

Michael Haggart Biography for Detroit Lakes Youth Hockey Board Candidacy

I would like to apply to be a board member for the DLYHA next season. Here is a little background on my hockey experience and why I'd like to be on the board:

I was born and raised in Detroit Lakes, and played hockey from age 4 (Pony's at that time) all the way to four years of being the starting goalie on the DLHS Varsity Team (2002-2006). To the extend that accolades from 20 years ago matter much, I was named to the Section 8 All Section Team, Mid-State Conference All Conference team (2 years), and selected for the Great 8 Section 8 team after my senior year. I was recruited to play at many MIAC schools including St. Johns, St. Thomas, one D1 program in Yale University, and a USHL Team (Chicago Steel).

In addition to hockey, i was a 3 sport athlete and also a top 10 academic student in my 2006 graduation class. I went onto to get my Bachelors in Business Administration at the University of Wisconsin Madison in 2010. After college, I went into education/teacher, got my masters in Special Education, and taught middle school special education Math and Science. For the past 12 years, I've worked in corporate business sales and sales management throughout the US, and recently moved my family back to Detroit Lakes in August 2024.

I believe my love for Laker hockey, my background in education and teaching young kids, and my financial experience working in corporate America are three strong reasons why I can add value to the continued work of the board. I also started a local non profit this year, DL Pond Hockey, and hosted our first classic tournament on Detroit Lake. I envision this group can help promote and expand access to hockey in DL and complement all that DLYHA provides, as well as donate monetarily to the continued growth and mission of DLYHA. I'd love to see more low income families able to get their kids in hockey, either via DLYHA or perhaps through an outdoor pond hockey rec league as a low cost/commitment option to keep growing the sport in our community. I'd also like to help explore alternative financing options in addition to the current gambling operations, potentially considering large capital campaign (similar to the gymnastics group) to help improve the DL rink for years to come.