

Meet the Instructors

Jack & Jordan Evans



Editor's note:

Recently, I had a good talk with Jack & Jordan Evans, Instructors for Tucker Hockey. Jordan and his father Jack are a unique on ice instructor pair. Both have been valuable members of the Tucker Hockey team for the past 10 years. Jordan and Jack have worked well together on the ice helping minor players with individual skating and hockey skills development during Christmas, Spring and Summer Programs. As well Jack has worked extensively with various adult recreational groups including Fall, Winter and Spring Programs over the years. Here is a summary of our conversation.

Tell us a little about yourself.

Jack: I am married to a special lady and we have 2 girls and a boy that have been the focus of our lives for the last 30 years. After getting my education I worked several places but finally ended up in the oil business. After working 8 years in-house I started my own consulting business which evolved into a software company over the next 13 years and my company was purchased in 2012 by Pandell Technology Corporation and I work there now supporting and developing applications. Our family has been sports oriented and I believe my second job has been coaching and supporting teams in which they participated. I coach high level hockey now but my real identity is with Tucker Hockey where I get a chance to help women and men from all ages to learn the right techniques to skate and play the game. I really enjoy helping and seeing the changes and growth they can make over 7 to 10 sessions. There is no competition, it is just about everyone learning to do things better and it doesn't get any

better than that.

Jordan: I have loved sports as long as I can remember. I competed at the top levels in soccer and hockey but had to make a decision when I turned 14 and chose to play hockey. I enjoy school but hockey has been my main focus for the last 7 years and while I have had success in school my marks have suffered. I enjoy meeting people and getting out of my comfort zone while trying new things.

What sports do you participate in?

Jack: I have always been an avid sports participant and fan. I played golf at Texas A&M in the early 70's and most any sport I could find. Marriage and children cut back my participation in most sports but I continued to play hockey on several teams. With children playing hockey, baseball and soccer I found myself in the role of coach but my passion was to play hockey. I continued until my late 40's when arthritis in my hip stopped me from participating in games but I continued as a coach in hockey. Since my hip replacement I play golf and a little hockey.

Jordan: As I mentioned I really enjoyed playing soccer and hockey but I had to choose hockey and other than some casual games with friends and team members I really just practice and play hockey. I work out in the summer and play in the winter. The one other thing I enjoy is working with Tucker Hockey to teach skating and hockey skills.

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What is your hockey background?

Jack: I played hockey in late 50's and 60's and followed my dream to play professional Golf. By the age of 25 I had earned a living playing golf but I decided to get more education and played for 3 teams in the winter and 1 in the summer. Once married, I dropped several of the teams and remained with one team. As I approached my mid-forties I found I had dropped a step or two and decided take a course from Rex to possibly gain back a step. I reached this goal easily and I found the secret to success in hockey is skating. Since then I have coached a lot of AAA teams and now coach Junior as a Skating Coach, and I am just sorry there wasn't anything like this when I was young. When I was young power skating was a bag-skate until you drop. There was no technique involved and as a result, our game back then was a lot slower.

Jordan: I played community hockey until I was fourteen and then Quadrant AAA hockey at the Bantam and Midget levels and then I signed with the Okotoks Oilers and played half of the 2014-15 season before being traded to the Yorkton Terriers where I am still playing. I started taking Power Skating Instruction with Tucker Hockey when I was 5 or 6 years old and have worked with Rex as a student or teacher ever since.

How has hockey influenced your life?

Jack: Many of my best memories of my childhood are hockey related. Because it has been part of my life for so long I cannot help but say it is a big part of who and what I am today. Learning to work together with others has taught me how to accept winning and losing, and more importantly that the reward is in the playing not the final score. I would never have been able to start and run a successful business without the lessons I learned from hockey. Not to mention the contacts I made over the years.

Jordan: It has been the main focus of my life and it has taught me what it takes to succeed. Sacrifice, patience, confidence and faith are just a few of the things I have learned but the one thing I do know is that I can do almost anything if apply myself. That gives me a lot of confidence for the future.

When and how did you first become acquainted with Tucker Hockey?

Jack: When Jordan was 4 or 5 he took Power Skating with Susan Foster and I learned what it was all about. I still played on a team and while I was a top scorer through my thirties I found that I had lost a step and while Susan did not teach adults she recommended trying a session with Rex. I figured it couldn't hurt so I did. It helped me get a step back and I realized that we should have had this when I was a youth.

Jordan: My dad talked about the adult program he took and he enrolled me in Rex's programs for several years.

What, if anything, has instructing for Tucker Hockey taught you?

Jack: Not just the right technique for skating but just as importantly how to teach it to others. It has taught me how to run practises, teach skating and hockey skills, and the confidence to coach at high levels. Rex has been very organized about the process and this has helped me understand that you need a plan to succeed.

Jordan: Now I know how to be a coach and instructor and I have the confidence to help Minor Hockey teams and players grow their skills.

What is the most enjoyable part of instructing for you?

Jack: Seeing improvement in the skills of the students. Everyone comes in and leaves as a better skater and player. Watching them struggle and then conquer their issues is really rewarding. Not only are they getting better, so am I.

Jordan: I work with younger players and it is fun demonstrating drills and seeing what they think of where I am at as a player and skater, but mostly it is about them getting better and knowing I had a lot to do with that.

What advice would you like to offer hockey coaches, parents and players about the importance of skating, and why they should invest the time and money towards quality skating instruction?

Jack: Skating is the most important skill in hockey. If you give them a chance to be the best skater they can be, you give them the chance to be the best player they can be. Hockey is a great game that we can play late into our lives and that

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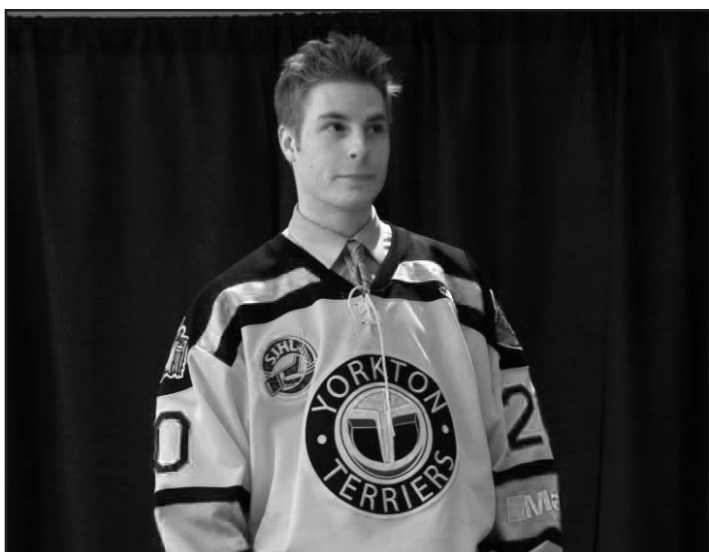
Yelling, Telling and Asking (Cont'd from 31)

Elite athletes are taught to stay in the present. They need to be totally focused on what is happening “now” and not worrying about what happened the last shift or what might happen in the future. If they are in the moment they will “play” the game and truly enjoy it.

Coaches must be conscious of what is happening as it happens and they must be aware of how they respond will affect the Players feelings. If the players feel good they will play well. Good coaches transmit belief.

Minor Hockey Associations, coaches, parents and players must be able to separate the business of sport from the larger purpose of amateur sport. Coaches with a proper perspective will bring out the best in their players. They have a responsibility to promote positive hockey experiences and in the process develop hockey and life skills. Good Coaches who teach and communicate well will win more games. It is most important that players will enjoy the game while developing important life skills.

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is good on so many levels.

Jordan: I have been successful in hockey and my strong skating is a very big part of that. Letting young players learn the skill the right way will help them enjoy and have success at whatever level they play. An opportunity is all they need.

What do you like to do for fun in your spare time? Activities? Hobbies?

Jack: I play golf, watch movies and any sport I can. My hip replacement has put my hockey career on hold but when I get my leg back to where I was before I will be back on the ice playing again.

Jordan: I play golf, any sport my friends or teammates want, video games and working out.

What are your plans or goals in the years ahead?

Jack: The main goal is to play hockey again but I also plan on retiring and writing books on hockey and other interests I have. I will continue to coach and teach hockey as long as they keep wanting me.

Jordan: I want to get a scholarship at a Division 1 US college and the education that will come with it, and I will play, coach and teach hockey. Who knows maybe marriage, kids and life at some point as well.

Editor's note: Thanks Jack & Jordan for taking the time from your busy schedules to complete a Tucker Hockey Instructor Profile. Jack best wishes with your future retirement and writing endeavours. Jordan, all the best with your future collegiate hockey playing aspirations. Keep honing your skating skills, working hard and stay focused. Good things well happen! In the meantime guys, I look forward to working with you both again on the ice in the Spring of 2016!

