

# Playing hockey is merely for fun

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realize how tight the hockey community is," Jack explains. "We spend so much time together on the ice and in hotels traveling that it is a very close knit family. Those people, along with the Babe Ruth people, and others were very supportive of me and my family during that period of time."

It was a game two months into his remission that Jack remembers fondly at Robert Morris University. Playing for the State College Junior Icers, he scored a hat trick (three goals) and added four assists for a seven point game.

Jack stresses that the tournament trail for the national championship team benefited him not only with the excitement of winning, but in many other ways.

"We had a strict schedule, not only when we had to do things on the ice," Jack notes, "but also when it came to our diet. It also helped me in life skills and also cardio-vascular."

One drawback, the family points out, is that between ice time, equipment and the long nights away from Reedsville, ice hockey at the youth level can be very costly in time and money.

Another thing the family observes about playing ice hockey at the high school level and on travel teams is that it is merely for fun. Very few players make it to the next level.

One reason for that is because there are so many talented players in the United States and Canada and so few teams with eligible roster spots.

In addition to playing baseball, football and ice hockey, Jack is a member of the National Honor Society.

Very few people in Mifflin County have ever played high school ice hockey and also been on an amateur national championship team in the same sport. By the time Jack Wagner turned 16, he had already iced both of those accomplishments.



Sentinel photo by JASON SIPES

Jack Wagner plays in a recent game in Altoona.

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— Jack Wagner

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