

Dear Robbie,

I am glad to respond to Coach Scott's invitation to share some of my lacrosse experience with you. I grew up in Baltimore and began playing with the Mount Washington juniors and then I played at Poly and the University of Maryland. I followed the example of my brothers Jim and Gene Corrigan.

Receiving the Turnbull Award was very special for me. I knew Jack was a fantastic player at Hopkins and Mount Washington, but, more importantly, I knew that he was admired and respected by all who knew him. I am still humbled to have received the Turnbull Award after all these years—there are so many fine players. But since I have been involved in the game for so long now I should say that it was a great moment in a lifetime of great memories.

After I graduated from Maryland, I began a long and very rewarding career in coaching. I felt like I was very fortunate to have the coaches I did—Bill McLean at Poly and Jack Faber and Al Heagy at Maryland. Coach Faber was particularly influential. He had a very basic philosophy about the game—Loose Balls Win Games, Pass and Cut, Always Move on Offense, and Be Physical on Defense. He recognized the talents of his players and let them play. I loved him and I was blessed by being able to play for him. He was a Ph. D. microbiologist and a very unique man—though he refused to allow us to call him "doctor."

My own coaching career took me to Navy (offensive coordinator), Dartmouth (head coach), the USILA Rules Committee, Governor Dummer (head coach), and I'm still coaching at Worcester Prep in Berlin, Maryland (assistant coach). My mind is full of names and faces and great memories of the young men I have coached. I feel like I have won the jackpot - a great playing experience and a great coaching experience. One experience that is probably at the top was that I got to coach with Willis Bilderback and Buster Phipps at Navy during the beginning of their long run of national championships. Coach Bilderback allowed me – as a

twenty-five-year-old assistant coach – to handle all of his offense! More importantly than that, though, was that he and his family invited me over for dinner every Sunday night while I was there and made me a part of their family – what an incredible coach and even better person!

I've won a few national championships, coached some truly great men, and created lifetime friendships. I cried for those (from Navy in the early 60s) who died in Vietnam.

Some advice I might pass along is to enjoy the game, love your teammates (they will likely be lifelong friends), and honor the game – not yourself.

I do remember a player who said that Awards such as the Turnbull were good for the Game as it was a motivation factor that enhanced the competitive nature of the Game. I think I agree with that observation.

At this age, Robbie, I don't remember all of the specific details of my playing and coaching career. I do remember, though, that several years ago one of my former players, who is now a retired four-star Navy Admiral, Hank Chiles, said to me, "Thank you for the way you (Coach Bilderback, Coach Phipps, and myself at Navy) coached us." If that were all I received in my life—I think it would have been enough, but I have been fortunate to receive so much more. My entire family and I are very, very grateful for our experience in the game.

I hope you get to enjoy the Game as much as I have – for really my whole life. Keep working hard.

Best of Luck,

Dick

P.S. I am not sure that you will be getting a letter from the 1950 Turnbull Award recipient, Oliver Shepard from Johns Hopkins, since he died some years ago (perhaps Coach Scott has connected with his family), but I wanted to share a point that is worth passing along. Ollie was selected for the South

team in the 1951 North-South Game – a very prestigious and coveted honor. Ollie declined the invitation and insisted that it go to one of his teammates who he felt was more deserving that season. I know of few people who would be so magnanimous. I hope you hear from someone on his behalf.

Dick Corrigan
University of Maryland 1958
Turnbull Award 1958