

In life, Jack Turnbull was an inspiration to all with whom he came into contact. Even in his death, Jack continued to give to people, and now his Awards continue to represent excellence in the game of lacrosse.

This collection of letters is offered to Robbie with great admiration and on behalf of scores of Turnbull Award recipients,

Robert H. Scott

July 2014

Dear Turnbull Award recipient,

I write to invite you to share some thoughts with a special young boy, Robbie, who is turning fifteen years old and is a ninth-grader.

I recently met Robbie and his family through his association with Captain Jimmy Lewis, Navy '66. Robbie is now in possession of a special and magical lacrosse stick that Jim passed along to him and which was passed to him by Doug Turnbull, Johns Hopkins '25. The stick had been passed to Doug in 1914 and he eagerly shared it with his brother, Jack (which is where you all come into this story).

As incredible as it may seem, through the stick Robbie has been 'visited' in his dreams on every full moon by a Native American named Red Hawk who was the original steward of the stick in the late 1700s!

Robbie has already learned a great deal from Red Hawk and CAPT Lewis. But I write to you, as a recipient of the Lt. Col. John I. "Jack" Turnbull Award, to help Robbie in his journey to know more about the stick and the game.

I would be grateful if you would write a letter to Robbie so that I may collect them and place them in a special album for him. Please address any thoughts you would like—but perhaps you could offer a very brief mention of your playing and/or coaching background, what the Turnbull Award has meant to you, any particularly compelling memories of the game, and perhaps some advice on the game or on life. If you have had to overcome any particularly difficult situation or obstacle, it might be useful to share that, as well.

In addition—I would be grateful if you might offer a recommendation on a book that you think might benefit him at this stage of his life. Please do not be modest about what differentiated your game or identifying your status as a Hall of Fame member, team USA (or other country), etc.

Thanks for taking the time to help this young man—I know that he will be overwhelmed by and benefit from your kindness.

Yours in the Game,

Robert H. Scott

Dear Robbie,

I hope that you will enjoy this collection as much as I have. These men are truly among the all-time great *players*. But, as you'll see, they are all hard-working and wonderful *people*, as well. I think their eagerness in responding says a lot not only about them but also about our great Game. So many of us who have been involved with the Game all these years will tell you it has always been about the people. I think that theme shines through in this collection. I hope that you'll be able to use the lives and thoughts of these great men as an inspiration as you live your life. Some of the letters are on behalf of the Award recipients who have passed away. I was able to connect with people close to them who were equally gracious in their responses.

In all the years I have been involved with the Game, I would have to put the generosity of spirit offered by these men at the very top of the list. I think it is a great gift from the Game to you. I hope you will enjoy it! Thank you for allowing me to travel with you on your journey.

I have made a few editorial comments on these letters to share some thoughts and information that you may not know or might not be obvious.

With Warmest Regards,

Robert H. Scott

To: Robbie

From: Bill Morrill

Dear Robbie,

My college coach, Bob Scott, has asked me to share with you some of my experiences playing lacrosse some fifty years ago.

I was fortunate to grow up in a lacrosse family. My father played for Hopkins in the 1920s, then coached there in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. He played with Doug Turnbull and coached Jack Turnbull.

I never knew Jack Turnbull, but Doug was an active supporter of Hopkins Lacrosse. He was a true role model for us because he was not only a great player, but a successful businessman and community leader.

As a result of my knowledge of the Turnbull legacy, my receipt of the Turnbull Award in 1959 was particularly gratifying to my family and me.

As I think back on my playing days, there are several things that I was taught that helped me compete at a high level.

My father insisted that I learn to play right and left handed. Today, everyone plays with both hands. But with the heavy, unbalanced sticks of the 1950s, I was one of the very few who could play equally well with both hands. My father also insisted that I work hard on both athletics and academics. Finally, he taught me to love and respect the game of lacrosse and to give back to it after my playing days were through.

Bill Nichols, my coach at Baltimore Friends, taught me that you had to play with courage and be willing to take a hit to score, get grounds balls, and win.

Bob Scott and Wilson Fewster, my coaches at Hopkins, pushed me to make up for my thin frame and lack of sprint speed by working extremely hard on improving my quickness, my change of direction, and my shooting. I spent hours in the

off-season and after practice working on my stickwork, dodges, change of direction, quickness, and shooting.

In addition, like Captain Lewis, who passed the magic stick along to you, I spent hours trying to come up with new ways to hold my stick, pass, dodge, and shoot.

Finally, and probably most important, I played on really good teams with great teammates. From them, I learned the value of commitment, discipline, passion, respect, and responsibility. I also formed great relationships (with teammates and opponents) that have lasted a lifetime.

In his letter to me, Coach Scott asked me to recommend a book that could be of benefit to you. I would suggest you read *Values of the Game* by Bill Bradley, a basketball star at Princeton and the NBA, a Rhodes Scholar, an Olympian, as well as a three-time U.S. Senator. Bill Bradley combined hard work and dedication to overachieve in academics, athletics, and in his professional career.

Robbie, you are at the beginning of an exciting career. Lacrosse is a wonderful sport that is fun to practice as well as play. The things you will learn and the relationships you will make will be important to you throughout your life. I wish you great success and hope that you enjoy the game as much as I have.

Yours in the Game,

Bill Morrill

Johns Hopkins University

Turnbull Award 1959

National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 1978

Robbie,

Congratulations to you for being chosen by Captain Lewis to receive the magical lacrosse stick. The fact that he selected you for this honor is a compliment to your qualities as a young man. So what responsibility do you have as the recipient of this wonderful gift? As a former player and coach who grew up in Mt. Washington and lived on Sulgrave Ave., just down the street from where Jack Turnbull was raised, I would like to share a few thoughts for you to consider.

Success in life, as in lacrosse, is not an automatic. It requires dedication and commitment. I must confess that as a 15 year old, I did not fully appreciate the magnitude of these qualities. It wasn't until later in life when I became a parent, coach and businessman that I fully understood the importance. My advice to you is to enhance the power of the stick and develop your own magic by making the commitment to become the best lacrosse player you can be. Formulate a plan by listing everything you must learn to perfection from scooping, passing, catching, shooting, dodging and all the fundamentals of the game. Implement the plan by listening to your coaches, reading, watching star players, and studying DVD's.

Become a student of the game. For example, take the one category of dodging. List at least eight dodges to learn, (face, inside roll, split, rocker, etc.) Know when to use them, how to bait the opposing player, where to hold and move the stick, plus footwork. Once you have your plan, go for it. Monitor your progress and make changes as necessary. It may take several years, but I know you will reap the rewards. One of my favorite examples of the success of commitment is the book *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose. It details the journey of Lewis and Clark across the continent to discover a passage to the west and the impediments they faced.

In summary, Robbie, the power of the magic in the stick is directly relational to the commitment of the player possessing the stick. Good luck to you and enjoy the journey.

Sincerely,

Tom Mitchell

United States Naval Academy, Turnbull Award 1961

Dear Robbie,

I was happy to hear that you are taking great care of a very special lacrosse stick. While lacrosse is an amazing sport that requires skill, athleticism, and strategy, dating back to the Indian tribes who invented the game, lacrosse has also always had a significant spiritual side to it that you are no doubt getting a sense for by now. Lacrosse, for me, has been much more than simply a sport. It has taught me toughness, perseverance, and humility, and its lessons have also prepared me for the many ups and downs in life that I have had to face off with.

Like that stick that has been passed down to you with a story, as lacrosse players we are mentored and taught by those that came before us. There is a phrase I have been taught that I would like to share with you; I hope it helps to influence some of your decisions and your respect of the game. It goes like this... "We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us." While the many individual accolades I have received throughout my career have been rewarding and humbling, none of them compare to the feeling of being a part of a team...part of a winning team with a sense of destiny and/or legacy...part of a winning team in this great sport of Lacrosse or 'Baggataway.' I am most proud of the Championship Teams I was blessed to have played on and the respect we were able to show those players before us who had paved the way for our success.

Enjoy that special and spiritual stick and listen to the many lessons it will teach you. And pick up one of my favorite books, *My Personal Best*, by John Wooden. John Wooden was a remarkable teacher, coach and mentor of young men and his UCLA Men's Basketball Teams won 10 NCAA National Championships in 12 years. I hope you enjoy Coach Wooden's life lessons and fun stories as much as I have.

All the best,

Billy Miller

Hobart College, Turnbull Award 1989, 1991
Philadelphia Wings '92-'98
USA World Team '94, '98
National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 2013

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, Gene, and George 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), Yale (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 U.S. 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, what amounts to, my whole life. Keep working hard.

Best of Luck,

Dick

Dick Corrigan
University of Maryland
Turnbull Award 1958

P.S. I am not sure that you will be getting a letter on behalf of the 1950 Turnbull Award recipient, Oliver "Corky" Shepard from Johns Hopkins, since he died a few years ago (perhaps Coach Scott has connected with his family), but I wanted to share a point that I think is worth passing along. Corky was selected for the South team in the 1950 North-South All-Star Game—a very prestigious and coveted honor. Corky 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.

Dear Robbie,

Coach Scott asked me to write a note to you about a Turnbull Award winner, Jerry Schmidt (1962), who is my best friend. This note to you is because you have the special stick of the Turnbull brothers. The depth of my friendship is best expressed by quoting Robert Louis Stevenson: "Of what shall a man be proud, if he is not proud of his friends?" Jerry and I met when we both played for the University Club that won the National Open Championship. That friendship blossomed into Jerry becoming my best man. While Jerry was associate coach at Navy he engineered the only win against the University of Maryland during my tenure. Even with his endless awards, I remember him as the man who saved my professional and personal life by convincing one of his former players, who was a head of school, to hire an old coach who couldn't find a job.

Let me tell you about another remarkable person! Coach Schmidt was in the hospital recovering from a major surgery, uncertain about his future as his whole life had been playing and coaching lacrosse. Former Army and Maryland coach, Dick Edell, came into Jerry's room quickly changing Jerry's mindset with the sharing of past lacrosse stories. Jerry told me if anyone needed advice about life or lacrosse he recommended contacting Coach Edell.

Best Wishes and Kindest Regards,

Dick Szlasa

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

Philadelphia Wings
National Lacrosse League
President

Robbie,

I grew up in Canada playing hockey and “box” lacrosse in the very rural town of St. David’s in Southern Ontario! I used a wooden stick until I attended Cornell University as a freshman in 1973. The adjustment was difficult at first but I received a tremendous amount of help and support from my coaches and teammates. As a team in 1976, we (Cornell) won the National Championship in an overtime victory over the University of Maryland. We finished the season undefeated.

I am now 61 years of age and many of my closest friends in life shared that tremendous moment with me on the field that glorious day at Brown University. Great memories. My Cornell experience changed my life and I am and will continue to be eternally grateful.

The sport of lacrosse has done so much for me, my family, and so many of my friends and it can do the same for YOU! Enjoy the competition, respect your opponents and most of all cherish you teammates—they will become your lifelong best friends. Robbie, honor this great game and the relationships it will bring to you and I will guarantee you that the game will reward you in kind.

It’s also interesting that you would be at Coach Bob Scott’s home in Baltimore. I wholeheartedly agree with Coach Scott that the “old school” letter writing makes correspondence much more meaningful. I can say from first-hand experience...I received a wonderful note from Coach Scott, which I’ve saved to this day. I received this special note 38 years ago. I have very much cherished its contents so I thought it would be appropriate to share with you (attached).

The world of lacrosse is filled with so many special people...heroes who fought for our country like Lieutenant

Colonel Jack Turnbull, and renowned National Championship coaches and role models like Bob Scott and my coach, mentor, and lifelong friend, Richie Moran.

Best wishes Robbie...follow your dreams and I hope our paths cross in the future.

Michael French

Cornell University 1976

Turnbull Award 1976

Team Canada 1974, 1978, and 1982

Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, 2001

National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 1991

National Lacrosse League Hall of Fame, 2007

Johns Hopkins University
Director of Athletics
June 8, 1976

Dear Mike,

Congratulations for such a tremendous lacrosse season. I saw both Hopkins games and the big one with Maryland and there is no doubt you were the best player in the country in 1976. I know the committee that selected you as the recipient of the Enners Award had the easiest job in many years. You were the obvious winner.

What makes everyone who knows the game so happy is the fact that you represent all of the fine qualities of a truly great athlete. Your ways off the field are as exemplary as your performance on the field. Every coach I have spoken with about you has had nothing but good things to say about you.

I personally appreciated your speaking with me after the game in 1974 and it has been a real pleasure to watch you play from the stands last year and this year. You received help from Eamon and Jon, as well as your midfielders, but you were the key man. I am especially happy for you because you really deserve all of the honors you have received. And the beauty of it is—you will take them in stride.

Best of luck to you in your future endeavors— there's no doubt you will be most successful.

I will look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Bob Scott

Wabash College
Men's Lacrosse

Dear Robbie,

I was fortunate to be part on some of the greatest Hobart College Lacrosse Teams that ever played the game. I accepted the Turnbull Award for the Division II-III Attackman of the Year in 1978 on behalf of my teammates. Lacrosse is a team sport, and your personal success rests on the hard work of all of your teammates, no matter their playing time. Rarely was a game as physical or intense as our daily Hobart practices.

Ironically, I write this to you after losing a close friend and teammate last week. Rick Blick was our All-American goalie. He defined hard work and dedication. He was the best! Rick outworked everyone in the game when he played.

Rick's exceptional work ethic forty years ago is the same work ethic that the "great ones" commit to today. Fads come and go. Things like hairstyles, clothing, technology, and music are always changing. However, the formula for success never changes. Characteristics like commitment, dedication, hard work, sacrifice, unselfishness, and loyalty still produce success for today's great athletes as it has throughout history.

I wish you the best of luck and would encourage you to read the book *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. Gladwell discusses what makes high achievers different.

Robbie, enjoy the game and cherish the friends you will meet and make along the way. They will always live in your heart.

Best wishes,

Terry Corcoran

Wabash College Lacrosse Coach
Hobart College 1978
Turnbull Award 1978

Washington College
Director of Athletics

Dear Robbie,

I write to you on behalf of the late Turnbull Award recipient Hezzy Howard and his family. I had the good fortune to play lacrosse at Washington College, coach there, and I am now the Director of Athletics, so I feel that I have a good sense of the College and the lacrosse program (I also had the good fortune to be the head lacrosse coach at the United States Naval Academy for twelve years). Hezzy was a major lacrosse star at Washington College in the 1950's, and in fact was a national star.

I had the opportunity to meet Hezzy and to get to know him, and he was a fantastic person. Most people may not know it, but Hezzy was the lacrosse coach and a brilliant English professor at the University of Maryland. He had a long and distinguished career there. From what I could gather from his former teammates, Hezzy was primarily a feeding attackman, who had great vision of the field and was totally unselfish.

I think Hezzy would have told you to enjoy yourself when you play, to remember it's a game, and to work as hard at your academics as you do at lacrosse. It will carry you far.

His family would recommend that you read *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*, the Newberry Award book for the year Hezzy received the Turnbull Award—1956. It is interesting that the theme of the book is navigation—a subject that all of my players at Navy are intimately (sometimes more intimately than they wanted) familiar with! I hope you will enjoy reading it—particularly the part about “sailing by ash breeze.”

My very best,

Bryan Matthews

Dear Robbie,

Hello, I am Brian Scheetz, the 2012 Turnbull Award recipient from Mercyhurst University. I hope you have been enjoying lacrosse as much as I have throughout my career. Lacrosse has taught me a lot in life and has helped me grow into the person I am today. I have been truly fortunate in the game, Robbie. I won a New York State high school state championship in 2009 during my senior year at Canandaigua Academy, as well as a National Championship at M&T Bank stadium in Baltimore, Maryland to conclude my sophomore campaign in 2011! The people I have met through the game of lacrosse have been a major part of my life and will continue to be a focal point in the future. The lacrosse community is very small but has rapidly shown growth across the nation. My lacrosse experience has been unbelievable and I would have never met the people I have without lacrosse in my life. I am currently attempting to give back to the game by coaching at Coker College in South Carolina.

Lacrosse is a team game but when you are recognized for your efforts individually, it is special. Receiving this award as a junior showed that all the work I had put in to the game over the years had paid off. This award would not have been possible without being on a successful team and so I have to thank my teammates for all of the work they put in as well. It truly means a lot to be recognized. Lacrosse has been on this earth for hundreds of years and is growing into one of the fastest growing sports across the nation. Jack is a legend of the game and will be remembered in the lacrosse community forever.

Coach Scott asked us to provide a couple of recommendations to you. First and foremost, I would say don't let anything hold you back from your dreams. Set goals and work hard every day to achieve those goals and do not let anyone deter you. The game of lacrosse can do a lot for you in life; you just have to put in what you want to get out of it.

Learning the game of lacrosse is just as important as playing it. A player who understands the game and its situations is a valuable asset to any team. Play fast, play hard. Use the ground on shots. And make sure you are having fun while you play because when it becomes a job it is not a game. I am 5'5." I have always been told in sports that I was too small, not big enough, and not fast enough to be great. That is what drove me to work every day and keep a chip on my shoulder. People and coaches need to look more into player's heart and what they have inside of them. Attitude and passion for the game is irreplaceable and that is what winners have inside.

Also—take advantage of the opportunities God gives you, no matter the situation, find the good and do what you can to help others. Dream big and take chances because every day that goes by, you will never get that opportunity back to improve.

I would recommend that you read *Mind Gym: An Athlete's Guide to Inner Excellence* by Gary Mack and David Casstevens.

All the best, Robbie,

Brian Scheetz

Mercyhurst University 2013
Turnbull Award 2012