

BUILDERS CATEGORY



Bob Apter

Hockey has always been a passion of Bob's and he has a gift for seeing opportunities to help make the sport better for everyone in Illinois, and he works to do just that.

By profession, Bob was a hedge fund portfolio manager, specializing in the healthcare sector, where he worked with firms like UBS. Today, Bob owns his own Midwest-based business, AGM Structures, which manufactures commercial modular buildings. But what's more important to share with you is his history of volunteerism and dedication to hockey organizations in our state.

After playing hockey through high school and college, he immediately transitioned to coaching at travel and house organizations on Chicago's north side. At that time he also served as an IHOA official. In the late 1980s and the 90s, his efforts shifted to head coaching the Carl Sandburg High School team and then coaching and guiding the Victor J. Andrew High School hockey program. It was at this time that he also began to work at a league level; helping the high school program first join, and then become, a strong member of the Metro West High School Hockey League. To support his sons' organization, from 2005 to 2013, he was a coach, board member and then President of the Orland Park Vikings. In 2015, he transitioned to serving for the board of the Romeoville Huskies program, a position he held for several years.

Where Bob has had the greatest impact is with the youth hockey leagues in Illinois. Much of his effort has been focused on the Northern Illinois Hockey League, which has historically been one of the largest youth hockey leagues in the nation. He began in 2009 as a member of the league's Tournament Committee and his interest and involvement grew from there. In 2011, he became the Vice President of the league. Since 2015, he has served as the NIHL President. As a league, there are fundamental NIHL philosophies that he has proudly embraced and furthered. The league operates in a way that is transparent and fair for all the kids who play in it. During his tenure, NIHL has become the epicenter of Tier II Girls hockey in the Midwest. The league has built five strong girls divisions that include teams that excel at the state, district and national levels. Under his guidance NIHL has forged a powerful partnership with the Chicago Blackhawks organization that includes hosting the league championships at the United Center. The league has also consistently introduced innovations in its NIHL Blackhawks Tournament (*salute to Veterans, exciting new playoff formats, etc.*). Under Bob's leadership, league fees have been held steady or reduced and NIHL continues to launch more initiatives each season. Bob is immensely proud of the work his group has done, and will continue to do, to make Tier II hockey more and more rewarding for all players and their families.

Bob brings this same spirit and drive to his work on the AHAI board. He has chaired the Tier III Committee and implemented rule changes which have been instrumental in that level of hockey surviving and thriving in our state. He has been a key part of the State Tier II Ranking Committee for numerous years as well. Additionally, Bob serves as the AHAI board's conscience when it comes to decisions and how they impact middle and smaller size Tier II clubs.

Bob's wonderful wife, Cindy, has always supported his passion to lead, build and grow hockey for all the kids in our state. Like many of us, Bob's five children had a lot to do with his decision to become fully involved in the hockey community and we have all been the beneficiaries of that choice.

Bob would like to congratulate and extend his appreciation to the other Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame Inductees in this year's class. Lastly, he would like to acknowledge the help, support and friendship of the NIHL board members who have helped him achieve this honor.

BUILDERS CATEGORY

Kevin Delaney

Kevin began playing hockey in Illinois in 1984 when he first attended the Stan Mikita Hockey School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AHIHA). A graduate of Lake Forest College, he played three years of varsity hockey before beginning his long and successful coaching career. Over the past 28 years, Kevin has coached across Illinois, New England and Europe, leading camps, clinics, and teams at various levels. His accomplishments include winning two girls' high school state championships, a Tier 1 Peewee AAA state title and multiple league titles.



For the past nine years, Kevin has served as President of AHIHA, where his leadership has helped earn two silver medals and one gold medal in international play. He has been an Associate Member of the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association since 1995 and was honored with the Billy Reay Coach of the Year Award in 2005.

Kevin has also been a member of the development coaching staff for the Chicago Blackhawks and Rockford IceHogs for the past 15 years, contributing to the Blackhawks' 2013 and 2015 Stanley Cup championship teams. In addition, he served as a development coach with the University of Wisconsin men's hockey team for six years and the women's team for five years (*national championships in 2019 and 2021*).

Throughout his career, Kevin has worked with thousands of players—from beginners to professionals—and continues to find joy and inspiration in coaching, now more than ever. His passion for player development and mentorship has left a lasting impact on the hockey community, shaping the next generation of athletes both on and off the ice.

BUILDERS CATEGORY



Bill Gomolinski

Bill Gomolinski was born in Chicago, the son of a factory worker and a Goldblatt's cashier, just a few blocks from Home Run Inn Pizza—the site of his second job. His first job was a paper route, which earned him a trip to Disney World when the park first opened as he was the top salesman. Early on, Bill developed a strong work ethic and a passion for community involvement, becoming a precinct captain and sparking a lifelong interest in Chicago politics.

After graduating from Quigley South Prep, Bill pursued his dream of playing baseball professionally in the farm leagues. When that chapter ended and college seemed out of reach, the priests he had befriended at Quigley enrolled him in Niles Seminary. He later transferred to Loyola University for his second year and began working full-time nights as a stationary engineer for the Chicago Park District—a job he held throughout college, law school, and even during his first few years as an attorney. From the historic Water Tower on Michigan Avenue to Lincoln Park Zoo and Garfield Park Conservatory, Bill kept people, plants, and animals warm during harsh Chicago winters.

Upon graduating from John Marshall Law School, Bill turned down a law firm offer, confident he could succeed on his own. Though it took time for his earnings to match what was offered, his practice grew steadily, fueled by his commitment to helping others. Bill loved working with blue-collar clients, forming lifelong friendships through his fierce advocacy. His dedication and integrity earned him an appointment as a Cook County Circuit Court judge—a role he embraced wholeheartedly. Besides being a father, it was the job he loved most. Known for his meticulous preparation and unwavering standards, Bill treated every case with equal importance and expected the same from others. He rarely missed a day, upheld the law with purpose, and earned respect for his fairness and rigor.

As a trial court judge in the Law Division, Bill mastered negotiation and mediation. Upon retirement, he joined a conflict resolution firm before launching his own practice, quickly becoming one of the most sought-after mediators in Illinois. He facilitated billions of dollars in settlements, ensuring positive outcomes for all parties involved.

Bill's passion for hockey began when his eldest son started playing at age three. By five, his son was in Rocky Hockey at Seven Bridges Ice Arena, and soon joined a Sabres mite team—where Bill was “recruited” (volunteered by his wife, Joyce) as an assistant coach. From there, he became deeply involved in youth hockey through coaching and serving on the Flames Hockey Club board, drafting bylaws, and later joining AHAI's Rules and Ethics Committee as chairperson and as a director. Bill worked tirelessly to make Illinois youth hockey fair and inclusive, advocating for high standards among parents, coaches, and volunteers. He helped rewrite rules to allow AAA players to play for their high school teams and championed the growth of girls' hockey, ensuring equal opportunities for female athletes.

Bill passed away on September 11, 2024—a fitting date for a true patriot who loved his country and the freedoms it offered. He embodied the American Dream: born with little, he worked tirelessly to build a better life and make a difference. Even as a successful professional, Bill never shied away from hard work, whether changing the oil in a car or installing a boiler. Above all, his greatest achievement was caring for his family—a legacy carried on by his three children and three grandchildren, of whom he was immensely proud.

2025 ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

REFEREE CATEGORY

Mike Nargie

Mike was born in Chicago and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. Sports were always a part of the dynamic in his household while growing up - whether it was baseball, football or hockey. Mike has always had a passion for playing sports even at a young age.

Mike stepped onto the ice and began playing hockey at the age of ten at the Ridgeland Ice Arena. During high school, Mike played for the Oak Park River Forest Huskies Hockey Club. Upon graduating from Oak Park River Forest High School, Mike continued to play adult hockey at the Franklin Park Ice Arena.



Then, in his mid-twenties, Mike decided to try officiating hockey games after seeing a poster about officiating at the rink. Whenever the call came to officiate a hockey game, Mike always accepted the game assigned to him no matter where it was being played. Mike realized that the passion he had for playing hockey had carried over to officiating.

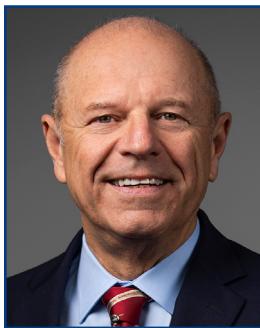
Fast forward thirty years, Mike continues to officiate hockey games throughout the Chicagoland area. Mike has officiated all levels of hockey from Mite to College games. Mike also had the privilege and the honor of officiating the State Championship game at the United Center three times, Tier I Regional Championships and Tier I National Championships. No matter what the level of hockey Mike is officiating, his presence on ice is always calm, steady and consistently calls a fair game for both teams alike.

Mike's dedication to the game of hockey has continued throughout the years not only on the ice but off the ice as well. Mike served on the IHOA Board of Directors in various roles for more than a decade.

At this time, Mike would like to extend his gratitude to the many people who have supported him during the past thirty years of officiating hockey games including fellow officials and mentors along the way. Most importantly, Mike would also like to thank his wife of 25 years, Rebecca, and his daughters, Savannah Marie and Stephanie Grace, for their unwavering support for his love of the game of hockey.

PLAYERS CATEGORY

Joe Gotfryd



Joe Gotfryd was born and raised in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, where he attended St. Adalbert parish and grammar school. He learned to skate at Harrison Park, across the street from his home, often starting games in goal as the youngest player on the ice. By age 10, he was traveling north to Rainbo Arena, playing two seasons there and with the Saddle & Cycle team.

Before high school, Joe's family moved to the southwest side of Chicago. He attended St. Rita High School and played four years in the Chicago Catholic Hockey League (CCHL) on the Mustang varsity team. As a senior, he led the league in scoring, set a school record, and helped St. Rita capture the Kennedy Cup, defeating Fenwick High School in the finals.

In 1975, Joe was recruited by the University of Illinois–Chicago (UICC). He set a school record his freshman year with 28 goals, and as a senior helped UICC finish third in the NCAA Division II National Ice Hockey Championship.

After graduation, Joe played five seasons (1979–1984) with the Chicago Cardinals in the Continental Hockey League. The Cardinals won the Walmer Cup in 1980–81, defeating the Peoria Blades in a five-game series.

Today, Joe serves as head coach of the U.S. Deaf National Hockey Team and assistant coach at St. Rita High School. He has also coached at St. Ignatius High School, with the Elmhurst Huskies, and the Chicago Hawks.

Joe is honored to join his fellow Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame class, humbled to be part of a group united by passion for the game. He extends heartfelt thanks to his parents, Loretta and Edward, his sister Maria, and brother Michael for their patience and support. He is grateful to the coaches who shared their knowledge, the teammates and opponents who pushed him to improve, and the family and friends who stood by him. Finally, he thanks his wife Diana—though she never saw him play, she has always listened to his stories with love.

COACHES CATEGORY

Todd Finner

Todd was born and raised in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada where he played street hockey morning, noon and night in elementary school while playing ice hockey for the local minor hockey association. Todd continued to play for his local junior A team in the British Columbia Hockey League and earned a scholarship to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago during a time when UIC was ranked in the top 10 nationally.



Todd finished his playing career at UIC and earned a degree with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. The hockey playing experience was important as it provided a window of opportunity for his first post-education employment. The firm had plenty of former Illinois youth hockey players and after his first day of work was reminded that the company hockey team had a midnight game at the Center Ice of DuPage.

While working during the day, Todd had the opportunity to teach skills and coach youth hockey teams at night at the old St. Spectrum ice arena in Bridgeview. It was there that he developed a passion for trying to give every player the skills necessary to enjoy the game to the fullest, in its purest form.

Todd's philosophy of hockey was heavily influenced by watching European teams compete in the 80's and the training methods used to develop such graceful and skilled players. With several new ice arena facilities opening, Todd quickly jumped on an opportunity to pursue ice rink administration and coaching on a more regular basis. For Todd, it was truly the opportunity of a lifetime to earn a living in a field that he absolutely loved.

Todd loved the competitive side of sports and was fortunate to coach so many driven, talented and great teams over the years. He has won numerous state titles at the AA and AAA level as well as a national championship. Several former players have gone on to represent USA in international competition or play professionally in the NHL, AHL or Europe. Todd is proud of all of his players and particularly grateful for the effort, energy and commitment to development that each and every player as well as their families brought to the rink on a regular basis.

BUILDERS CATEGORY



Maddy Rossobillo

Maddy Rossobillo is a devoted husband to his wife, Mariann, and a proud father to his three sons, Vince, Joe, and Anthony. Raised in Cicero, Illinois, Maddy grew up immersed in athletics, excelling as a multi-sport athlete in football, baseball, and basketball. From an early age, sports instilled in him the values of discipline, teamwork, leadership, and commitment—principles that would later define his life's work.

In his late twenties, Maddy took on a new challenge when his oldest son, Vince, expressed interest in playing hockey. With no prior background in the sport, Maddy learned how to ice skate and immersed himself in hockey culture, rules, and strategy. Drawing on his broad sports knowledge and leadership experience, he began coaching all three of his sons at a young age, successfully translating foundational athletic principles into the fast-paced world of hockey.

As a businessman, Maddy recognized that his greatest strength lay not just behind the bench, but in building sustainable environments where athletes, families, and organizations could thrive. This vision led him to serve as President of the Flames Youth Hockey Club, a role he held for nine impactful years. Under Maddy's leadership, the Flames achieved remarkable success, winning numerous state and regional titles and earning multiple appearances at national championship tournaments. During this time, the Flames also became the host site for the prestigious Silver Stick Regional Tournament for five consecutive years.

Beyond the club level, Maddy contributed significantly to the broader hockey community. He served on the board of the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHAI) and led the Blackhawk Cup State Tournament for several years, helping shape competitive opportunities for players across the state.

Following his tenure with the Flames, Maddy played an instrumental role in the development of the DePaul University Hockey Club and its ACHA Division II campaign. For eight years, he mentored the student-run program, guiding young leaders both on and off the ice. He also served as a regional representative for ACHA Division II and hosted regional championship tournaments on five separate occasions.

Over the course of his career, Maddy Rossobillo has helped create a hockey landscape that has touched the lives of thousands of players across the nation. At the core of everything he has done lies one unwavering goal: to build a place for great hockey, and an even greater place for people to grow into strong, principled men and women.

REFEREE CATEGORY

Chris Drews

Born in 1970, Chris Drews is the fourth child of Robert and JoAnn Drews. He grew up in Glendale Heights, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, and attended St. Matthew's Catholic and joined the Bloomingdale Hockey Club.

His parents' support was instrumental, providing private skating lessons and transportation to practices and games. In addition to hockey, Chris spent summers playing baseball and went on to play varsity hockey at Glenbard West High School.



At fourteen, Chris began officiating hockey games, an opportunity introduced to him by his brother and Hall of Fame inductee, Steven Drews. The experience not only provided valuable ice time but also deepened his understanding and appreciation for the sport. At age twenty, he was invited to the Central Development Camp, where his strong performance led to an opportunity to try out for the North American Hockey League as both a referee and linesman.

In 1995, Chris pursued higher education at the College of DuPage, studying Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services. He earned his Associate's Degree in Fire Science in 1996 and began his fire service career the following year. Committed to lifelong learning, he continued his professional development by earning a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science from Southern Illinois University, followed by a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Lewis University, graduating summa cum laude. In 2023, Chris was promoted to Lieutenant with the Addison Fire Protection District.

Alongside his fire service career, Chris remained active as a hockey official. He attended the Instructor Camp for hockey officials in 2007 and has since instructed numerous seminars across Illinois. His officiating career includes assignments in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Federal Hockey League, and the Ontario Hockey League, as well as State Playoff and Championship game at Chicago Stadium. His dedication reflects a lifelong passion for the sport that shaped his youth.

Today, Chris continues to serve as a Lieutenant with the Addison Fire Protection District, an instructor in Fire and EMS at Waubonsee Community College, and an off-ice official for the American Hockey League. He extends heartfelt congratulations to all past and present inductees, along with deep gratitude to his family, mentors, and fellow officials who have supported and inspired him throughout his journey. Chris is humbled and honored to receive this recognition as a 2025 inductee, sharing it with those who have helped pave the way.

PLAYERS CATEGORY

Brian Noonan



Brian Noonan was born and raised in South Boston, Massachusetts, and attended Archbishop Williams High School. Originally selected in the 1983 National Hockey League Entry Draft by the Blackhawks, he played seven seasons in Chicago as part of a 12-year NHL career from 1987-99.

Noonan debuted with the Blackhawks and went on to play for four other NHL clubs: the New York Rangers, St. Louis Blues, Vancouver Canucks and Phoenix Coyotes, accumulating 116 goals and 159 assists for 275 points in 629 career regular-season games. While with the Blackhawks, he once scored seven consecutive goals over a two-game span.

Noonan also played in the American Hockey League and International Hockey League for the New Westminster Bruins, Nova Scotia Oilers, Saginaw Generals, Indianapolis Ice and Chicago Wolves.

A highlight of Noonan's career came during the 1993-94 NHL season when—after being traded by the Blackhawks—he played a key role in helping the New York Rangers win their first Stanley Cup championship in 54 years.

Throughout his career, Noonan played for coach Mike Keenan, beginning with the Blackhawks and following him to the Rangers, Blues and Canucks—a testament to the trust Keenan placed in Noonan's consistent, hard-nosed style of play.

Noonan was awarded the Ken McKenzie Trophy during the 1985-86 season that's given to the American-born player judged to be most outstanding in his first season in the IHL. In addition, he was inducted into the Archbishop Williams High School and South Boston Hockey Hall of Fames.

After concluding his NHL career, Noonan played two seasons with the Wolves before retiring from professional hockey in 2001. He has remained involved in the sport, coaching youth and high school hockey in Illinois for the past 20 years. He currently coaches for the Chicago Jets organization and lives in the western suburbs with his wife, Jessica, and daughters, Brynn and Shea.

COACHES CATEGORY

Brad Saban

Brad Saban was born in La Grange and raised in Willow Springs with his sister, Renee, and three brothers, Kevin, Rick and Joe. Long before he played hockey, Brad became acquainted with the ice through figure skating lessons. When he was around seven years old, he started learning and playing hockey with the help of his father, Joseph Saban, who was his first hockey coach. Brad played on a team formed by his father called the Cheyennes through the Willow Ice Chalet, where he would go on to be coached by Elmer "Moose" Vasko.



As a freshman at Lyons Township (LT) high school, Brad ran track and played football, which he continued into his sophomore year with the addition of baseball. He joined LT's hockey team junior year with Coach Leo Golembiewski, who took the team to Sweden the following year for a six-game tour. After high school, he played for College of DuPage and was on the 1980 National Championship team - the first ever national hockey title for the college. In 1981, the team was a runner-up and Brad was named second team All-American.

Brad graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a minor in coaching. His coaching career started in 1982 with the Downers Grove Huskies, a AA team that featured his youngest brother, Joe Saban. Over his 33 years in hockey, Brad would go on to coach the Chicago Minor Hawks; Chicago Young Americans (CYA), where his team won a National Championship and a runner up; the Chicago Patriots (CYA's North American Hockey League); Glen Ellyn Flames; Team Illinois (*where his team won the Silver Stick, two national runner-ups and the prestigious Calgary Macs Midget Invite*); and the Chicago Fury before ending his coaching tenure in 2015 with the Chicago Mission.

An athlete at heart, Brad always loved being active and playing sports. While he coached hockey, he also umpired 12" and 16" softball. He ran the Pleasantdale Little League team with his father for many years, and won the 1997 USSA 12" Class C State Softball Tournament.

Brad is honored to be a part of the 2025 Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame class, especially with his brother, Joe. He would not have had the drive or success in his career without the loving support and encouragement from his parents, Jackie and Joseph Saban, and all of the great teammates and lifelong friends he made along the way.

COACHES CATEGORY



Joe Saban

Joe Saban grew up in Willow Springs as part of a family of seven, alongside his three older brothers and older sister. He was on skates before the age of two at the Willow Ice Chalet, just a few blocks from home. Hockey was a family tradition, with all three of his brothers playing at Lyons Township High School, and the rink quickly became a second home.

Joe began his hockey career with the Oak Lawn Spartans, where he played under Len Kurzawski. One of Len's most memorable pieces of advice was to follow his son, Mark, up the ice for rebounds — a strategy that paid off as Mark, a defenseman, scored over 100 goals at the Mite level. Joe later moved on to the Downers Grove Huskies, where his Pee Wee coach was Don Granato, Sr. During this time, Joe was teammates with Robbie Granato and spent several nights at the Granato household, shooting pucks in the backyard with Robbie's brother, Tony.

Joe attended Lyons Township High School, where he played baseball but did not compete on the school's hockey team. Instead, he played "AAA" with the Chicago Minor Hawks, playing his Bantam and Midget years under coach Richard Dumas, who had a profound influence on his development. Richard emphasized skating fundamentals, often beginning practices with 15 minutes of skating drills. During Joe's Midget years, the Minor Hawks dissolved, and Chicago Young Americans (CYA) was formed. As a Midget Major, Joe was part of a National Championship team that would eventually produce more than 10 Division One / Major Junior-level players.

Following the guidance and success of Tony Granato, Joe spent a year at Northwood Prep School in Lake Placid, New York, under coach Tom Fleming. Skating remained a central focus, with sessions built into every part of practice — beginning, middle, and end — along with additional training on the Olympic Oval speed skating rink, often without pucks.

Joe went on to play four years at Miami University of Ohio under head coach George Gwozdecky. Despite his freshman season being disrupted by chicken pox, Joe was named Miami's "Freshman of the Year" and was awarded a captain's "C" during his sophomore season. By his senior year, Miami had risen to a #1 - 2 national ranking and earned the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance, now known as the Frozen Four.

Joe began his coaching career in 1995 as an assistant coach alongside his brother, Brad. He went on to coach with Brad at Chicago Young Americans (CYA) and Team Illinois before spending the final 10 years of his coaching career with the Chicago Mission. Known for his attention to detail, Joe tracked team statistics from the bench while coaching the defense. From face-off plays to detailed video review, his players were taught accountability, discipline, and strong work habits to help them reach the next level.

Joe and Brad took great pride in watching former players compete on Friday and Saturday nights at their respective college programs—many of them serving as team captains.

Joe is deeply honored to be inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame Class of 2025, especially alongside his brother, Brad. He is grateful for the unwavering support of his parents—his mother, Jackie, who is here tonight, and his late father, the ever-boisterous and beloved "referee's favorite fan," Mr. Joe Saban.