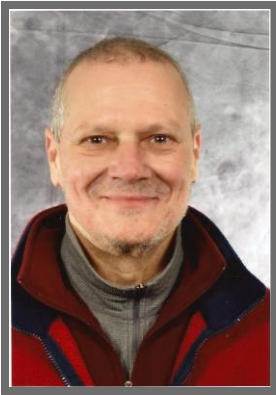




ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Rafe Aybar Builders' Category



America's entertainment industry has its share of on- named celebrities such as Elvis, Cher, Ringo, Sting, Prince, Tiger, Bono, Babe, and Beyoncé to name just a few. However, since 1974 the Illinois ice hockey community has been home to a young man with his own mononymous identity who would mature to become one of Chicagoland's most beloved coaches and mentors. His name is **Rafe**.

Rafael "Rafe" Aybar was born in 1953 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Four years later in 1957 the Aybar family immigrated to the United States and called Alexandria, Virginia and Miami, Florida home until permanently settling in Chicago. As a youngster Rafe was a talented athlete excelling most in soccer which he went on to play at a semi-professional level.

Unexpectedly, at the age of 17 a serious knee injury sidelined Rafe from his soccer career and oddly it was an intensive rehabilitation program which included an ice skating regiment that eventually convinced him to give up soccer's warm and forgiving turf for a chance to pursue a lifelong career on a much cooler and harder surface. During this rehab period Rafe closely studied the figure skaters, hockey skaters, and speed skaters with whom he shared the ice surface and soon developed a unique understanding of the physical, technical, artistic, and emotional ingredients required to achieve successes in each of these distinctly different forms of skating. Armed with this newfound wealth of knowledge and a desire to share what he had learned Rafe developed lesson plans that personally engaged his students in a learning process that was fun, challenging, and rewarding. It was this recipe that Rafe would successfully turn into a forty plus year career devoted to personally and passionately teaching his craft.

Over these years thousands of ice hockey enthusiasts of all age levels have endearingly called Rafe their coach, or their child's coach. This number includes current and former NHL professionals, Juniors, Collegiate athletes, and Olympic athletes, and Coach Rafe is very proud of the role he played in each of these many successes. But as important to Rafe are the subtle milestones he sees daily on the ice at the entry levels of ice hockey and he often emotionally describes his triumphs as those he sees through his students - ***"that little look they all get, whether in their eyes or in their body expressions"*** which signify that a young player had just mastered a brand-new skill, and was eagerly ready for the next challenge! Or the fact that in recent years Rafe now counts a handful of sons and daughters of previous students as his second-generation students, and fondly calls them his "grandstudents". It is no surprise that to this day Rafe remains as excited about working with new "Learn to Skate" three and four year-olds as he is with his long-time highly skilled students.

Coincidentally, in 1985, Rafe met the lovely Jill Robbins, who at that time was coaching figure skating students at the Skokie Park District "Skatium" Ice Arena. A year later Rafe and Jill were married and together raised two children, Harrison and Madeline, both skaters. The Aybar Family calls Wilmette, Illinois their hometown and frequently can be seen driving to and from the local ice arenas in their "Aybarmobile" adorned proudly with the vanity plate **"RJHMSK 8"**, which is an abbreviation for: Rafe - Jill - Harrison - Madeline - Skate...and they all most eloquently and certainly do!



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Jerry Ballard Builders' Category



Jerry Ballard and his wife, Katy, have been married for 36 years. They have four children - Ryan (30), Bradley (28), Kyle (22) and Kristine (20). Ryan is married to Jillian and they have the next generation Ballard hockey player, Dylan James (1). All of Jerry and Katy's sons played through midget level and Jerry "thanks the Lord" that their daughter decided to play volleyball.

Hockey was always Jerry's favorite sport growing up, and thus he says it is "not surprising this [hockey] has been an entire family function."

Jerry's first coaching experience began in the early 1990's with his two oldest sons. He head-coached his first Mite team with the St. Jude Knights Hockey Club. He later became a member of their Board of Directors and coached through the Pee Wee level.

The Ballards moved to the Vikings Youth Hockey Club in the late 90's where he was head coach from Bantam through Midget. He also spent one term as a Board of Director.

Their oldest son decided in the early 2000's that he wanted to try high school hockey so he joined the Wolves High School Hockey Club where Jerry later became club President for one term.

In 2004 Jerry began coaching for the Cobras High School Hockey Club as a head coach and assistant coach at the Junior Varsity and Varsity levels. Additionally, he was Hockey Director until he retired from coaching in 2015.

Jerry joined the AHAI Suspension Review Committee in 2004 and is still currently serving on that committee.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Rich “Commander” Blight Builders’ Category



In the late 50's, hockey was on TV Saturdays at noon. It was always the Rangers versus one of the other five teams in the NHL. Rich played with six other youngsters on the outdoor ice in Chicago and a couple times at Rainbow Arena on Clark Street. He still has his original goalie stick that cost \$7.50 at Mike's Sporting Goods.

Rich's son played for the Park Ridge Hornets from the Learn-to-Skate years all the way up through Midgets and High School at Maine South. His very first team didn't have a coach so Al Kalina asked Rich to help out which he gladly did. He then coached, or was an assistant coach, for several Mite through Midget teams over two decades. Rich was also an assistant coach for Maine South Junior Varsity Hockey and Notre Dame Hockey. Rich served on the Park Ridge Hornets Hockey Association Board of Directors for 16 years, and was one of the founders of the North Shore Youth Hockey League.

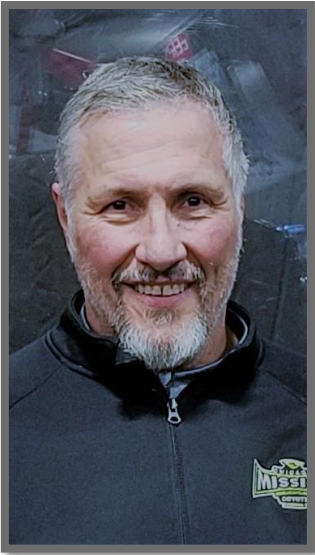
Rich's next great adventure began in 2003 when he became a coach for the Chicago Hornets Sled Hockey Organization. For Rich, coaching sled hockey was vastly different than able-bodied hockey. It has been an unexpected great pleasure for him to be part of this amazing program. Sled Hockey has taken Rich to a far greater level as a volunteer than he ever thought possible. As in the past, Rich was asked to be a coach for disabled athletes at Hockey Development Camps up until 2015.

Rich has often said, “Hockey has changed lives from the Olympian, the parent who has tears in their eyes watching and saying “I didn't know he/she could play hockey” and the player that has to be pushed because of being handicapped. Everyone is just having fun.”



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Gino Cavallini Players' Category



Gino was born and raised in Toronto, Canada where he played all his youth and junior hockey. He then went on to play Division 1 hockey for Bowling Green State University. Under the coaching of Jerry York, Bowling Green won their only national championship. Gino scored the winning goal in the 4th overtime, ending one of the longest championship games on record.

After the success of his sophomore season, Gino signed as a free agent with the Calgary Flames — there he would be coached by legendary “Badger” Bob Johnson until he was traded to St. Louis in February of ‘86. He went on to play for the Blues for another 6 years alongside his brother Paul, before ending his NHL career in Quebec for the Nordiques. After 9 seasons in the NHL he then continued to play another 8 years, 3 in Milwaukee for the IHL team, the Admirals and his last five years in Europe (Germany, Austria and Switzerland). Retiring at the age of 39 Gino played over 1200 professional hockey games of which 677 were in the NHL.

Upon his retirement he took this extensive experience in hockey and began to coach at the youth level. First in Milwaukee where he coached and directed the Wisconsin AAA program and then eventually in Chicago, where he coached with the Chicago Mission in their early years as well as directing and coaching the Barrington Red Wing youth program and High School teams.

After a short time away from Chicago, Gino returned and began his second tenure with the Chicago Mission. Since 2011 he, along with the then club president Andrea Hahn and Girls Director Tony Cachey, have grown the club to one of the premier programs in North America. Under their tutelage the club positioned itself to partner with the Chicago Blackhawks, and is now fortunate to train in one of the premier training facilities in North America, the MB Arena.

Gino has overseen the growth of the Mission and advocates for the advancement and placement of these student athletes. Presently, former Chicago Mission players can be seen playing and are on teams at many levels from junior, college, Olympics and the NHL (including 3 Chicago Blackhawks) on any given weekend.

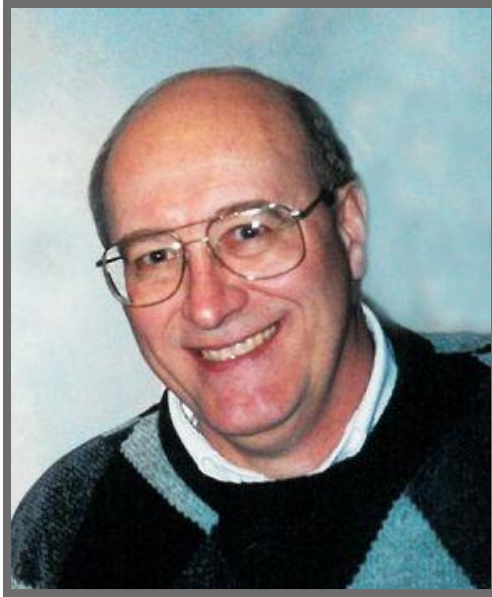
Both Gino's boys played hockey. His son Aidan was a 92' birth year player who walked on at Wisconsin and lettered 4 years for the Badgers. His younger son Max currently plays junior hockey in Canada and is enrolled at Lake Forest College where he will play DIII hockey for the Foresters this upcoming season.

Gino resides with his wife of 29 years Katia, in Barrington IL.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Terry Juliar Builders' Category



On March 15, 1948, Terry Mel Juliar was born to Melbourne and Marion Juliar at Evanston Hospital. Terry was raised in Glenview and graduated from Maine Township High School in 1966. Terry was on the varsity baseball team and earned a scholarship to Buena Vista University College in Storm Lake, Iowa. He also attended Northeastern Illinois University from 1969-1971. In 1969 while attending college, Terry started working at Oakton Ice Rink in Park Ridge.

In 1971 Terry enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps reserves and was a Platoon Commander and received the Blues Award (a high honor). He received an honorable discharge in 1975.

Terry was a lineman with the World Hockey Association from 1971-1974. Terry broke up a fight between Reggie Fleming and Bobby Hull in 1972, and he was very proud to say he did. He was also a referee with the American Hockey League from

1971-1976. Terry was traveling a lot for hockey games both out of town and in Canada. With his busy schedule at work he had to give up refereeing in 1976.

In 1972 Terry started working as the Assistant Manager for the Glenview Park District's new indoor ice rink. In 1973, while teaching a hockey clinic, Terry met Carla, fell in love and they married in May of 1974. They were married 38 years, until his death in May of 2012.

In the fall of 1974 Terry became the Ice Rink Manager for the Wilmette Park District. The new indoor rink was being built at the time, so Terry managed two sheets of outdoor ice. The indoor rink opened in 1975. Terry worked for the Wilmette Park District for almost 38 years managing the ice rink, outdoor pools for several years, and as risk manager. In his years at Wilmette he worked very hard with the Wilmette Hockey Association, Loyola High School Hockey, Metro High School Hockey, UIC College Hockey and the Blackhawks. Terry also taught hockey classes until being manager demanded more of his time.

In 1986 Terry and Carla welcomed their daughter Jacqueline into the world.

Terry served many years on the executive board for the Ice Skating Institute of America, now ISI. He was on the ISI Executive Committee from 1990-2003. He received the Ice Skating Institute Man of the Year Award in 1980, their Benton Wilcox Award for Excellence in Management in 2001, and their President's Award for Excellence in 2003. He was inducted into ISI's Hall of Fame in 2014. The Centennial Family Aquatic Center was built in 2001 and Terry received the Best Waterpark Award from Aquatics International.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Peter Moffat Officials' Category



In 1959 Peter Moffat travelled to Chicago, Illinois, to visit some friends and he ended up staying for ten years. As a young man who grew up loving the game of hockey in North Bay, Ontario, Canada, the city had captivated him and the local arena would obviously be one of the first places he would go. It was there, at Rainbo Arena, that Peter met Alan Carvell Jr., the owner of Rainbo, who with his wife June opened Chicago's first indoor ice surface a few years earlier in 1956. Mr. Carvell was looking for someone to start running hockey programs and officiating clinics and Peter was looking for work. It was a perfect match.

Peter's experience with playing the game easily parlayed into officiating it. The clinics started small, but soon grew in size and would catch the attention of many National Hockey League officials such as Vern Buffey, John D'Amico, Art Skov and Bruce Hood. Peter continued to play the game, but it was officiating that began to take over. Peter had developed a couple of very important friendships, first with William "Torchy" Peden, a world class Canadian cyclist who ran the pro shop at Rainbo and helped Peter tremendously with the direction he planned on taking his programs. And second with Chet Stewart, who helped launch amateur hockey on the North Shore as well as help establish the National Ice Hockey Officials Association. It was during these clinics in the 1960's that Peter was appointed the first Referee-In-Chief for the state of Illinois and it was Mr. Stewart that was instrumental in making this happen.

That appointment meant the end of Rainbo Arena for Peter. He received a call from Bill Beagan, the commissioner of the International Hockey League, who hired Peter to be their first full-time official. From there the list of stops include officiating the Central Hockey League, the American Hockey League, the Western Hockey League, the NCAA, the World Hockey Association and the National Hockey League.

After an on-ice collision in Winnipeg that left Peter injured he decided to step away from refereeing and pursue a career in camping. He directed camps for the YMCA of Chicago, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri and New York City. After New York Peter was hired to be the director of the Tim Hortons Children's Foundation by Ron Joyce in Oakville, Ontario. After ten years of that Peter, his lovely wife Cheryl and their son Brandon moved back to North Bay to operate some Tim Hortons restaurants. Today Peter is still active in the family business of 27 years. He's an avid golfer and enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Jim Neville Builders' Category



Jim Neville has always been a coach. For the past 41 years, this 1955 Fenwick High School Alum has volunteered as a youth hockey coach. It all started in mid-1970 when Jim was coaching Mitey Mite Youth Football with his friend Jim Ray. Ray's son played for the Park Ridge Hornets Hockey Organization and he asked Jim to be his assistant coach. Jim's team won State his first year coaching, so you can say the rest is history. After a few seasons, Jim began coaching with Jim Smith, the current USA Hockey President, and they became great friends because of their passion for volunteering. During Jim's years with the Park Ridge Hornets, he not only coached but also gave it a go one year as the President of the organization.

In the mid-1980's Jim played a big role organizing the Northern Express Hockey Club that merged both the Niles and Park Ridge Hockey Clubs. Jim became a coach for the Northern Express and helped build this new hockey program. The Northwest Hockey League in Franklin Park, Illinois, gave Jim the Coach of the Year Award for his accomplishments with the Express Hockey. After a couple of years, Jim's reputation brought him to High School Hockey. He coached first for Maine Schools where he was successful in helping them to win a State Championship. He then went on to win the 1992 State Championship with Notre Dame High School. In 1985, Jim had the honor of coaching for the U.S. National Development Camps during the summer in Colorado Springs and Lake Placid. Each year Jim coached a select group of players for these camps in a span that lasted for more 14 years.

Jim's next great adventure began in 2003 when he became a coach for the Chicago Hornets Sled Hockey Organization. For Jim, coaching sled hockey was vastly different than able-bodied hockey. It has been an unexpected great pleasure for him to be part of this amazing program. Sled Hockey has taken Jim to a far greater level as a volunteer than he ever thought possible. As in the past, Jim was asked to be a coach for disabled athletes at Hockey Development Camps up until 2015. That same year the Butkus Chicago Youth Sports Legacy Foundation honored Jim with the Youth Sports MVP Award in recognition of his dedication to coaching.

In June 2017 Jim was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois for his years of service to youth hockey in the state.

Jim was born in Chicago, raised in Park Ridge and currently resides in Mount Prospect with his wife of 58 years, Judy. Jim has three adult children and eight grandchildren; the youngest is the only one to play hockey. Jim has said that the gratitude that he has received for doing a good job and helping others is all he ever wanted.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Steve Poapst Players' Category



Steve was born and raised in Cornwall, Ontario where he played his youth hockey until the age of 16 at which time he left to play Juniors for the Smith Falls Bears. After playing 2 years in Smiths Falls for the Bears, Steve played 4 years at Colgate University and was a member of the 1990 team that won the ECAC Championship and were NCAA Finalists. Steve graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1991.

After graduating from Colgate, Steve went on to play at the professional ranks in the ECHL, AHL, and NHL. During his career, Steve was a member of two Championship teams, the 1992 Hampton Roads Admirals – ECHL and the 1994 Portland Pirates – AHL.

In a career that spanned 15 years, Steve played in over 1000 games which included 307 games in the NHL as a defenseman with Washington, Chicago, Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

Since retiring as a player in 2006, Steve has been involved in coaching at various levels. From 2006 to 2010, Steve was the Head Coach and General Manager of the Chicago Steel of the USHL and was named the Coach of the Year for the 2007-08 season.

Following his time with the Steel, Steve moved up to the AHL as an Assistant Coach, primarily overseeing the development of young defenseman. He spent 3 years with the Rockford IceHogs, the Chicago Blackhawks affiliate, and 2 years with the Iowa Wild, the Minnesota Wild's affiliate, before returning back to the Chicago area.

Currently, Steve is with the Chicago Hawks as the Director of Hockey Operations and Player Development.

Steve currently resides in Villa Park, IL with his wife Kelly, son Braden and daughter Mara.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017

Shari Wolfe Builders' Category



Shari Wolfe was born and raised in Oak Lawn and began working at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena as a teenager. After graduating from Chicago Christian High School, she attended Moraine Valley Community College and then moved to San Diego.

While working for the Armed Services YMCA and the Naval Training Center in San Diego, she met her husband, Dave, who was in the Navy. In 1994 they left San Diego and moved to Evergreen Park where they are still living and raising their 3 children- Ellyssa, Kylie and Trevor.

In the fall of 1994, Shari returned to work at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena and has now been there 23 years. Her daughter, Ellyssa, was a figure skater; Kylie tried hockey for a day but decided gymnastics was better, and Trevor just grew up hanging around at the rink.

Shari was working at the front desk of the newly built Ice Arena when the hockey director resigned, then shortly thereafter, the manager left for another position. She had always been involved with the youth hockey and high school league when she worked at the rink as a teenager, so stepping up to coordinate the hockey program was just natural. She worked with the hockey program, developing it into the Oak Lawn Eagles, until 2007. During her years with the Oak Lawn hockey program, Oak Lawn was a member of the South Suburban Hockey League (SSHL). She enjoyed many years of being on the board, then becoming Treasurer, Vice President, and then President of the League until 2009.

Tremendous friendships and life-long bonds were formed with many wonderful hockey directors, coaches, parents and players during all those years being involved in the hockey community. She loves when those young players now come back to visit Oak Lawn and play on Men's League teams or bring their own children to skate. She appreciates that they remember her and recall their fond memories of the Oak Lawn rink and its program.

Shari is very grateful to her husband who had to watch the kids many evenings and weekends when she was busy with hockey. She is thankful to her children for being able to see how much she enjoyed what she was doing, and how they, sometimes, wanted to spend time with her at the rink watching a game. She will be forever appreciative for all the great hockey people who she served, who served with her, and who she now calls friends.