

Dear Robbie,

Congratulations on earning the special stick and thank you for picking up this letter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed putting pen to paper.

I love the sport of lacrosse for the same reasons most people do. It's beautiful to watch, combining great individual creativity with graceful teamwork. It has hard-hitting and ballet-like finesse. It has great people playing, coaching and supporting it. If you make it a meaningful part of your life, it can create a network of friends and business relationships that will be with you forever. But above all, I loved lacrosse because it was my way of showing my parents how much I loved them.

I am the middle child of five in a middle-class family. The tuition at Hopkins in 1992 was far more than what my family could afford. When I found out I got accepted but wouldn't receive a scholarship I was disappointed but understood that I couldn't attend. I remember thinking, the other more-affordable schools are not Hopkins, but they would be fine and I'd make the best of it. I'll never forget when my father came to me and said, "You are going to Hopkins. We will make it work for one year but you have to go and blow them all away and earn a scholarship for the next three years."

My freshman year I tied the freshman record for goals and points earning All-American honors and a full athletic scholarship. I graduated the leading scorer and point producer in the school's storied history. I won the Enners Award and Turnbull Award for Best Player and Best Attacker, respectively.

I'm grateful for all of my teammates and coaches over the years. I played with (and for) some of the greats. Many of my goals were the result of a great play made by Brian Piccola or Dave Marr during my playing days at Hopkins, but I never would have been there had it not been for my Parents' great sacrifice. I loved to play for them.

I was told long ago when I first started playing, "If you love lacrosse, it will love you back ten times as much." I hope you love it, Robbie and I hope you can find a special fulfillment in it like I did.

Thank you for reading my letter. I wish you a great lacrosse journey.

Warmest regards,

Terry Riordan

Johns Hopkins 1995
Turnbull Award 1995