



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021



Bill Fehrman Referee Category

Bill Fehrman was born and raised in La Grange Park, IL. Bill's introduction to hockey came at a very young age due to clients and friends of his father Art. Doug Mohns (lived across the street from his grandmother in Brookfield during season), Moose Vasko, Dennis Hull, Chuck Vlcek and Bob Krolak to name a few. He enjoyed going to the old Chicago stadium with his dad and sitting in the mezzanine watching the Hawks.

As a player, Bill started skating outside on the ponds and then inside to a new rink called Pat Stapleton's Downers Grove Ice Arena where the love of playing the game started. After Downers Grove, Bill played his youth hockey for the Saints, Cheyennes, and Lyons Township High School.

After graduating High School, Bill played 2 years at the College of DuPage where he was a member of the 1980 National Championship team. After COD, Bill played briefly with the Chicago Cardinals and then returned to finish college where he graduated from the University of South Florida with a BS in information systems.

Bill's referee career started by accident in the mid 70's at the Willow Ice Chalet. Over the span of Bill's officiating career, he has worked all levels of youth hockey, college, the USHL and various junior leagues for AHAUS, USA Hockey and the NCAA. Bill credits officials like Buddy Monaco, John Cerza, Dave Labuda, Mike Barrett, Scott Brand, Steve Drews, Ken Michel and the Raslawski Brothers for the success he has achieved since the mid 70's. Working the USA Hockey and ACHA National Championships several times ranks right at the top of Bill's accomplishments in officiating. Bill's most cherished memory in officiating came in February of 2013 when he was one of the referees for the Loyola Gold vs New Trier Green Winter Classic game outdoors at Soldier Field. To work that game with "The Band" and in a landmark place where Bill's dad used to race stock cars was truly special. Bill spent many years in the 80's and 90's coaching with CYA, The Chicago Patriots Jr team and The Chicago Freeze. A special shout out to Tom Kelly and all the great people he worked with at Huron Hockey Schools.

In Bill's spare time off the ice, he is a supervisor, mentor, evaluator, USA Hockey Certified Seminar and Coaching Program Instructor as well as part of the AHAJ Assigning Group. Bill and his wife Heather currently reside in Indian Head Park and have 5 children ~ Kaity, Olivia, Karli, Dylan, and Meredith.

Bill would like to thank all the people who have been part of this incredible hockey journey both on and off the ice. The friendships and camaraderie are second to none. To those who have laid the foundation of our great game and those who will carry on the legacy of Illinois Hockey ~Thank You! To Art Fehrman and Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame member Bob Krolak... words cannot describe the role you played in Bill's life! You were both right. "The Journey has come full circle".



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021



Joe Modrich Builder's Category

Joe is fifth of eleven children, born in a house his father built in Franklin Park when Midway was the big airport in Chicago. Then, frozen ponds were everywhere and everyone skated on flat ground skates sharpened by a shoemaker. Led by the visionary Moms in the growing town, the Park District formation in 1964 changed everything. All ice was natural for many years after and Joe had the opportunity to flood the ponds and snow-banked rinks as a Park District worker and Ice Guard all through High School.

Interest in Parks & Recreation education led to playing on the Triton College Hockey Team in 1970-72 at a time when all Junior Colleges in Northern Illinois had teams. Finishing at Southern Illinois University Joe graduated in August 1974 after a Park District internship, having the good fortune to begin his career with the Franklin Park Ice Arena that just opened in August that year. Park District and private Ice Facilities were being built seemingly everywhere, ushering in a major boom for ice hockey, figure skating, and speed skating.

From the beginning, the Franklin Park Ice Arena was a special place, renting ice commonly 24 hours per day and becoming a hub for AHAI and AHAUS events; local, statewide, national and international. Most prominent were the AHAI Illinois High School State Championships at all three levels, providing inspiration for the National High School All Star Tournaments, an annual combined effort with Johnson Sporting Goods, AHAI, AHAUS, the Park District of Franklin Park & Marriot Hotel. Those 16 team tournaments attracted numerous colleges and NHL scouts and outstanding young student athletes from as far away as Alaska, California, New York and Massachusetts. It was a week of High School Hockey like no other!

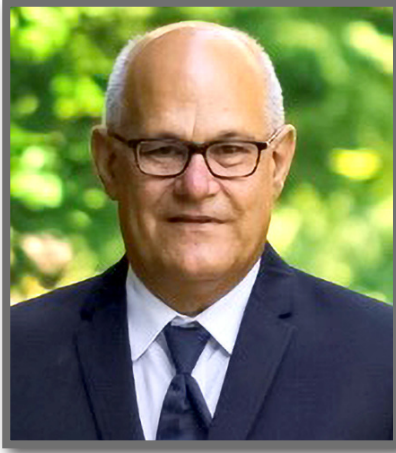
Midwest, National and International Speed Skating events showcased World and Olympic ranked speed skaters on the tightest possible FPIA track! The Arena also served many years as the Chicago Blackhawks practice facility, including many visiting NHL Teams. Ice Capades Skaters including World and Olympic British Ice Dancing Champions Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean also practiced at the Arena. As a serious Summer Training Center for figure skaters, David Santee brought skaters for month-long training from Japan each year. The FPIA Team always focused on community first, including the Annual Special Needs event featuring Sled-hockey, Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Ice Hockey. Historically, beginner level Hockey included the family based Franklin Park Jets, Flames Hockey Club. and earlier Minor Hawks & Team Illinois organizations that restarted the Silver Stick Tournament and other National Events. Decades of summer training by Midwest Elite and Ice Company Hockey Schools developed thousands of boys and girls.

Joe also worked at the Niles and Oak Lawn Park Districts overseeing the Iceland renovations and rebranding, and the opening of the newly Constructed Oak Lawn Ice Arena before returning to Franklin Park as Director of Parks & Recreation in 2000. The last 21 years have been a whirlwind of development and progress throughout the Park District including a \$3.5 Million renovation of the Ice Arena in 2014.

Throughout this privileged work, Joe was part of amazing Park District professional teams for all of these years and had the tireless support and patience of his wife Julie and four children; Stefan, Anna. Katarina & Peter, who have all benefited immeasurably from these wonderful Park Districts and affiliated organizations.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021



Tony Cachey Coaches Category

Tony grew up in Oak Lawn IL one of five children to Felix and Doris Cachey . His love of hockey was cultivated by his father who supported him and drove him everywhere. He attended Brother Rice High School played 3 sports but hockey was always his first love . In addition to playing at Brother Rice he played with the Chicago Saints and former Blackhawk Lou Angotti. In 1980 he was in the net when the Saints won the AAA Midget USA National Championship.

Playing for Coach Angotti Tony learned about passion and about playing for a coach that was very demanding but also cared deeply about his players. It was Coach Angotti who showed Tony the model he would years later implement.

Tony married his wife of 37 years Chris in 1985 and they started their family in Orland Park IL. After a 10 year hiatus from the game he started coaching his son Andrew and later his daughter Katie at the St Jude Knights. After a few years of playing boys hockey Katie entered girls hockey with Team Illinois. Tony eventually would join the Team Illinois coaching staff . It was here for the first time he ventured into the role of advocating for players with colleges and universities . After three seasons with TI, three straight State Championships and two trips to the final four at the USA Hockey National Championships he decided to move to the Chicago Mission.

With the help of Steve Jakubowski and Andrea Hahn they started a brand new girls program. He quickly implemented "The Mission Way". It was the Lou Angotti model focused on the players first ! It held players accountable and mandated hard work while always insisting players comported themselves the right way. The model worked. Over the next 12 years Tony coached 14 teams at the Mission, eleven 19U teams and three 14U teams. All those teams won state 14 state championships consecutively, 13th district championships and 2 National Championships.

More importantly, over his 15 years of coaching hundreds of players went on to play NCAA college hockey. Astonishingly, almost two thirds went on to play D1 earning tens of millions of dollars in scholarships. While an incredibly successful coach on the ice perhaps his greatest gift was the ability to inspire others to be their individual best and to use hockey as a vehicle to teach, mentor and guide young people to heights they couldn't imagine for themselves.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021



Jon Grzbek Coaches Category

From Downers Grove Illinois, Jon grew up among some great hockey families. Currently, residing in DG with wife Karen, sons AJ (20), Ryan (17), and dog Bauer. Jon has 20+ years' experience running high-performance sales teams.

Jon grew up as Huskie playing in the 'Old Barn' on Walnut Ave. He graduated from Marist High School, competing for the Chicago Catholic Hockey League's John F. Kennedy Cup in 1990. Jon was named to the All-Academic Team senior year and All-State honors junior and senior years. After a short stint in Jr Hockey, Jon decided to play for DePaul University ACHA team, competing for a national championship. He graduated from the Driehaus Business School in 1994.

Moving from playing to coaching was a simple transition for Jon. He and his college roommate, Andrew Schlie, began coaching together in organizations like DePaul University and Glenview. In 2002, they started coaching at a combined high school program and within 3 seasons took them to the state championship.

Since 2008, Jon has been the Head Coach and Hockey Director for Benet Academy. In over 600 games at Benet he has a record of 404 + wins 188 losses and 36 ties. He has been fortunate to coach with both Coach Schlie (St Rita 1990) and Coach Tierney (Benet 2003 who's father started Benet's program in 1999) each and every year at Benet. In 2012, Benet brought the CCHL's John F Kennedy Cup to the western suburbs and have participated in 7 Kennedy Cup Championships in 12 CCHL seasons, winning in 2013, 2015, 2020, and 2021.

2013 Jon started working with AHAI Showcase team along with coaches Jeff Nelson and Dave Dyson. He has continued to support the vision of IHOF members Terry Stasica (2018), Bob Mathson (2010) and Mike Mullally (2016) to the present.

Jon gave 10+ years to the Chicago Hawks Organization under Directors Kyle Kotrba and IHOF Steve Poapst (2016) coaching a range of ages and participating in a number of travel and growth programs.

In addition to the coaching efforts above, one of Jon's greatest rewards from coaching was working with USA Hockey's Hockey is for Everyone, formerly AHAI's Diversity Hockey, under IHOF Jay Cohen (2007) and Efen Molina (2013).



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021



Jack Weinberg Builder's Category

Jack was born in Oak Park and his first skating experience was on a frozen tennis court at Taylor Park on figure skates. He skated at the new Ridgeland Commons before it was enclosed. Life-long Blackhawks fans, the family had season tickets from the time he was born. He was so young he fit under the Chicago Stadium turn style, he was there for the 1961 Stanley Cup season. His involvement in the Blackhawk Alumni Association has been an especially rewarding experience.

After moving to Winnetka at 9, he began to play organized hockey in Wilmette at the outdoor rink. The Winnetka Rink was built as he was entering New Trier, the family bought bonds to support the construction. Jack has 2 older brothers and at one time all the families, parents too lived within two miles of the rink. Jack's two sons played for the Winnetka Hockey Club where Jack was "drafted" into coaching and eventually holding many jobs on the Winnetka Hockey Board.

Jack went to work for Columbia Pictures out of College from the University of Denver where he met and fell in love with his wife of 38 years, Sheila. The whole family, mom included skated at the beloved Watts Ice rink in Glencoe where the Weinbergs still live, also for 38 years. Jack was asked to help run a referendum for the re-build of the Watts facility which eventually turned in to a couple of terms on the Park board.

Jack founded a successful television post-production company in Chicago working on commercials, long format films and corporate programming. Throughout the years Jack has been involved in a number of pursuits. A former Chairman of Gottlieb hospital and board member of Loyola Health Systems he chairs the Gottlieb Memorial Foundation. A long-time board member at both the Museum of Broadcast Communications and the Positive Coaching Alliance, Jack has coupled his work and avocation; youth sports.

Jack played soccer and hockey through-out his life. He began coaching and refereeing youth soccer at 14 years old. He played varsity soccer as a goalkeeper at New Trier and the University of Denver followed by a pro tryout with the Chicago Sting. He coached high-school soccer for twenty years and is still involved at Denver as mentor and together with Sheila, they have endowed the Head Men's Soccer Coaching position. Jack has been active with AHA for many years. As a coach and an official working with teams from U-8 through college, he is a Level 5 coach and Level 3 Ref. He is the current chairman of suspension and review after many years on the committee apprenticing his good friend Kevin Bolger. He is a former chairman of Tier II and the current chair of the high – school committee.

Jack is grateful for the support of his family who allowed him the freedom to pursue his dreams. His brilliant, multi-tasking wife who as a working professional and mother made sacrifices to make all of these things possible and to his sons who enjoy this great game as players and fans. His family includes his son A.J. who played college hockey as did his wife Samantha and maybe someday their 5-year-old twin girls and Jack's oldest son Jason who's sense of humor helped him mature as hockey coach.