



## ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020

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### Jon Grzbek Coach's 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 is a North American Sales Director for Follett School Solutions. 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 388 wins 184 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 Efren Molina (2013).