

Dear Robbie,

Congratulations on receiving the Magic Lacrosse Stick! A stick that with each passing of the hands, has received the generous love and respect that all lacrosse sticks should receive. I know it will bring you great satisfaction and success in your lacrosse endeavors, as my stick has done for me. For it is the 'stick' that allows the great sport of lacrosse to be played. Without sticks, there is no game. A game that is full of great skill, heart, and passion.

For myself, a Canadian by birth, I have had the privilege of playing this great sport in Canada and the United States. From the lacrosse hotbed of Orangeville, down to Virginia where I was a three-time All-American at Roanoke College, I come from three generations of Masons. My great uncle, Jack "Curly" Mason, won 6 Mann Cups and is in the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame. My father, Robb Mason, won 5 Presidents Cups and played for the Team Canada 1984 to win the Continental Cup, and my sister, Paige Mason (Roanoke'10), played for Team Canada in 2007. I was also able to play with great teammates who enjoy the game as much as I do. These teammates taught me about hard work and winning, but most importantly, about respecting the game. If it wasn't for my teammates, coaches, and parents, I would have never won the Turnbull Award in 2007!

Robbie, as important as it is to learn from your coaches, I encourage you to always learn from your teammates. From the player with the most points, to the player with the most ground balls, everyone can contribute to your success. Every player is important in their own way to the team. Successful teams find ways to bring all of these skills together.

A book that you might like is *American Indian Lacrosse: Little Brother of War* by Dr. Tom Vennum!

As a college player, I finished my career with just under 250 goals. One piece of advice—every time you shoot on the goal, think net!

Yours in Lacrosse,

Jon Mason

Roanoke College, Lt. Col. John I. "Jack" Turnbull Award 2007