

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