

Dear Robbie,

Congratulations on being chosen to carry the stick. While preparing to write this letter I cannot describe the emotions it conjured up and the sense of gratitude I felt as I reflected on my lacrosse experiences.

Dave Urick, my coach at Hobart College, was a great teacher, mentor, and motivator. Coach Urick saw something in me when many others had doubts. He gave me a chance to play at Hobart, a school that had just won four consecutive Division III National Championships. And when the time was right, he had faith in me as a player—giving me the opportunity to succeed following in the footsteps of Hobart greats like Mark Darcangelo, Rick Gilbert, and Tom Grimaldi. I cannot thank Coach Urick enough for these gifts.

Robbie, Jack Turnbull Award winners are undoubtedly talented, but the people around them advance their achievements. As you get older and reflect back on what is sure to be a great career, you will think about the many amazing teams you played on, and how these teams helped contribute to your success. Attackmen have the good fortune to be the finishers of many great plays. But, at the start of many of these plays there will be a check, save, or groundball and the player that started the play will rarely get his name in the newspaper.

Peter Ortale (Penn Charter, Duke, NYAC) was one of those guys. He created opportunities for the attack to shine. Peter was my friend and teammate on the New York Athletic Club. He tragically lost his life in the World Trade Center on 9/11, but he truly represented so much of what Jack Turnbull was, in terms of physical and mental toughness. He was the consummate team player and always put others ahead of himself on and off the field. I wish my two sons could have known him.

Robbie, as you embark on this exciting journey, I know you will be a part of many great teams. At the end of every great game and season think of the coach who had faith in you and your unsung teammates and remember to say “thank you.”

Best wishes,

Ray Gilliam

Hobart College Division III National Champs 1984, 85, 86, 87
Turnbull Award 1986, 87
United States Club Lacrosse Player of the Year 1989
Hobart Athletic Hall of Fame 2000
National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, L. I. Metro Chapter 2001