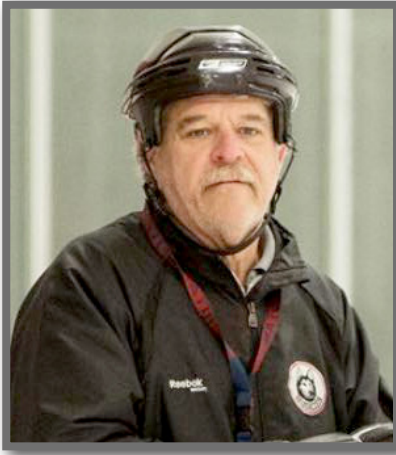




## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### Bob Graham Players Category

Bob was born in Oak Park and raised in Elmhurst by his parents along with his brother and three sisters. He began playing hockey at the age of 8 on his backyard rink and on the pond in Wilder Park in Elmhurst. In 1969, when Bob was 11, he was one of the first members of the Huskies Hockey Club and played for their inaugural season, on the outdoor rink at the Elmhurst YMCA. He played his entire youth career with the Huskies until college. He also played for York High School (1974-77). After graduating, Bob attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison as a walk-on, earning his letter and an NCAA title.

Bob married his wife Debbie in 1982. From 1983 to 1987, Bob coached while Debbie managed the Huskies Pee Wee team. During that time, they welcomed their first child, Ashley into the world. While taking an 11-year break from the coaching ranks to focus on family and business, the Grahams moved to Glen Ellyn where they added their son Matthew to the growing family. It was during those special years that he passed his love of hockey on to Ashley and Matthew, teaching them to skate and play and at a very young age.

In 1998 Bob resumed his coaching career, coaching his son from Squirt to Bantam for the Flames Hockey Club. Determined to get back to his roots, Bob found his way back to the Huskies in 2002 where he continued to coach multiple age and skill levels through 2005. Bob coached teams to CSDHL, State and Central District Championship titles, along with a National Championship Final 8 and a National Championship Runner Up appearance. In 2003, his daughter scored the winning goal to take the State Championship...one of Bob's proudest moments as a hockey dad.

Bob accepted a coaching position with the Chicago Young Americans in 2006, and while he enjoyed his time with CYA, it just didn't feel like home, so Bob returned to the Huskies club yet again in 2008. In 2009, he was elected President of the Huskies Hockey Club. While serving as President, Bob continued to coach at various levels. He also served on the AHA Player Development Board for the Central District and continued to coach and shape Huskies players up until the very day we tragically lost him on May 24, 2017. The hockey community was stunned by such a great loss and all gathered to celebrate his life and contributions at the Huskies home rink in Romeoville.

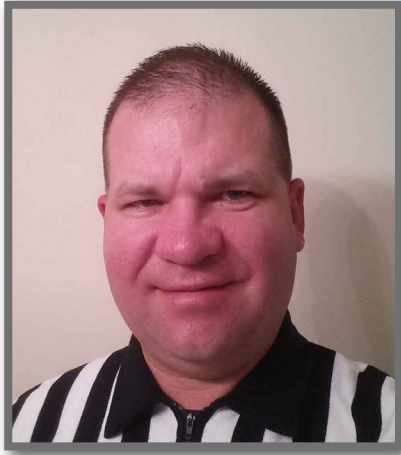
Bob has left quite a lasting impression on not only his friends and family, but also his hockey family and the community at large. While he touched the lives of his players daily, he also had a massive rippling effect reaching their family members as well. He loved his players as his own, caring deeply about their life and success on and off the ice. He shaped and molded lives by not only teaching hockey skills but teaching life lessons that players could apply throughout their lifetime.

Last year, his daughter Ashley returned to hockey wearing Bob's number, after a 16-year hiatus. That is where she feels closest to her dad, hearing him coach her from above. And just this year, some of Bob's famous drills were brought back to the ice by his son-in-law Brian Lite, as he now coaches Bob's granddaughters Liv (8 years) and Elle (5 years). Both Brian and Ashley feel Coach Bob in them as they now teach and develop their own daughters on and off the ice. And with that, Coach Bob's legacy lives on and the rest is "Duck Soup!"



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### **D Ray Tucker** **Referee Category**

Believe it or not, Ray did not even begin skating until age 13, when he dove into the sport as a new player on an established team. Although countless mistakes were made, Ray made a point to not make the same mistake twice, and by his senior year, he was voted team captain by his teammates.

During those formative years, Ray would operate the scoreboard at the University of Illinois Ice Arena (“the big pond”) for youth and Illini college club games. He soon made off-ice connections with luminaries such as

John Cerza, Matt Nilles, Ken Michel, Don Olynyk, Jon Raslawski and Jay Jacobs, officials who demonstrated a zeal for their craft through high expectations, supreme effort and a desire to have a great time along the way.

This exposure kindled a strong desire to join the referee community. The fall of 1988 was the first year Ray followed these impassioned role models and earned his level one USA Hockey license. A willingness to work any game offered, seek out seasonal promotion and exhibit a strong desire to “climb the ladder” by working the next level – these traits all fueled Ray’s efforts.

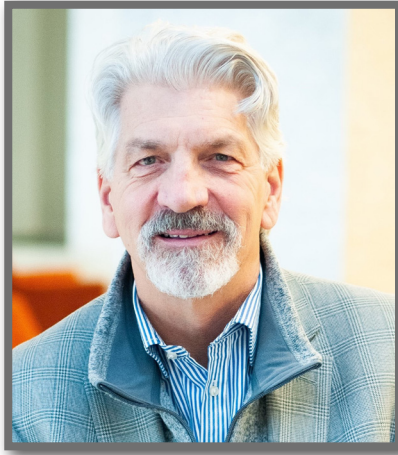
That passion to grow as an official blossomed into other sports in which Ray remains active to this day (football, baseball, and lacrosse). Many invitations to work minor professional and post-season games came to pass, but it was the opportunity to take over Champaign’s referee assigning responsibilities in 1994 that began to cement the idea of giving back to the sport by recruiting, mentoring and shepherding new officials.

One of Ray’s favorite pieces of advice is, “Make new and exciting mistakes.” In other words, learn from your errors while applying those new lessons learned.



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### Grant Mulvey Player's Category

I was born in Sudbury Ontario, and raised in Merritt, British Columbia, Canada.

My mother and father were our biggest fans. They traveled throughout British Columbia to watch my brother and me play our games and compete against the province's top talent. Our parents taught us to work hard, respect others and reach high.

My sister Julie was our "basement goalie" and our best cheerleader. My brother Paul is "My Best Friend" and taught me how to be tougher and in better condition for the NHL. Paul was a star player with Washington Capitals in the NHL.

In 1970 it all started, and the trajectory was steep. I played Jr. B hockey for Merritt Copper Kings at the age of 14. Brian Barrett (BC HOF 2016) from Merritt was our captain and an incredible mentor. Brian taught me to be competitive against older hockey players. I advanced to play Jr. hockey (Tier II) in Penticton, BC. for the Bronco's. Then had success to move on to Calgary Centennials in the Western Hockey League (Major Jr. Tier I) Team.

Drafted 1st Round – 16th pick in 1974 to the Chicago Blackhawks.

10 years in the National Hockey League, 9 years as a member of the Chicago Blackhawk Hockey Chicago Blackhawks record - Scoring five goals in one game (02/03/1982).

Kenny McCudden (IL. HOF 2019) and I operated Mid-West Elite Hockey School – teaching thousands of players throughout the years. Tom Grant was a great operations manager responsible for putting student skaters on the ice. MWE was cutting edge teaching children, adults, and women the wonderful sport of hockey.

In 1993 Don Levin (IL. HOF 2012), Buddy Meyers (IL. HOF 2013) and I worked closely to bring the Chicago Wolves team to the International Hockey League. The Chicago Wolves hockey team was born and has shared professional hockey with millions of hockey fans.

My wife Pam and I have two children – Kyle and Lindsey. Kyle is a hard-working personal athletic trainer who works with many young aspiring Illinois hockey players. Lindsey is a wonderful hockey mom of four beautiful children - ALL whom skate and play hockey.

As with many former Chicago athletes I value the opportunity to give back to the community by supporting many great charities, the most important – Chicago Blackhawk Alumni Association.



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### Jim McKeague Builders Category

Jim was born in Chicago where he spent the first ten years of his life growing up as a Southsider. Following a stint of seven years in Pennsylvania, Jim returned with his four siblings and parents back to the Chicago area. Having attended high school at St. Laurence, he went on to attend Lewis University, where he earned his degree in 1972. He spent his 43-year career with Jewel Foods where he held several leadership positions during that time. Jim is currently enjoying retirement with his lovely wife Karen while residing in Naperville.

Jim's hockey involvement spans across several decades as both a player, where he laced them up in every local Chicagoland rink imaginable, and as a diehard hockey purist and fan. His passion peaked as he took a critical board position for the Waubonsie Valley Hockey Club where his son, Jimmy, was playing his high school hockey. Having served all four years while his son played for the team, Jim went on to lead the club as their President for two years. Like so many parents, Jim thought his tenure with the club was finished after his son graduated, however, he was asked to take over a Metro West League that needed strong leadership and direction. The Metro West High School Hockey League featured some of the top clubs in the state including Waubonsie Valley, Naperville Central, Naperville North, Glenbard, Sandburg, and Neuqua to highlight just a few of the clubs.

He spent twenty years leading the Metro West Hockey League as their President, along with help from friends Ed, Dennis, Brian, Susan, and Glenn, as well as support from top tiered high school coaches. He was able to turn the league around and pivot towards a more competitive environment for high school hockey players in the Chicagoland area. His league evolved throughout the years and Jim was responsible for developing enhancements to the league such as skills competitions partnered with charitable events for students, outdoor winter classic games on New Year's Day (with pom pom knit hats for all the players!), an enhanced referee system, as well as focused achievements for those players who performed both on the ice and in the classroom.

Jim is honored to be recognized by a group of his peers for his commitment to the game and its players. He now looks forward to attending Blackhawks games with his granddaughter, Molly, similarly to how he spent years taking his son, and teaching her the game of hockey. It has been a privilege for Jim to develop an environment where so many young athletes have had the opportunity to compete and grow the sport while providing the best opportunity for high school hockey.





## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020



### Kendall Coyne Schofield Players Category

Kendall is a longtime member of the United States Women's National Hockey Team. Over the span of her 13 years with USA Hockey, she has captured 21 medals in International Competition. She has won six gold medals at the IIHF World Women's Championships and a gold medal at the 2018 Winter Olympics and an Olympic Silver Medal at the 2014 Winter Olympics. She competed in 9 Four Nations Cups, capturing gold six times. At the age of 15, her Team USA career began when she was named to the United States Under-18 Women's National Team. She was a captain and 3-time member. She received 2 gold medals and one silver. She is currently the all-time leading scorer

in tournament history with 33 points in 15 games.

The Palos Heights, Illinois native played four seasons at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. During her time at Northeastern, she received her bachelor's and master's degree. The 3-time All American and 2-time captain finished her collegiate career as the Huskies' all-time leader in points (249), goals (141), and single season points (84). In addition, she became the Hockey East all-time leader in career points, career goals, single-season points, single-season goals, points per game, and goals per game. In 2016, she led Northeastern to its first ever NCAA appearance and was the recipient of the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award which is given annually to the top player in division one college hockey.

On January 25, 2019, Coyne was named a replacement for Colorado Avalanche forward Nathan MacKinnon at the 2019 NHL All-Star Skills Competition in the fastest-skater challenge as part of the 2019 NHL All-Star weekend. Although she was originally going to demonstrate the accuracy shooting challenge, Coyne became the first woman to compete in an NHL All-Stars skills competition. Coyne had a time of 14.326 seconds, which placed her seventh out of eight skaters, which was comparable to the rest of the eight-person field; Connor McDavid won the competition with a time of 13.378 seconds. In 2019, she became the second woman to serve as an analyst for an NHL Stanley Cup Playoff game.

In addition to her duties with the U.S. Women's National Team, Kendall currently serves as an Analyst for the San Jose Sharks, a community ambassador for the Chicago Blackhawks, she is the president and co-founder of the Schofield Family Foundation that her and her husband, Michael Schofield, founded in January of 2019. She is a board member for the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA), and the founder of the Kendall Coyne Hockey camp which just completed its fifth year.

Outside of sport, Kendall enjoys spending time with her family, cheering on her husband, Michael Schofield, at football games, traveling, motivating kids, and hosting her annual Kendall Coyne Hockey Camp, that is open to girls of all skill levels and sharing her message of "you don't have to be big to dream big." In addition, she has served as a local ambassador for the Chicago Blackhawks since 2013.



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020



### Larry Swakon Referee Category

Larry describes himself as a “Hockey Nut”, growing up on Wood Street just nine blocks North of “The Old Barn” (The Chicago Stadium). Living in a two-flat, attending Holy Innocent Grammar School and then Lane Tech, he was like thousands of kids, listening to Lloyd Pettit’s voice as he broadcast the Chicago Blackhawks games on WGN radio. “I lived and died on Baseball and Hockey”, Larry recalls. He spent spring and summers playing all the baseball he could, while also getting up to Wrigley Field to see as many Cubs games as possible.

Larry had played hockey for years. Starting out in the alleys and the Park District “ponds” (which were usually open fields and basketball courts that the Chicago Fire Department would flood for family skating and hockey). He then went to Rainbo District

Arena, which was located on Clark Street just North of Lawrence Avenue, was the only indoor ice arena in Chicago for over two decades. Many Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame Honoured Members are attached to its’ long history. At Rainbo, Larry’s games were many times officiated by Peter Moffit (IHHOF 2017) and Chet Stewart (IHHOF 2002 and 2005). Peter and Chet were also the Officiating Coordinators in the area for The Amateur Hockey Association of the United States and they had just incorporated The Illinois Hockey Officials Association.

At Rainbo, Larry was put into a group with many boys older than he was. He made friends fast and one of them was Billy Reay, Junior. Billy convinced Larry to come up to Wilmette to skate at the Old Village Green for the Wilmette Juvenile team. After graduation, Larry was off to start his “real-life”. Living in Florida and Texas, he worked many years in the transportation and energy industries. During one move from Florida to Texas, Larry had the joy of the birth of his daughter, Casey. His job forced him to move back to Chicago in 1990.

Upon his return to the area, Larry was successful again in the transportation industry and he was also able to indulge one of his passions in playing golf. At one of the many courses that he played at, The Ruth Lake Country Club, he was impressed with the Special Events Manager. Shortly after, Larry and Darlene were married. Knowing that Larry Loved Hockey, Darlene wanted to get him back out on the ice. She went to a second hand store and bought him skates. When she gave Larry the skates, he had to laugh, because they were the right size, but they were figure skates!!!! Larry returned the figure skates, picked up a pair of old hockey skates along with some used equipment. Signing up at Downers Grove for the Adult Hockey Program run by Dick Glassford, Larry met Don Allord (IHHOF 2008). Don immediately began recruiting Larry to become an official for the local official’s association.

Larry registered with USA Hockey and The Illinois Hockey Officials Association and quickly became one of the most respected officials in the State. Larry fondly remembers the calls from Don Olynk (IHHOF 2006) to be assigned to another “Barn Burner”. He officiated all levels of Our Game in the area, from Mite through Midgets and High School. He was of the most popular officials in the Chicago Catholic League and he enjoys the memories of skating with many fine officials. Some of his dearest memories were skating playoffs and Championship games with Paul Ciancanelli (IHHOF 2012) and “The Rock and Roll Referee”, Buddy Monoco (IHHOF 2013). He believes that one of them tagged him with the nickname “The Legend”.

Larry served as a Certified Seminar Instructor, A Director for I.H.O.A. and he was the Registrar for five years. During his time as I.H.O.A. Registrar, he attended almost all of the Seminars that were held all over Illinois. Coordinating the Seminars with Sjoukje Brown (IHHOF 2014) they grew the I.H.O.A. to the all-time high of 1,694 members. For the last 15 years of his officiating career, Larry skating primary for the American Colligate Hockey Association, leading to his selection to Referee at the A.C.H.A Nationals in 2018.

Larry noted what was most important to him; First, his wife Darlene . For all of her support through thick and thin and all of the time she sacrificed so he could officiate and volunteer for Our Game. Second, his parents, who went out of their way so that he could have an education and play baseball and hockey. He remembers his Dad’s lessons: 1) Be humble, 2) Treat people the way you want to be treated and 3) Don’t tell anyone how good you are...SHOW THEM!!! Finally, his daughter, Casey Swakon-Wallace, a two time decorated veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, who is the joy of Larry’s life.



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### Mike Svac Coaches Category

Mike was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under a strong family and community influence of Steeler football where black and gold ruled all sports in the burgh. His love and passion for the game of hockey led him and his friends to the backyard driveways for street hockey or the frozen pond where he experienced broken ice more than once on those sunny days in late March.

Mike was introduced to coaching hockey in the 1990's where he and a friend started a player development program for the South Hills Amateur Hockey Association to help grow the sport in Western Pennsylvania, before transferring to Chicago in 2000 for a leadership opportunity with GE

Capital. Mike, Kathy and their three boys David, Brandon, and AJ established roots in the western suburbs and immediately became integrated members of the local club hockey community, and seemingly spent every holiday at a rink somewhere in the country.

Mike served as President and Hockey Director for Waubonsie Valley Hockey Club, achieving two State Titles at the Varsity level, and one State Title at the JV level during his six years with the club. He continued to develop his coaching and administrative skills in hockey by achieving a USA Hockey Level 5 Coaching Certification, an American Development Model Coaching Certification, and a Certification as a Hockey Director. He was also a recipient of several awards including AHAI's Volunteer of the Year (2018) and Illinois West's Presidents' Award (2016).

In 2007, Mike was introduced to disabled hockey by his oldest son David, who was invited to volunteer as a Junior Coach for the Tomahawks, which focused on developing players with Special Needs. Mike credits his initial involvement to the Special Needs Program to his son David and Special Hockey coaches Steve Drews and Art Swanson. With support from Amy LaPoe, founder of Chicago's Special Hockey Program, they introduced ADM training to the club, an excellent fit for developing hockey players with Special Needs.

Amy, along with JJ O'Connor, USA Hockey Leader for Disabled Hockey, became his mentors. Mike assumed leadership of all disabled hockey for USA Hockey's Central District in 2012. He also accepted an opportunity to lead Blind Hockey for Chicago Blackhawks (2014) and hosted the largest Disabled Hockey festival in Chicago (2018). One of Mike's most memorable invitations came in 2018, when USA Hockey asked him to build and lead a Blind Hockey Team for the U.S., which included recruiting, selecting, and training a team of visually impaired athletes to be ready to compete in future Paralympic games.

Although his sons have long since left the sport, Mike is still actively involved with coaching and leading the US Blind Hockey Team and Chicago Blackhawks Blind Hockey Program, leading Disabled Hockey for USA Hockey's Central District, an active volunteer with Chicago Blackhawks Special Hockey Team, leading coaching clinics, and still finding time to sneak out on the weekends to play hockey with the boys (GBU Hockey Club and the Swedish Army).

Mike is profoundly grateful to have been adopted by the Illinois Hockey family that has devoted so much time and energy to give back to hockey players across Illinois - especially those hockey players with a disability. A special thank you goes to the leaders of AHAI, the Chicago Blackhawks organization and those that "wear the stripes," because without all of you this is not possible. He also wants to thank his family for their ongoing support, having an opportunity to coach disabled hockey with all three boys, and for his wife Kathy, who has always been there to share the journey and his passion for hockey.





## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### Paul Jakubowski Builder's Category

Paul grew up on the far southwest side of Chicago in the Garfield Ridge neighborhood. He attended Byrne & Kinzie elementary schools and John F. Kennedy high school. Hockey was first introduced by Paul's dad, Jake with a gift of skates from Sears and a hardware store stick for Christmas when he was about 7 years old. Games were played on the flooded playgrounds at the neighborhood parks. There were no boards or nets. Someone's boots served as goal posts and of course, the puck from any shot or errant pass had to be retrieved from the surrounding snow. In those days there was no organized club hockey in the city.

The only high school hockey in Chicago then was played in the Catholic schools so Paul played in what would now be referred to as high school house leagues at the only two rinks in the city: Rainbo Arena on North Clark Street and Michael Kirby on South Loomis. From there the final step in Paul's inauspicious hockey career was St. Norbert College where he played for 3 years until graduation in 1973.

While at St. Norbert, Paul's family moved from Chicago to Geneva. It was in Geneva, after graduation, getting married to his SNC Minnesota sweetheart, Maureen Fenelon and starting in the family business that he was asked about becoming a coach for the local youth hockey club, Tri-City Hockey.

He began as the head coach for 18,19 & 20 year old's at the Junior (or Juvenile) level. After two years, that age class was dropped from USA youth hockey. Paul moved down to Pee Wee for several years then to high school hockey with Geneva and St. Charles high schools. Along the way he discovered it was much more fun to be an assistant coach. It was during a 6 year stint coaching with St. Charles HS that son, Kevin was born in 1979.

Taking a break from hockey after daughter Leah was born in 1981, Paul decided to coach again when Kevin began to skate as a Mite in the Sabres house league, rationalizing that if he was going to be at the rink anyway as a parent, he might as well be on the ice teaching and coaching. He continued as one of Kevin's coaches through Kevin's final season at Pee Wee. Paul also coached at Naperville North HS during these years. Kevin then moved on to attend and play at Fenwick HS and Villanova University. Paul's involvement in the Sabre Hockey club led to him becoming President. From there he served stints on the AHAI R&E Committee and the AHAI Coaching Education Program as an instructor.

Paul was hired by AHAI in 2003 for a newly created position that ultimately evolved into the first Executive Director for AHAI. After retiring from that position in 2019, Paul served as an AHAI director until his term ended in June 2021.

Maureen retired in 2011 after 37 years of teaching kindergarten and second grade. Paul & Maureen are now both happily retired and still live in their longtime home in Batavia.

Leah is also a Fenwick and Villanova graduate and played soccer at both schools. She went on to receive her Law Degree from John Marshall. Leah currently is General Counsel for the Illinois Office of the Public Administrator for Cook County and lives in Logan Square.

Kevin received his Master's Degree in Film from University College, Dublin, Ireland and is a screenwriter whose latest film, "8-Bit Christmas" premiered in November on HBO Max; his wife Meg, is Director of Education for Nature Bridge; daughter, Maeve (4) and son, John Paul (1) live in Calabasas, CA.





## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### **JJ O'Connor** **Builders Category**

There are always going to be opportunities and failures in life, the key is to see the possible and overcome the obstacles.

At the young age of 16 years old, JJ O'Connor is a young man of inspirational, courage and determination who has demonstrated how to overcome life's obstacles. When he was a senior in high school at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois in October of 1995 JJ was injured playing in his first hockey game of the season. After the injury, JJ was diagnosed as an incomplete quadriplegic, meaning he is paralyzed from the neck down.

After nine months of rehabilitation, he repeated his senior year in high school, taking three steps to receive his diploma. He received the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Scholarship award in 1997 along with a full scholarship

to Lake Forest College. After two years at college, JJ moved into the dorms and graduated Cum Laude with a major in business and a minor in communications. Not only did JJ receive the Tamara Lee Wefler Senior Award for inspiration, he gave the commencement address before three thousand people, which was aired on Good Morning America.

Since his graduation from Lake Forest, JJ has pursued a career in public speaking and has spoken to numerous business, civic, educational and sports groups. He has traveled across the United States and to several countries including Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Mexico spreading his message of overcoming obstacles and achieving one's goals.

In addition, JJ has implemented a rigorous daily workout schedule that includes assisted walking on a specialized treadmill, electro-stim therapy, acupuncture, and massage therapy. JJ's entrepreneurial spirit includes being the Marketing Manager and Webmaster for the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. and an owner of sixteen SportClips hair cutting salons.

JJ was the chair of the Disabled Sports Section for USA Hockey nationwide for 20 years. His responsibilities included building and working with the various disciplines within the Disabled Section (Special Hockey, Sled Hockey, Amputee Hockey, Blind, Warrior and Hearing Impaired Hockey) as well as interfacing with the United States Olympic Committee to promote additional activities for these disciplines under the Para-Olympic umbrella.

JJ also finds time to visit and offer hope to kids with recent spinal cord injuries at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. JJ has also started a new youth sled hockey team in Illinois, called the Hornets, which brings disabled kids into the game of ice hockey by playing the game on specially made sleds. He recently started the Blackhawks Warriors, a hockey team comprised of injured veterans.

In addition, JJ is credited as the architect of the current USA Sled program. The numerous programs instituted under his watch have helped the USA sled team become a world powerhouse. JJ was the General Manager of the 2010 USA National Sled Hockey Team which won the gold medal in Vancouver, Canada and was the parent liaison for the 2014, 2018 and 2022 USA National Sled Hockey Teams which won the gold medal in Sochi, Russia, Pyeong Chang, South Korea and Beijing, China in 2022. JJ is also a player for the Chicago Fire power soccer team which won the National Championship in 2011.

JJ thanks his family and friends for being there for him through this incredible journey. He also gives special thanks to his fiancée, Jourdan, who has brought incredible joy into his life. He is truly a young man of inspirational, courage and determination who has demonstrated how to overcome life's obstacles.