

**U**ndoubtedly, the baddest man on skates throughout 80s and 90s in our great city was Jeremy Roenick. JR is an American-born hockey player who cared about giving 110% every shift. He went out of his way to connect with Blackhawks fans, and paid more attention to them than anything that was ever written about him. His outspoken personality and ability to get the puck in the net made Roenick a fan favorite throughout his career in Chicago,

tion) he played with. Over the past few years a lot of people have become aware of the other sport J.R. excels at: golf. Now a fixture at the American Century Championship, Roenick showcases his scratch handicap to galleries in Lake Tahoe and shows people his game is no joke.

The championship, is packed with entertainment from Ray Romano's comedic bits to Charles Barkley's golf swing. The

Roenick. "It's probably my favorite weekend of the year. To be able to have that level of competition away from hockey is what drives me, and I need that. I will win the tournament one of these years, believe me!"

Don't expect to see J.R. on the driving range prepping for 2015 though. According to him, the best thing for his game is to be on the course. In comparison, it probably wouldn't have done him

never hit to it. He attributes that to the old saying, "You live by the sword, and you die by the sword."

"The biggest difference is that in hockey I couldn't wait to get on the ice and smash somebody's head in. With golf, I can't wait to hit some aggressive shots," said Roenick. "I am, however, pretty animated on the course. I swear a lot if I'm not playing well and I wear my emotions on my sleeve. I'm



## Blackhawk Down with Golf

By Todd Mrowice

The newest generation of Blackhawk fans might not be aware of the great teams that wore the Indian-head sweater in the '80s and '90s. Players like Ed Belfour, Chris Chelios, Brent Sutter, and Tony Amonte are among the brick and mortar that allowed hockey to stay relevant in a city smitten by a Bulls team winning championships in the same building.



which spanned from 1988 to 1996. Still today, number 27 jerseys can be seen at every 'Hawks game honoring a player who truly broke the mold of what a hockey player was supposed to be.

In his post-hockey career, Roenick has found several competitive avenues. He is now highly recognized for his commentary on NBC's coverage of the NHL. A position which he approaches with the same passion (and sometimes aggres-

other side of the tournament is stacked with competition, and Roenick continues to bring his 'A game.' This year he posted scores of 72, 69, and 76 to finish second (for the second year in a row). By the way, he tied with a professional golfer named Annika Sorenstam. She won a few tournaments in her day.

"This year was great, but frustrating because it was the second year that I had a legitimate shot at winning," said

much good to practice his slap shot in the locker room.

"I play about three times per week, but I never practice. My game doesn't benefit from pounding balls or putting for an hour," said Roenick.

If you've watched him play on TV you'll know that JR is a bit of a risk taker. He enjoys the aggressive line off the tee and has no idea where the "fat" of the green is because he's

not going to change my approach to any sport I play."

Roenick's passion for golf led him in a direction that he might have not even seen coming: being the owner of his own golf course. In 2009 the opportunity came to him to own Pembroke Country Club in Pembroke, Massachusetts. The course was one on which J.R. had grown up playing in his home state and had reached the point of foreclosure. Instead of letting the course



become another statistic in a tough economy, Roenick stepped in and with the right crew brought the track back to life.

“When I took over the course it needed a lot of work. My main focus was the tee boxes and the greens and now our greens are among the best in the area,” said Roenick. “It was a tough transition getting the course back to the condition it deserved, and once we got there we had to really work on

Greens is an upscale company that designs and builds artificial greens and chipping areas. The gallery on their website is enough to get you thinking, “Do we really need the garage?”

Aside from great hockey memories here in Chicago, Roenick also has a deep past revolving around golf in our area. In his early days with the Blackhawks he played a majority of his golf with teammate Doug Wilson at Butterfield Country Club,

Aside from his favorite courses, Jeremy Roenick will also never forget the great memories he has of our city and the time he spent here as a Blackhawk, in addition to the reception he continues to receive whenever NHL on NBC coverage is in Chicago.



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people to get them to come back.”

Roenick and his team accomplished what they had set out to do, as Friday through Monday Pembroke has full tee sheets. JR attributes that to reviving the course and charging a decent price for a layout that could warrant a higher green fee.

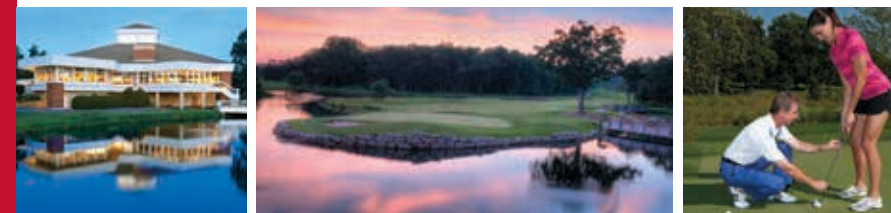
Aside from owning the real thing, Roenick also is a liaison for a company that brings you the next best thing. Celebrity

a course he still plays when he’s here, in addition to Butler National and Bob O’Link Golf Club.

“I love the golf in Chicago. I think per capita, Chicago has some of the best courses in the country,” said Roenick. “I used to play Medinah all the time with Denis Savard and Stank Mikita. I used to play Sunset Ridge Country Club with Michael Jordan. Just great memories of Chicago golf.”

“The bond that I built with Chicago from 1988 to ‘96 was at a time when the ‘Hawks needed a boost and someone to rally around. I am so thankful to have been that player. I played with as much passion as I did because those fans cheered for it.”

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