

Hill Family, Six Nations of the Grand River, ON



The Hill Family is large, consisting of six brothers and six sisters from the parents Pete and Betty Hill, Mohawks from the Six Nations of the Grand River reservation in Ontario, Canada. A family of entrepreneurs, they have had many successful businesses throughout the years and have parlayed that success into success on the field.

The brothers Earl Sr, Brian, Ken, Mark, Pete and Vinny Hill all played for the Six Nations Chiefs, a fastpitch and slow pitch team based in Six Nations and included many of their cousins and community members. The team was active from the late 80s to late 90's, playing in local tournaments, leagues and travelling as far as Florida to compete. The youngest of the brothers, Vinny, who was still

active in the game, conceived the Hill United name in 2008. He convinced his nephews Bryan Porter and Earl Hill Jr, along with a plethora of cousins and members of Six Nations to play in a weekend tournament in Lackawanna, NY. That was the first appearance of the Hill United club.

After going to the AAU in 2009 and finishing in the consolation finals, the team returned in 2010 with their first outside pickups - including the legendary Darren Zack and coach "Pops" Popovich. The team bowed out in the quarter finals, losing 3 -1 to the NY Gremlins in the very first matchup of 2 future legendary teams. After a disappointing 2011 AAU, the family team continued to play in the Lackawanna league. The summer saw a single tournament in Niagara Falls with the newly named Chiefs in their first action against ISC teams in season. They finished 2 -1 with a win over the #13 ranked team and included pickups Don Scott, Brad Ezekiel and Blair Ezekiel.

Following that tournament, the decision was made to field a team for the following year (2012) in the ISC. The first contacted players were Adam Folkard and Nick Shailes, who were brought in by Mike Joseph, and played with the pair in the Erie League. The first-year signings were done primarily by Bryan Porter and Mike Joseph, supported by Brian Hill and financially by Brian and Ken Hill as well as Jerry Montour, along with Porter. The first year ended in disappointment but with a lot of hope, as the team made the finals of every tournament it entered that summer, losing only in the ASA finals and ISC finals. The team won it's first ISC title in 2013 in Quad Cities, a 1-0 walk off win over the NY Gremlins, set up by a double from Calvin Miller from Six Nations. The tournament was also notable for an earlier perfect game by Adam Folkard and a streak of 21+ perfect consecutive innings during the

toughest part of the tournament. The whole family joined in the celebration on the field. They would go on to win titles in 2014 and 2015, losing in the finals in 2016.

2017 marked the beginning of Pete Hill's major sponsorship of the club. Pete had been active with the team prior to that, but he began to take a much more central role that season. The team rewarded his participation with another title, its 4th in 6 years and capped a run of 6 straight finals appearances. The team would stand on top of the world again in 2021 and 2024, raising the total to 6 championships in 12 seasons of sponsorship for the Hill Family.

Beyond the success of the Chiefs, the family has sponsored the broadcast of the ISC tournament through various businesses, including First Nations Payments, Thunder Tribe, Dreamcatcher Foundation, Mohawk Farms and Seeing Red Media. The family also was one of the first clubs to stream all of its games for free, using the platform Ustream and was a precursor to the multiple options fans now enjoy to consume the sport. They also sold their merchandise at every tournament, a tradition that carries on in their hosted tournament each year.

The Hill Family has left an indelible mark on the ISC and have carved their names into the history books of the sport. The story has not finished writing, as they continue to be an active sponsor of the Hill United Chiefs, who enter the 2025 season as the top ranked club and defending champion. They also continue to be active in their community, sponsoring major lacrosse teams, junior and local hockey teams and charitable efforts throughout the territory. They are a reflection of their culture, their values and their cohesiveness, bringing those elements to the Chiefs and setting the bar for future generations to aspire to.

This honour is dedicated to the family members who are not here to enjoy this honour- Earl Hill Sr, Ken Hill, Vinny Hill and Mark Hill. Their contributions will never be forgotten, and their memories will live on forever through their good works. Family first, family forever.