



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020



### 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.