

# Winnetka's Jack Drury on track to follow in his family's NHL path



Jack Drury has registered 17 points in 19 games this season with the Waterloo Black Hawks of the USHL. (Stephanie Lyn Photography/HANDOUT)

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Pioneer Press

DECEMBER 28, 2017, 4:10 PM

**J**ack Drury knows that the Gordie Howe hat trick is pretty rare. He estimates there are only a couple a season in the USHL, the top junior hockey league in the U.S.

Drury, who is from Winnetka, was part of that select group last season while playing for the USHL's Waterloo (Iowa) Black Hawks.

On April Fool's Day against the rival Cedar Rapids (Iowa) RoughRidgers, Drury got into a fight in the middle of the first period, assisted on the team's second goal and scored his own at the 15:17 mark of the third in the Black Hawks' 6-1 road victory. It's a memory that still stands out to his coach, too.

"That was a heck of a game," said PK O'Handley, who's in his 16th season as Waterloo's coach and general manager. "As a young guy, I think he arrived at that moment."

"Not that we want the one portion of the Gordie Howe hat trick, but he has that element to his game. He's a tough kid."

Drury, a center, has already matched his goal total and surpassed his assists total from last season. He has scored four goals and tallied 13 assists in 19 games with the Black Hawks. He scored four goals and added eight assists in 44 games as a 16- and 17-year-old USHL rookie last season.

Drury also recently played for the U.S. Junior Select Team, which was made up of USHL players and coached by O'Handley, in the World Junior A Challenge from Dec. 10-16 in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Drury scored the lone goal for the U.S. in the 5-1 loss to Canada West in the title game. He scored the power-play goal off a rebound after the goalie stopped his initial shot.

Drury said he enjoyed the chance to represent his country.

"My dad and uncle both represented Team USA, and they both always told me growing up the coolest thing you could get to do as a hockey player is get to represent your country," Drury said.

His father, Ted, played in 414 [NHL](#) games over eight seasons, and his uncle, [Chris Drury](#), had nine 20-goal seasons in a 12-year NHL career that included a [Stanley Cup](#) title with the [Colorado Avalanche](#). They each played in the Olympics, with Chris Drury winning a pair of silver medals.

After Ted Drury retired from professional hockey, the family moved to Wilmette when Jack Drury was 7. They moved to Winnetka when he was 12.

Jack Drury said his family has helped him with the mental side of sports and how to approach games and long seasons. They also stressed that he focus on the things he can control.

"A lot of people can get caught up in points, teams you're on and stuff like that," Jack Drury said. "What you really just want to focus on is your own process."

While his stats may already be up from last season, Jack Drury is focused on his skating, specifically quick stops and turns, in order to get to the areas of the ice where he can score or set up his teammates, he said. He'd also like to lead by example for his teammates.

Jack Drury is committed to play hockey for Harvard, which is where his dad played. Jack Drury said he was impressed with the history of the school, the education, the hockey program and the campus. He is currently a senior at Waterloo West High School and staying with a billet family.

O'Handley sees Jack Drury approach everything with an exceptional attitude and work ethic. He's one of the hardest working players the Black Hawks have ever had, O'Handley said.

"I've said this to many people, NHL scouts included: 'It would be hard to find a guy that has as much inherent true character as he does,'" O'Handley said.

If he remains on the trajectory he's on, he'll get a chance to play in the NHL, according to O'Handley. He already acts like a pro even though he's 17 years old, O'Handley added.

"I've had a lot of good players here," O'Handley said. "I don't know that I've had anybody as determined as him every single day, which is a hard thing to do in a seven-month season."

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