

Dear Robbie,

Greetings from Jack Daut, Turnbull Award recipient at Rutgers University in 1957!

I am honored to share some remembrances about the Turnbull Award from so many years ago. Briefly, I played my high school ball at Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park, Long Island for the legendary coach, Bill Ritch. I then played at Rutgers University for Al Twitchell. Receiving the Turnbull Award was a great honor but totally unexpected. I remember that when I was told I was to receive the Award I was totally flabbergasted!

I learned early in my career (at Sewanhaka) to catch the ball and quickly release it. I became known for my “quick stick.” I think this skill, along with my quick feet helped me score many goals and assists. In 1957, Jim Brown—the great football and lacrosse All-American from Syracuse University—and I tied for the national scoring honors with forty-something goals. That year, one of my fond memories was receiving a wonderful complement from a Mount Washington (one of, if not *the*, best teams in the country at the time) defenseman after our game.

I'd say that lacrosse is a great game, with lots of action and challenge. It requires athleticism, skill, speed, intuitive abilities, and, above all, unselfish teamwork. Learn the fundamentals of the game and practice them religiously! My coaches used to preach fundamentals, fundamentals, fundamentals, as well as staying in shape, staying positive and practicing. No surprises there, I suspect.

I hope my words here will be of some use to you. I have been attempting to repay the kindness and support of Coach Ritch for my whole life. He was a great coach who took a sincere interest in each of his players and their lives. He taught me the fundamentals of the game and was instrumental in my being able to go to college. In my senior year he lined up full scholarships to Rutgers, Syracuse, and West Point. Lacrosse and Bill Ritch were truly a turning point in my life!

As you move through your life, I would recommend that you work hard, stay focused, persevere in doing your best, and don't let adversity detour you from your goals.

A book I might recommend to you would be *David and Goliath David: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* by Malcolm Gladwell.

My very best wishes.

Jack Daut

Rutgers University 1957
Turnbull Award 1957