

Dear Robbie,

I write to you on behalf of Bob Scott in regard to your special stick. Let me begin by saying that I have considered Coach Scott a mentor for all these years. He and my coach, Henry Ciccarone, - both great men and great coaches - have meant a great deal to me and countless other young men. I feel very fortunate to have had great relationships with both these legends.

I grew up in a town called Massapequa on the South Shore of Long Island. I live in Breckenridge, Colorado now and have for many years. I played at Massapequa High School and then at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and ultimately for the USA Team in 1982. I was fortunate to win a county championship at Massapequa, then a national championship at Johns Hopkins and, yes, a world championship with Team USA! I can tell you that I enjoyed the journey at every step – never really focusing on the championships themselves, but the work and preparation that went into trying to do my best.

I received the Turnbull Award in 1977 and 1978. I think at the time I was very gratified to receive it and now – when I think back – it is a very nice memory of playing with and against some truly great players and teams.

If I could give you some advice on how to succeed – it might be to bring good energy to the field and locker room. I tried very hard to do that every day. Also – be aggressive, have fun with the game, work hard, play hard and remember that it is a game. I think if you keep a good attitude and work hard, good things will happen for you.

My coaches (Pat Oleksiak at MHS and “Chick” at JHU) stressed the fundamentals – and to push the ball all the time. We scrimmaged in every practice and genuinely had fun competing.

Lacrosse has provided me with great relationships with my teammates and coaches, as well as the people I have met due to my playing the game, and allowed me travel opportunities around the world. I have been lucky enough to play lacrosse in Australia, San Francisco, Dallas, Florida, North Carolina, New York, etc.

Coach Scott asked me to include a recommendation for a book – and I heartily commend *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli.

I hope that you enjoy playing the game as much as I have and that it will continue to be a central part of your life – like it has for me. Keep working hard and best of luck with your stick.

Yours in Lacrosse,

Michael O'Neill

Johns Hopkins University 1978

Turnbull Award 1977, 1978

Team USA 1982

National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 1993