



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Steve Drews Officials' Category



Steve grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago and found a liking to the game of “hockey” from his days of watching the Chicago Blackhawks games on TV and playing it in the kitchen with the red and yellow plastic blades with the BLACK and WHITE shafts against his parents who took turns playing goalie.

He began playing in 1974 when a local rink (Carol Stream) opened its doors. He played in different youth organizations growing up and was a member of his high school team’s (Glenbard North) inaugural year. After graduating from high school, and while attending the College of DuPage, his not so little brother took a liking to the game as well. Steve was asked to help on the bench with that team.

In 1982 Steve made the grand decision to try on the BLACK and WHITE by taking up officiating. He felt he could do a better job than the referees he saw in games while helping on his brother’s team. He worked hard at officiating and took a liking to it. He worked his way up through the officiating ranks over the years doing all level games. Steve has worked at both the Chicago Stadium and the United Center as well as various levels of nationals, high school and college championships.

Steve became an Illinois Hockey Officials Association (IHOA) board member where he served as Seminar Coordinator, Secretary, Vice President and President. He also became a Certified Instructor in 2000 and has been teaching ever since. Steve retired from serving as an IHOA director in 2018 after serving over 20 years on the board.

Steve is still involved in officiating, but you will most likely see him back in the role of coaching. He is currently the Director of Hockey for the Chicago Blackhawks Special Hockey program. Steve also serves as the assistant coach for Team USA World Cup National Special Hockey Team. It’s also possible to catch Steve at a Chicago Wolves game as an off-ice official, which he has been doing since 2010.

Steve is honored to be a part of the prestigious group of members of the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame. He wants to congratulate all those members who made it possible, as well as the past and current group of inductees, who have grown this great game we all love called, “HOCKEY”.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Randy Krawiec Officials' Category



Randy was born in Chicago, Illinois, and moved out to the western suburb of Schiller Park when he was very young. Little did Randy know that the building of the 294 Tollway in his backyard would be his introduction to ice skating; there was a small creek that ran alongside the ramp. Santa brought Randy a pair of hockey skates that Christmas. His dad laced the skates up, and Randy walked over to the creek; his ankles were bent almost to the ground when he got off the ice. Within a few weeks, he was almost able to skate. He knew skating was something he really wanted to do. A short time later, after being persistent, Randy was cruising down the creek, hockey stick in hand, chasing the 'rubber biscuit'. He was hooked!

The Krawiec's lived on a dead-end street, so whenever there was no ice, they made some nets and the street became their "Chicago Stadium".

Remember, back in those days there weren't as many indoor ice rinks as today. The first time Randy got to skate indoors was at the Oakton Ice Arena in the early 70's. Soon after he joined an actual hockey league in Franklin Park. A rink was constructed on the corner of Franklin Avenue and 25th Street where the Community Center now stands. He was able to play the inaugural season with the Franklin Park Jets before joining a men's league team. A few years later the men's league team disbanded, but Randy wanted to keep skating. So, putting on the 'stripes' seemed like the thing to do. That was a decision he has never regretted making.

Randy began officiating in the late 70's. He stuck primarily to his home rink (Franklin Park) for the first couple years. He was fortunate to have some of the best mentors a young official could ask for. Leroy "HOF" Albrecht, Don "Chez" Cesario, and Harold "HJ" Johansen showed Randy what it takes to be a successful official.

Randy served a few terms on the Illinois Hockey Officials Association (IHOA) Board of Directors until work commitments got in the way and he had to step down. He still serves as the IHOA Northern Illinois Hockey League (NIHL) Representative. Over the years he has been honored to work various levels of "Our Game" - from mites to AAA midgets, Chicago Showcase to State Championships. There was never a game where he could say, "I didn't give it my all."

Randy's second biggest thrill as an official was back in 1997 when he received a call from the NHL and was offered a position as an off-ice official here in Chicago as a video goal judge for the NHL (where he enjoys the "best seat in the Madhouse"). He has since expanded his involvement during games by taking on the role of Arena Technical Coordinator for the League. Randy says this was, "My second biggest thrill, because nothing can ever top the call I received to inform me I was being inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame as an Official."

Randy notes that the honor of being recognized by his peers and the hockey community is something very special and humbling. He would also like to congratulate all his fellow Inductees and extend a huge thank you to all his "brothers in stripes" who may not know it, but have in some way made this great honor possible.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Don Granato Players' Category



The Granato name is synonymous with hockey not just in Illinois, but wherever the sport is played around the world. Don just happens to be the latest ambassador. Born and raised in Downers Grove, he's the third member of his family to be inducted in the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame. Younger sister Cammi, an Olympic gold medalist and Hockey Hall of Famer, was honored in 2005, while older brother Tony, an Olympic player, coach and NHL all-star, was inducted in 2006.

Don has blazed his own trail, contributing to a wide variety of championship cultures along the way. As a player, he won a state title at Burnsville (Minn.) High School and an NCAA championship ring at the University of Wisconsin. As a coach at the junior level, he directed Green Bay to the United States

Hockey League title. As a coach at the pro level, he led Peoria (Ill.) to the Kelly Cup as champion of the East Coast Hockey League and was named American Hockey League Coach of the Year while overseeing Worcester (Mass.).

Don, 52, started out as a goaltender before discovering he had the speed and scoring touch to make it as a forward. He grew up video-taping hundreds of NHL games and pouring over the tiniest of details, which helps explain his highly regarded, innovative approach to teaching and tactics. He's worked with three NHL teams as an assistant, including St. Louis, Chicago and now Buffalo. He's worked with two NHL teams as a scout, including Toronto and Vancouver. He also served as an associate head coach alongside his brother Tony, now the head coach at Wisconsin.

If there's a testament to Don's handiwork, it was his nearly five-year stint as head coach of the prestigious U.S. National Team Developmental Program in Plymouth, Mich. He coached the under-17 and under-18 squads to world championships and helped develop the likes of current NHL standouts Auston Matthews, Matthew Tkachuk, Jack Eichel, Noah Hanifin, Clayton Keller, Zach Werenski and Charlie McAvoy.

You could make a case that Don has followed in the hall of fame footsteps of his brother and sister, but there's ample evidence that his path is not only unique, but worth celebrating.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Tim Stapleton Players' Category



Born in Oak Park, Illinois, as the youngest of three children to Chris and Berna Stapleton, Tim's passion for playing hockey was evident from the first time he put on skates at just three years old. Every winter, Tim's father built ice rinks in their backyard where Tim played incessantly. Off the ice, Tim idolized the Detroit Redwings, faithfully following the career of his idol, Steve Yzerman.

At four years old, Tim joined the youth hockey team The Oak Park Eagles. He continued his young hockey career in Oak Park, playing at Fenwick High School for the Friars. After two seasons with the Friars, Tim aspired to play at the AAA Hockey level. During tryouts, Tim's talents were recognized by Chicago Chill Head Coach Larry Pedrie, effectively placing Tim on the team for two years. After his brief tenure with the Chicago Chill, Tim was drafted by the Green Bay Gamblers of the United States Hockey League (USHL). There he played two years and was endowed a full

scholarship to the University of Minnesota-Duluth. At Duluth, Tim led the team in scoring as a freshman. He played all four years at University of Minnesota-Duluth before turning pro.

Professionally, Tim has enjoyed many successes. A brief term with the Portland Pirates led him to Finland where he secured a one-year position on the Jokerit of the Finnish SM-liiga. There, he won a silver medal and finished second in playoff scoring.

In June 2008, Tim joined the Toronto Maple Leafs for a season before being assigned to the Toronto Marlies of the American Hockey League later that year. In February 2009, Tim played his first NHL game with the Toronto Maple Leafs. The following year, Tim was traded to the Atlanta Thrashers before joining the 2009-2010 Chicago Wolves affiliate. Because the Thrashers moved to Canada to become the Winnipeg Jets, Tim scored the last-ever goal for the Thrashers on April 10, 2011 before they moved.

His career led him to play on the Kontinental Hockey League in several European cities. He played for the Dinamo Minsk, Ak Bars Kazan, Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk, Metallurg Magnitogorsk. In 2015, Tim left the KHL and joined the Swiss Club EHC Biel. He joined the Karlstad-based Swedish Club Färjestad BK of the Swedish Hockey League. He later accepted a position with HC Spartak Moscow. In 2017, Tim played for the EHC Olten of the Swiss League before closing his career with the German club, ERC Ingolstadt of the Deutsche Eishockey Liga in 2018.

Today, Tim is a proud family man, happily married to Marissa Stapleton whom he met in 2011. They traveled extensively together in Europe while Tim played professional hockey. Their two children, Boomer (4) and Sienna (2), were born in Chicago and Switzerland respectively. Currently, Tim is co-owner with good friend Jim Mullins of Boikey's Biltong, a South African beef jerky company. When he's not with his family, Tim enjoys his newest passion - golf.

Tim's induction means so much to him because it gives him the opportunity to remember all the wonderful highlights of his hockey career, reigniting the passion from when he was three years old. Tim thanks AHAI, his family, and his friends for this incredible recognition and for honoring him tonight.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

John Conenna Coaches' Category



John was born and raised in the village of Norridge, Illinois, during the late 1960's and through the 1970's hockey became the theme of his neighborhood. Playing on the streets was John's first introduction to the game and then on to the nearby ponds and over to his first league which was in the neighboring village of Harwood Heights.

Hockey was by far John's favorite sport and it became a daily passion for him. Some of his favorite idols growing up were Tony Esposito, Glenn Hall, and the great Stan Mikita. Throughout his playing career, John was a goaltender from his start in youth hockey, continuing in high school, and also in college at Loyola University.

John attended Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois. While in high school, he worked for his father at the family

business, Venus Travel, which he opened in 1968 and still stands to this day at 7418 West Belmont Avenue in Chicago. He continued working there during his college years as well.

John's first introduction to coaching came about at Holy Cross High School. He became the goaltending coach under head coach James Nardella, who he played for while at Holy Cross. After a brief stint as an assistant coach in Winnetka, John took some time off to run the family business. In 1985, John married his wife Connie Conenna and moved to Elk Grove Village, Illinois, and raised their two children, Vincent and Julianna.

While residing in Elk Grove Village, John's coaching career took shape starting with the Northwest Chargers from 1993 to 2006. During that same period he coached the Conant Cougars High School Team in Schaumburg, Illinois, from 2000 to 2012. John also made time to coach the DePaul University Hockey Club from 2006 to 2008. After Terry Stasica's retirement from Conant High School, John became President and Varsity Coach of the Conant Cougars. Stasica hand-picked John in 2000 to lead his beloved club. In addition, John became Vice President of the Metro Northwest Hockey League from 2005 to 2009. He was a two-time Coach of the Year with the Northwest Chargers in 1998 and also for Conant High School in 2009.

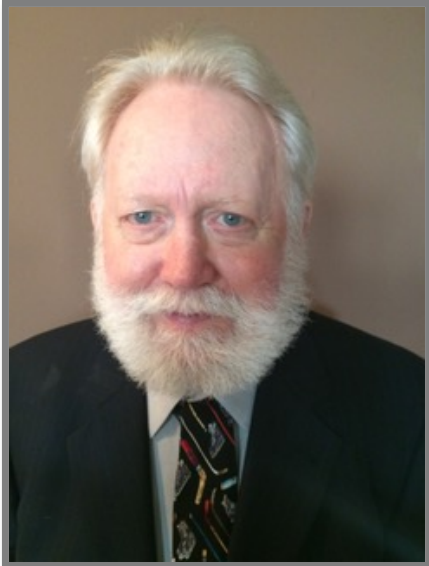
John credits a great part of his career to some of his mentors. His very first coach, Stan Gialo of Harwood Heights, Mike and James Nardella at Holy Cross, who truly were giants at this great game. Gary Pheipher at Loyola University, who showed him the game at a different level. John's father, Vincenzo Conenna, who demonstrated to him every day to work hard at whatever you do.

John is truly honored to be a part of the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame and accepts humbly this honor of honors. He attributes his success to the love, devotion, and support given by his parents, Vincenzo and Elisabetta Conenna, along with his wife Connie and their children, Vincent and Julianna.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Jim Friberg Coaches' Category



Jim was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in the year 1944. Growing up in Maplewood, Minnesota, he learned to skate and play hockey on a pond in his neighborhood. He graduated from North St. Paul High School in 1962 and was a 3-year hockey letterman; he played in the 1961 Minnesota High School Boys' Hockey Tournament. Jim graduated in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Group Work and Recreation at George Williams College in Downers Grove, Illinois, and played on their club hockey team.

While at George Williams College he met Jim Campbell at Elmhurst Ice Rink. Jim Campbell developed the first Illinois residential hockey school, aptly named the "Jim Campbell Hockey School" at the Wagon Wheel in Rockton, Illinois. Jim was an initial camp instructor working with Jim Campbell, Greg Wallace and Bob Murch. Bob and Greg would go on to form CAN/AM at Guelph University in Canada where Jim was again an initial instructor.

Jim went on to Cleveland, Ohio, to run YMCA programs and then as a counselor at Olmstead High School. During this time, he began instructing at CAN/AM hockey schools.

Deerfield Falcons Hockey Association in Illinois hired Jim in the early 70's to become the first professional hockey coach. He also ran the house league programs at an indoor ice rink called "The Bubble" for 3 years before running learn-to-skate and mite programs. These teams were highly successful winning numerous Illinois State A, AA and AAA titles.

After 9 years of coaching and running the Falcons' programs, he became the head coach for Glenbrook North High School Hockey in Northbrook, Illinois. He was the first coach to ever lead this team to win back-to-back Illinois Boys' High School Hockey State AA Tournaments.

He went on to coach the Young Americans to become the National runner-up champions at the pee wee and bantam levels. Jim thoroughly enjoyed coaching girls' hockey teams. Lastly, Jim coached the Loyola Academy White team to win the Illinois Boys' High School Hockey State A Tournament.

Knowing the players and parents from the past is what has made coaching especially enjoyable and rewarding for Jim. He would like to thank the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame and the many people who have made all the years of coaching possible.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Chuck Linkenheld Coaches' Category



Chuck is one of five siblings, including a special needs brother, who grew up in Schaumburg, Illinois. He began skating when he was just 5 years old on Turner Pond in Roselle. Turner Pond became a speed skating event run by the Schaumburg Jaycees where Chuck won a few races and moved on to an indoor rink soon thereafter.

Later, a baseball teammate invited Chuck to a Friday night hockey camp run by Jim Allen at the Polar Dome rink in Dundee. He loved it and quickly joined the Dundee Demons hockey club at 7 years old. The following year he was invited to the Minor Hawks Hockey camp and was later extended an invitation to try out for the Chicago Minor Hawks. He made the team and was a Minor Hawk his entire youth hockey career.

Chuck also attended and played hockey at Saint Viator High School where he and his team are members of the Athletics Hall Of Fame. He later attended Merrimack College and was captain his senior year. Chuck began coaching in 1987 for the Schaumburg Kings after meeting Bob Mathson at a family BBQ. He has coached over 3000 games spanning over 30 years with the majority at the AAA level for Team Illinois, Chicago Mission and the Chicago Young Americans (CYA). He also coached two years at the Junior Tier II level in the North American Hockey League (NAHL). Currently, Chuck is in scouting and player development with the Tri City Storm (Kearney, Neb.) of the USHL and coaching a bantam team at CYA.

After receiving a BSBA in management, Chuck joined the plumbing industry and was a manufacturer's representative for 20 years. During his younger years he became a licensed plumber and is currently the President and owner of Nulink Backflow Prevention Corp.

Chuck is married to Gina, and has five (adult) children who are now all over the age of 21 - Anthony, Cody, Casey, Briana and Niki. Casey is currently a senior Academic All-American hockey player at Bowling Green University. Gina and Chuck have also fostered seven children.

Chuck is honored to join all the members of the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame, especially Bob Mathson who started it all, as well as the Roche family. He is especially grateful for Mr. Bill Roche who guided him while with the prestigious, ahead of their time, Chicago Minor Hawks.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Kenny McCudden Coaches' Category



Kenny McCudden was born in Chicago, Illinois. His older brother, Brian, was instrumental in his developing a passion and love for the game of hockey. He started skating on ponds and river overflows and then at park district outdoor rinks. He also played at an early age indoors at local rinks like Michael Kirby, Oak Park and Franklin Park Ice Arena, which eventually changed his life not only as a player, but in his hockey future.

At a young age, Skip Thayer and Lou Varga, legendary trainers for the Chicago Blackhawks, allowed Kenny inside the ropes to help set up and pack up when the Blackhawks practiced at Franklin Park when the Stadium was unavailable. They eventually brought him to Chicago Stadium as a stick boy when Kenny was 17 years old. The following year, the Blackhawks hired him as an assistant trainer as he became the staff's first-ever third man.

Kenny moved on after six seasons. He was later approached by former Blackhawk player Grant Mulvey, and in 1989 the two men started Mid-West Elite Hockey School. The school conducted in-season clinics and sold out summer camps for the next 9 years. Grant was also instrumental in bringing Kenny into the Chicago Wolves organization prior to the club's inaugural International Hockey League (IHL) season in 1994-95.

Kenny became a specialized coach teaching skill development before the term 'skills coach' was ever implemented. He spent 18 years with the Chicago Wolves, both in the IHL and the American Hockey League (AHL), and served under Head Coach John Anderson when the club won its last championship, the AHL's Calder Cup, in 2008.

Since 2000, Kenny McCudden has been the owner of Ice Company, which specializes in small group clinics and summer camps throughout North America. He has taught the game to over 125,000 players from Learn to Skate to the National Hockey League (NHL).

Throughout his career in Illinois he was honored to work with many youth level organizations. These hockey clubs hired him mostly for their mites through midget skill programs, and include: the Flames, Crystal Lake Leafs, Yellowjackets, Barrington, Cyclones, Mission, Chargers, Park Ridge, Glenview, Sabres, Oak Park, Huskies, and the Elmhurst YMCA. Kenny was honored in 2015 for his 21 years of teaching the game in Crystal Lake by the Crystal Lake Yellowjacket Hockey Club.

Kenny served as a skills coach for USA Hockey's Women's National Program, where he won a silver medal at the 2012 Women's World Championships, a gold medal at the 2013 Women's World Championships and a silver medal at the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia. He represented the U.S. Women's National Program as an on-stage presenter at the 2013 American Coaches Seminar in Naples, Florida.

Over the years Kenny has been hired by several NHL organizations, including the Colorado Avalanche, Atlanta Thrashers and St. Louis Blues to develop their players and operate their development camps. In addition, he has coached skill development in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) with the Sudbury Wolves and taught development to nine junior hockey teams through the Ontario Hockey Association.

He also has had five innovations implemented in the game of hockey. His latest patent invention is used throughout the National Hockey League and every level below.

Kenny McCudden is currently in his fifth year in the National Hockey League as an Assistant Coach with the Columbus Blue Jackets, where he is a member of Head Coach John Tortorella's staff. In 2016-17, Coach Tortorella won the Jack Adams Award as NHL Coach of the Year and the Blue Jackets are one of just seven teams to qualify for the Stanley Cup Playoffs in each of the past three seasons.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Sylvain Turcotte Coaches' Category



Sylvain Turcotte was born and raised in Ile-Bizard, Montreal, and is the oldest of two siblings. His parents, Yvan and Micheline allowed him to begin playing hockey at a very early age and started enrolling him in organized hockey by the time he was five years old. In the late 60's, indoor rinks were uncommon in Montreal, so most practices and games were played outdoors. Only on special occasions were hockey games played inside.

Sylvain's Uncle Real, who attended Michigan State on a hockey scholarship, started an instructional hockey school called The Turcotte Stickhandling Hockey School. As a result, Sylvain spent the next fourteen summers first attending and then instructing at his Uncle's hockey schools. He was given the opportunity to travel all over the United States and Canada developing his coaching skills.

Sylvain continued to play through high school, where his father Yvan coached him for two years before he attended The University of Quebec at Montreal. Sylvain majored in physical education, specializing in hockey. At the same time, he also began coaching his first high school alma mater where his team became the first ever French High School to participate in the Greater Montreal Athletic Association Hockey League. They were also the first French High School to participate in the Provincial Championship.

Sylvain married his wife Lucie in August of 1986 and moved to Chicago the following summer when he accepted the hockey director position for the Glenview Park District, a position he has held for the past thirty-two years. Lucie is also an avid hockey fan and French Canadian who has proved to be Sylvain's number one fan. Lucie left her parents and four siblings behind to support her husband's coaching career. After taking on the position of hockey director, Sylvain also started coaching youth hockey. He has coached for twenty years at the AAA level while also coaching the Glenview Stars Mite AA teams. Sylvain and Lucie welcomed two children, Josianne (27) and Cody (25), who both played hockey, instructed at the hockey school and coached at Glenview.

After spending so much time developing elite players from the Chicago area, Sylvain decided to stay closer to home by adding the Glenview Stars Hockey Director position to his Park District Hockey Director's job. He has held this position for the last fourteen years. Overall, Sylvain has played a hand in coaching some elite hockey players including Craig Anderson, Brian Fahey, Brett Lebda, Tim Stapleton, Danny Richmond, Al Montoya, Megan Bozek, Ryan Hartmann, Christian Dvorak, Alex Turcotte, etc. Even after all the time committed to the game of hockey, Sylvain still enjoys the game and honing young athletes' skills in order to compete at their highest levels. To this day, teaching Learn to Skate, where it all begins, is still his favorite part of the day.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Lynne Bournazos Builders' Category



Lynne grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where copious amounts of lake effect snow during the winter months turned her neighborhood into a child's winter wonderland and enabled her Dad to turn her backyard into an ice rink. So, perhaps those early years foreshadowed how she would be spending many winters with her family in the future.

Lynne graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in Marketing, began her first outside sales job, married her college sweetheart, and moved to Grand Haven where they got even more snow!

Fast forward 14 years and she's in her kitchen in Naperville, Illinois, with her oldest son Nick who is explaining why he **HAS** to play hockey. Little did Lynne know that moment in time would change the trajectory of her entire life, and she would be spending a good majority of her time in ice rinks year round for the next 22 years! She did some research and discovered that the newly built Seven Bridges Ice Arena was home to the Sabres Hockey Association, and so the adventure began! Shortly thereafter, her second son Andrew was begging to play hockey, followed by 4-year-old Christopher who demanded he wanted "to do hockey too!"

Like so many other parents, Lynne wanted to be involved and contribute to her kids' activities and passions, so she began volunteering and helping out in whatever capacity and wherever there was an opportunity. Before long she was invited to be considered for a seat on the Board of Directors as Secretary, and then later took on the role of Business Manager for the Sabres. Lynne's hockey volunteer "career" was off and running! After several fun years, the whole family moved to the Flames Hockey Club where they created many lasting memories and met more wonderful hockey families. During those years, Lynne assisted with various volunteer duties at the Flames including Team Manager.

She and her husband John also became involved with the newly formed Neuqua Valley High School hockey team where she soon took over the Registrar duties and John served on the Board of Directors. A few years later in 2001 with Nick off playing juniors, they let Chris tryout at Team Illinois as a Peewee Minor, where he was fortunate to play for several terrific coaches for the remainder of his youth hockey career. Lynne looked for volunteer opportunities to get

involved in their new organization and it wasn't long before a teammate, Gino Pisellini, said he'd submitted her name to be considered for the Board of Directors as they needed a Secretary. When the current Registrar moved out of state, she abruptly found herself back in that roll knowing nothing about the Tier I aspects of the job. But Holly and Norm Spiegel mercifully guided and mentored her through that first crazy season!

Eighteen years later Lynne continues to call Team Illinois home, and still finds her Registrar role to be ever changing, always interesting and occasionally challenging. She is honored and humbled by this recognition, and feels extremely fortunate to have had the privilege of working with so many wonderful and dedicated "hockey people" through the years who have devoted their time and energies to building and promoting amateur hockey here in Illinois.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Tim Gabel Builders' Category



Tim grew up on the southwest side of Chicago in a family of sixteen children. He developed his love for the game of hockey listening to Lloyd Pettit announce the Blackhawks hockey games on TV. At an early age he played hockey in alleys and on frozen tennis courts with his brothers. Being the smallest of his brothers, he was always put in the net, which is where he developed his goaltending skills. It was then that he knew goaltender was the position for him. Though he enjoyed playing, Tim's true calling in the game of hockey was coaching. Tim coached his son and daughter's ice hockey teams in their early years, and that is when he became connected to special hockey in Illinois.

While attending his son's AHAI State Champions dinner in 2000, Tim heard a presentation from then AHAI President, Mike LeBarre, who was seeking volunteers to help start an ice hockey team with founder, Amy LaPoe, for adults and children with

special needs; the Tomahawks. Tim knew he wanted to be a part of the organization and became one of the team's first coaches. The Tomahawks, began with just a handful of skaters and coaches with a single Saturday afternoon ice slot at the Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville, but grew steadily over the years. When the team needed to accommodate the many different regions of its skaters throughout the Chicago area, Tim helped coordinate the expansion of the team to include the south side division at the Arctic Ice Arena in Orland Park, where he became one of their head coaches.

In 2015, the Tomahawks changed their name to Chicago Blackhawks Special Hockey (CBSH). Coaching with the CBSH team was always a family event, to include his son, Tim, and daughter, Lauren, who both started as junior coaches and continued with the team into their adulthood. His wife, Adrienne, also later became a manager for the team. Tim, along with his son and daughter developed the learn to skate program for all new skaters, regardless of ability.

Tim feels truly blessed to have been a part of this organization for 17 years and has received far more from the players and families than he could ever give. He would like to thank the Chicago Blackhawks for their continued support of the organization, his family, players and their families, and fellow CBSH volunteers for helping to make this a successful program. Tim is humbled to be recognized by AHAI and included with this class of inductees in the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame.



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Rich Jecmen Builders' Category



Rich was born in Oak Park and raised in North Riverside by his loving parents, Ray and Irene Jecmen. He is the youngest of 3 children. As public rinks were hard to come by, his passion for hockey was formed on the rivers, creeks, and ponds in his neighborhood. Organized hockey was not feasible for the family during these times. Pick-up games and midnight hockey were the only option.

In the spring of 1978, he was asked by a friend if he would coach the Riverside Brookfield high school hockey team during their inaugural spring season. He gladly accepted and ended up leading the team to the spring league championship. He also stayed on as an assistant coach through their fall season.

During a short hiatus from hockey, Rich met his wife Kathy while working at the Robert Bosch Corporation in Broadview. They married in 1983 and bought their first home in Bloomingdale. Rich and Kathy are the parents of two children. Patrick was born in 1990 and Danielle in 1995. Patrick started playing for the Flames in 1996, where Rich served as the team's coach from the pre-hockey through squirt levels.

In 2001, Pat moved to the Chicago Blues hockey club to continue his youth career. It was at this point that Rich made the transition to board member of the Blues organization. He started out on the Rules and Ethics committee, moved up to Vice President, and ultimately served as President for two years.

During the summer of 2006, Pat and Rich met Jim Smith and JJ O'Connor at the AHAI Golf Outing, a day that would change their lives. After hearing JJ's inspirational speech of his life story, Patrick decided to ask Jim and JJ if he could volunteer to help with the Hornets Sled Hockey team. He joined the team that fall, becoming the team's first "Student Coach". With Pat going away to college in 2008, Jim asked Rich if he would be interested in helping with the Hornets. Rich accepted, thus making the life-changing move from able-bodied hockey to disabled hockey.

While coaching the Hornets in 2015, Rich was asked to also coach the newly formed Chicago Blackhawks Warriors. The Warrior discipline of USA Hockey strives to reintegrate disabled veterans into civilian life through the competitiveness and camaraderie of the game. Working with the Blackhawks Warriors was one of Rich's biggest challenges, as he was not only coaching the team but trying to build the organization. Fundraising and marketing of the team were the main hurdles to overcome. He enlisted the help of Kathy, Pat, and Danielle to assist with the Warriors. Disabled hockey has not only become part of Rich's life, but also his family's.

In February of 2016, Rich was honored with the BMO Harris Bank Youth Hockey Volunteer of the Month Award. In 2019, Rich was selected as AHAI's Disabled Hockey Coach of the Year.

Rich is honored to be a member of the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame and humbled to join the ranks of the incredible men and women that came before him. He would like to thank those that recognized the difference that this sport has made in the lives of so many.

Rich says, "The selection to the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame is a dream come true that was never dreamt. When you do something you love, the honors and accolades really don't cross your mind. You do it because you love this great sport and the people involved in it."