ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2020



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. Jacks 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 programing. 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 AHAI 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.