

Hi Robbie,

My good friend and teammate Michael French has informed me that Coach Scott has invited all Turnbull Award recipients to write a short note to you in relation to your magic stick. Mike has asked me to write to you on behalf of our late teammate, Eamon McEneaney Cornell '77. What an honor to be asked to do so. I should begin, I think, by telling you a bit about Eamon and his career.

Eamon played at Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park, Long Island for the legendary coach Bill Ritch. Eamon then attended Cornell University and played for three years on the varsity (back then freshman were ineligible for varsity competition). He was a First-Team All-American and First-Team All-Ivy for his three varsity years. He won three Ivy League championships, two national championships, and was the MVP of the 1977 National Championship game. He received the Jack Turnbull Award as the Division I Attackman of the Year, the Lt. Raymond Enners Memorial Award as the Division I Player of the Year, played in the 1977 North-South Collegiate All-Star game, was enshrined in the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1992, and received the *Tewaaron Legends* Award in 2012. He also played football at Cornell. I could go on and on about a lot more accomplishments.

Eamon had two distinct parts to him; his athletic attributes and his keen intellect. He pursued both with full focus, commitment, and joy. While most people saw his athletic side in action, he never sought the limelight (that said, he was hard to miss with his long, flowing blonde hair, skinny legs, and his fiery demeanor). He cherished his time at Cornell, and his ability to be part of the literary scene there. He was always seeking wisdom and enlightenment.

Eamon was a truly fantastic player—one of the greatest ever to play. To get to play with him at Cornell was an experience none of us will forget. His passion and spirit for the game were unmatched. Cornell University and the entire game of lacrosse remember Eamon fondly. I have been fortunate to stay connected to Cornell and many of my teammates and coaches all these years (my son played there, too!).

One unique feature that Eamon brought to the table, which is truly a gift, was his ability to make those around him better. His work ethic and ability to believe deeply in himself, was evident to all who were around him. The great UCLA basketball coach, John Wooden (of whom we were great admirers), commented that, "A player who makes a team great, is more valuable than a great player." Eamon was that kind of player.

What is far more important than all of the well-deserved accolades that Eamon accumulated, is the person and player he was. I can tell you from a teammate's perspective that Eamon represented everything that is good about the game and in athletics. He was totally dedicated to his game—he did the work necessary to be great—and his teams, but he was also a scholar, a poet, and a great husband and father and friend to all.

Eamon passed away in the attacks of September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York. Eamon was also in the World Trade Center in 1993 when a terrorist attack took place and he was the first to help people during that incident and likely saved dozens of lives with his courage, selflessness, and leadership.

The Cornell University Press published Eamon's poems under the title *A Bend in the Road*. Eamon's wife, Bonnie, is also a published author, writing *Messages: Signs, Visits, and Premonitions from Loved Ones Lost on 9/11*. I would commend either one or both of those books to you.

We should all be so lucky to have played with people like Eamon. He truly is one of the most—if not *the* most—amazing people I have known in my life. He played—and lived his life— with a genuine fire. There were never enough hours in the day for Eamon to impact people, work on all of the things he wanted to do, to help make things better for people, not to mention being the husband and father that he was. The world lost a true hero and incredible person on 9/11 (as well as the other 3,000 people). Coach Scott invited us to offer some advice about the game and life in general. I think Eamon's advice to you in regard to lacrosse would be to strive to be your very best, to enjoy every second of the experience, to find ways to make your teammates better, and to represent the game in a positive manner at all times.

I think the life advice Eamon would probably offer would be very similar—work hard, enjoy the journey, help people. But Eamon never "lectured" people to tell others how to live their lives. He believed all people should follow their hopes and dreams, and "be the best they can be," wherever their life journey took them. He did however have some thoughts on what helped him in his journey. We call them:

#### "Eamon's Points of Life"

- 1 - Love is Light
- 2 - Family and Friends
- 3 - Honesty, Humility, and Curiosity
- 4 - Spirituality
- 5 - Poetry, Literature, and Music
- 6 - Laughter and Wit
- 7 - Hard Work, Toughness, and Tenacity
- 8 - Athletics and Physical Fitness
- 9 - Passion, Purpose, and Heart
- 10 - Leadership
- 11 - Kindness

I would hope that you could use the example the Eamon left to all of us, Robbie. Be good, strong, and courageous, and look for ways to make the world a better place. Eamon certainly did. Mike and I—along with all of Eamon's teammates—wish you nothing but the best.

Eamon was truly a remarkable person and a "true brother." We miss him dearly.

All The Best,

John "Jake" O'Neill for my teammate

Eamon McEneaney

Cornell University 1977  
Turnbull Award 1975  
Enners Award 1977  
Team USA 1978  
*Tevaaraton Legends Award 2012*