Special Thanks

This project would not have been possible if not for the gracious and positive support of many people. First and foremost, CAPT Jim Lewis, USNA ’66 who allowed me to use his career as the cornerstone of the story. MAJ R. Bruce Turnbull, USMA ’57 was equally gracious in offering information, support, and latitude with the lives of his father, grandmother, and uncle. I was honored that Dr. Thomas Vennum, author of American Indian Lacrosse: Little Brother of War—the definitive work on the history of the game, took time to review and improve my work at a critical juncture.

Having the dean of lacrosse coaches, Mr. Bob Scott, offer introductory remarks to this story is one of the great honors that has ever been bestowed upon me. His unflagging support and assistance were crucial at every point in this process.

The kind words provided by Jeff Long, USNA ’77 of Ithaca College, Dom Starsia of the University of Virginia, Jack Emmer of the United States Military Academy and the USA team, Richie Meade of the United States Naval Academy, and Jonathan Thompson were
particularly meaningful to me. I am also grateful for Mike Gottleib’s ’70 talent and work in preparing the cover.

Others who offered support were Dr. Bob Lucking of Old Dominion University, CAPT Lewis’s high school coach Terry McDonald, VADM Edward C. Waller ’49, Navy’s Turnbull Award recipients: Stewart McLean ’48, Tom Mitchell ’61, and Mike Buzzell ’80, Bill Tanton of Lacrosse Magazine, Josh Christian of US Lacrosse, CAPT J.O. Coppedge ’47, Dr. Shannon French of USNA’s ethics department, Navy Hall-of-Fame defenseman CDR Carl Tamulevich ’68, Navy’s “Stick Doctor” Tommy Adams, Bill Bilderback, Tim Nelson, Beverly McColley, Diane Glancy, Bonnie McEneaney, Jim Loeffler, Eric Ruden, my company- and classmate Mike Collins ’84, CAPT Gerald Coffee, Al Bianchi, Sean Wetmore, J. Sills O’Keefe, Dr. John H. Tucker, Jr., Tom York, Toy Savage, LCOL Mike Horstman, USMA ’64, Dennis Manning, my parents, George and Teresa Duffy, my father-in-law Joe Finn, and Trent Blythe.

Two of my students and players, Mike Via and Jay Rixey, both of whom I coached for six years, were specially chosen to provide input from the player/student perspective.
Gaines Frazier, another former student and player, was also gracious with his assistance.

Tom Duquette, Kathy Hobbs, and Dr. John Noffsinger provided invaluable editing assistance, correcting hundreds (maybe thousands) of spelling, grammatical, and style deficiencies, making the final product infinitely more readable. Jonathan Gullery provided the layout of the book. Mr. John O. “Dubby” Wynne’s support has been invaluable.

ADM Charles R. Larson ’58 has been an inspiration to me for many years, as have been my sponsors at USNA, LCOL (USMC) Mike and Cathy Sheedy, and their three wonderful daughters—my “adopted” sisters—Lisa, Jennifer, and Erin.

My sailors, students, athletes, and advisees over the last twenty years have been a constant source of inspiration and have given me much more than I could ever hope to give to them.

And, of course, I owe an eternal debt of gratitude to my wife, partner, and best friend, Jennifer, who for many years has patiently indulged my passion for the game of lacrosse and no less a passion for my students. It should go without saying that our children,
Catherine and Drew, are the central source of hope and happiness in our lives.

This project could have easily withered or died at many points. I was heartened and buoyed by the overwhelming and timely acts of kindness by all of these wonderful people. The completion of this project is as much a tribute to the generosity of others as it is to any of my humble efforts.

This journey has already been its own reward. The fact that you have now taken it makes it all the more special.

Thank you.

More Thanks

Since the first printing of this story in April 2004, hundreds more people and institutions have contributed directly to its success. Without their support, this project would not be at the same point.

The generosity of “A Friend of the Game” has made it possible to donate over 1,750 copies to US Lacrosse’s BRIDGE Program.
I had the good fortune to meet John and Karen Acompora to learn about the foundation they have founded in honor of their late son, Louis. Please go to www.la12.org to learn about Commotio Cordis and what you can do to help.

I am also proud to say that the teammates and friends of D.A. Taylor, a Norfolk Academy student who passed away in 1995, have formed a foundation in his memory. Please go to www.dataylorfoundation.org for more information.