

Dear Robbie,

I am thrilled to hear of your special stick, and I am grateful for Coach Scott's invitation to connect with you. My name is Michael Watson, and I received the Turnbull Award in 1996, while playing at the University of Virginia. I grew up playing in Baltimore, Maryland where I attended the St. Paul's School for Boys prior to matriculating at the University of Virginia.

My experience in the game has exceeded my wildest dreams. I have been fortunate at every stop on my journey—from youth league up through Team USA and Major League Lacrosse. I have learned from all of my teammates and coaches and consider myself extremely blessed to have had so many great people influencing me along the way.

Receiving individual honors such as the Turnbull Award gives you a sense of accomplishment—but I would be the first to tell you that my teammates and coaches all receive a piece of each of them.

I would encourage you to wake up each morning with a goal in mind to accomplish. Proceed on your journey with an open mind and a willingness to accept guidance from those who give it. For success is not merely an individual achievement, but a result of the influences that surround and shape you. I like baseball manager Sparky Anderson's quote, "Success isn't something that just happens. Success is learned, success is practiced, and then it is shared."

I thought you may enjoy reading a book by Malcolm Gladwell called *Outliers*. It raises some interesting questions that I think will help you along the way. Best of luck on your journey. Enjoy the ride...

All the best,

Michael Watson

University of Virginia 1996

Turnbull Award 1996

Team USA 1998

National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 2013