

CHICAGO HAWKS: A FAMILY AFFAIR



The Shadle family certainly knows what it's like to **#BeAHawk**. Dad Joe is the CSDHL Representative on our Hawks Board, hockey mom Franca has managed several teams, son Drew plays for our U16's, and sons Jack and Jared went all the way through the Hawks organization and are now teammates at Illinois State University! Jack agreed to tell us what it's like to move on from the Hawks and play for a college team with your brother!!

I used to wonder what playing with my brother would be like. First and foremost, with our names being as similar as they are, I wondered what the backs of our jerseys would look like. I secretly wished a team would resort to printing our full names, like the Hartford Whalers did for Gordie Howe when he played alongside his sons. Somehow it never occurred to me that his being a goalie would take care of anyone potentially confusing us on the ice. Nonetheless, the prospect of playing with him both excited and terrified me. We're both incredibly hard on ourselves and no

stranger to heated arguments. Putting us together in a setting as brash and as vulnerable as hockey could be disastrous. Yet at the time, there's no one person I know better than my brother, and the same goes for him with me. Putting us together could bring out the best in us and any team graced with the honor of the Shadle package deal (trademark pending). For 12 years, I never got to see how such a scenario would play out. When Jared committed to Illinois State, it seemed I never would. Yet after two years at Marquette University, I needed a change. I was at a real crossroads for the first time in my life, but thankfully there was a solution right in front on my face -- one I realized I had yearned for as long as I could remember. It was only a few weeks into my first semester when I understood that coming to Illinois State with my brother was the best decision I had ever made.

The things I feared were legitimate. We have gone at each other a handful of times, but our relationship is stronger than it has ever been, and I am having more fun playing hockey than I have in a long time. We push each other to be better, while joking around and enjoying each other's company again. We hold each other accountable, while making friends and memories to cherish forever. Playing college hockey with my brother has been everything I could have hoped for, and I am infinitely thankful that the stars finally aligned. - **Jack Shadle, Illinois State University '20**