



Hall of Fame Sig Jokiel

- Sig was born in Germany and came to Alaska with his older brother, Berni, to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he played hockey in the early 1960s as a stalwart defenseman with superb speed and skating skills.
- After attending UAF he moved to Anchorage with his wife Gayl and soon became involved in men's competitive senior hockey playing at the original "Ice Palace" on Fireweed in Anchorage.
- The skill level displayed by Sig's team and their competition was the highest level in the state at that time and that team evolved into the Anchorage's first semi-professional team the "Wolverines" Sig extended the reach of adult hockey beyond Anchorage and created friendly adult rivalries, for example with Whitehorse Canada that still exists today.
- Sig was a quiet, determined and highly effective man, a brilliant strategist, organizer, and builder. In the late 1980s he teamed up with Gary Miller to create the pioneering Firebirds girls' hockey program, the first all-girls youth team in Alaska.
- Sig, along with Jim Mayes then went on to coach the 1996 Alaska Firebirds a National Championship!
- Sig later helped organize a non-competitive and non-checking hockey club for senior men designed to promote fitness, fun and fellowship. The format and type of recreational play adopted by the "49ers" has now been emulated by many other clubs in Anchorage resulting in more active play by older adults than ever before.
- In 2000 Sig partnered with Steve Agni to design and successfully develop and operate the O'Malley Ice Arena, a twin ice rink facility, and the O'Malley Sports Center a multi-sport facility that included an indoor soccer pitch with four separate basketball courts. The O'Malley facilities were unique as they were privately financed and open to all comers.
- Sig's skill set on and off the ice created opportunity for thousands of Alaska youth and adults to participate in healthy active team sports. His organization of adult play and his determined advocacy for equal access for girls' hockey created the physical and legal environment that so many Alaskan sporting participants enjoy today.
- During his active career as a player, coach, organizer, and facility developer Sig did as much as any individual in the State of Alaska to further participation in hockey and other team sports.
- Sig was an inspiration to all who came to know, play and collaborate with him; he's truly an Alaskan MVP.
- Sig passed in September of 2021, but has left us with his powerful inspiration and enduring legacy.

Inducted September 10, 2022