

Roger Williams University
Men's Lacrosse Office

Dear Robbie,

I am so glad to hear of our connection to Jack Turnbull through your fantastic stick.

Lacrosse has been a huge part of my life for 35 years now. I played at John Jay-Cross River High School in South Salem, NY and then at Nazareth College. I am currently the head coach at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island and have been for twenty years. As great as lacrosse has been for me and meant to me—being the father of five children is even more meaningful.

By far, lacrosse has shaped who I am and what I have become. I still have tremendous friends and memories to this day from my time playing lacrosse; from high school thru college and even now; playing in an over-40 men's league.

I was fortunate to be a part of a championship team at Nazareth. I can't say why I was selected to receive the Turnbull Award, but I like to think that I played a balanced game, ending my career with almost the same number of goals and assists certainly helped. I always felt I played well within a team environment and could help dictate the play and tempo of our offense without being an overly athletic or flashy player.

A few thoughts that I may offer—be fundamentally sound! Throw, pass and catch the ball correctly and pick up ground balls. Having solid fundamentals allowed me to be a strong player. Also, worry about the team and the individual awards will come. Usually no one is honored with awards unless the team is successful. Individual awards are terrific, however winning as a team is always remembered more than the individual accomplishments. I would also say that everything in life happens for a reason. The harder you work the luckier you will seem to be.

I'm not sure that I fully appreciated the magnitude of receiving the Lt. Col. J. I. "Jack" Turnbull Award, but I can assure you that twenty-five+ years later I fully realize how fortunate I am to have received such an honor while playing a truly magnificent game. Having learned more about the life of Jack Turnbull has only magnified my pride in receiving this Award. In his short life, he sacrificed and accomplished more than most humans ever will and as I continue to get older, my pride and honor will only grow greater. I am proud to have my name associated with you and Jack Turnbull!

I wish you all the best in your playing and academic careers, Robbie. I am sure that you will conduct your life in a manner that would make Col. Turnbull proud. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you!

I would recommend that you read the book *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom.

Sincerely,

Marty Kelly

Head Lacrosse Coach
Roger Williams University
Lt. Col. John I. "Jack" Turnbull Award 1992
Nazareth College 1992