

## BUILDERS CATEGORY

### *Bob Wagner*



Born and raised in Illinois, has been a lifelong advocate for youth sports and community development. Growing up, Bob's passion for hockey began on the outdoor rinks of Franklin Park at the age of 5. He continued to nurture that love of the game throughout his youth by playing for Franklin Park and Des Plaines Youth Hockey, Maine West High School Hockey, and Triton College before moving on to the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Throughout his professional career, Bob worked in sales, a field that provided him the flexibility to dedicate much of his time to coaching and community service. His coaching journey began in 1994 when he became involved with the Glenview Youth Hockey Program coaching his son's Dynamite teams. At the same time, he was coaching Bills Youth Football, where he also served as President. Bob continued to give back to the next generation of athletes by coaching hockey, football, and baseball. These roles ignited a long commitment to youth sports, primarily hockey, where his passion lies.

When his sons, Christopher and Patrick, attended High School in 2002, Bob took on a leadership/coaching role with the Buffalo Grove High School Combined Hockey Program. The following year, Bob assumed responsibility for running the program and was the head coach. In addition, Bob became a Metro Northwest Board Member and shortly thereafter became President of what is now IHSHL North Central. Bob has coached Illinois Youth Hockey for over 30 years, with 23 of those years being at the Buffalo Grove/Hersey/Wheeling Combined high school Program. He has coached more than 1,000 high school games, led his teams to numerous league championships, and celebrated victories in 2 out of 4 State Championship Games. His dedication to the hockey community has made a lasting impact with many of the players and their families, both on and off the ice.

In addition to the above, Bob has served in numerous capacities over the years such as AHAI Goalie Coordinator, High School Board Member and High School Tournament Director. He has also served as President of Metro Central, President of North Central and was a founding member of IHSHL.

Bob is deeply grateful for the support of his family, his boys Christopher and Patrick and above all his wife, Rose, who has been by his side for 37 years. He is also grateful for mentors like Mike Mullally, who has provided guidance throughout his journey. He extends special thanks to Jack Weinberg for entrusting him with the opportunity to use his time and experience to help so many young athletes thrive. Bob's journey is a testament to his commitment to leadership, family, and the power of sports in shaping lives.