn Delaney, is a rugby union coach, currently coaching in Japan. Marianne had a family trip over there and spent time with his team, the Mitsubishi Dynaboars and says she’s learned a lot, and is lucky to have that support around her.

The common theme she’s found between all the different codes is simply looking after your athletes is the most important aspect.

“That’s the first and foremost, just really looking after them as a person, not just an athlete, that’s massive,” she says.