

Hi Robbie,

I write to you on behalf of my late brother and teammate, Jeff Cook, Johns Hopkins '82. Jeff was a fantastic player—a three-time All-American, two-time Turnbull Award recipient (outstanding attackman), Enners Award recipient (player of the year), Team USA player (world champion), and is enshrined in the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. I think his teammates (myself included!) considered him the epitome of what the game should be about—skilled, tough, hard-working, team-oriented.

Jeff began his career in the first grade at St. Paul's School and then went on to the McDonogh School in Baltimore and then to Hopkins. He benefited immensely from great coaching during his entire career. He had at least four or five Hall of Fame coaches along the way (as well a number of teammates now enshrined).

Receiving the Turnbull Award meant a great deal to Jeff. I think he would say that he was gratified (as with all of his many awards) to be recognized by the various coaches and committees. He knew that the hard work he put into playing the game he truly loved to the best of his ability was recognized and appreciated. He was shocked that he received the MVP in the '81 championship even though his team lost. He certainly would have traded that recognition for a win.

As a player Jeff would tell you to work hard and play to the best of your ability at all times. He would encourage you to go to the goal (can't score unless you do). And, mostly, no "dancing," as he used to say.

Jeff was remarkably humble. He always credited his teammates—even when he was clearly a central part of his team's success. He always told people he had great midfielders to play with. As all attackmen know—you can't score if you don't have the ball. So it was always nice to hear Jeff express that sentiment as a thank you to his teammates.

Jeff had osteomyelitis as a child and, after several surgeries, had to have hip replacement surgery at age forty. He battled through all of his injuries along the way in the same warrior-like fashion.

My mother would be happy if I told you a quick story about Jeff's rehabilitation from his hip surgery. When she took him to therapy one day—she noticed a (now famous) poster that STX Lacrosse had printed back in the '80s—of Jeff playing for Hopkins vs. North Carolina—hanging on the wall of the waiting room. She related to me, "When the nurse came back from taking Jeff to another room, I asked her if she knew who that was on the poster. Meanwhile, there were just two of us in the waiting room. The other person said, 'That's my son!' The person was the father of John Haus—the North Carolina defenseman playing against Jeff. I, of course, said, 'That's my son!' What a coincidence since neither of us knew one another." It is a small world, Robbie.

Jeff was one of the greatest to play the game, Robbie. I know that he would be thrilled to hear of your association with him through Jack Turnbull—another of the all-time greats. Keep working hard. Please let me know if I can share any more with you in regard to our great game or my brother.

Good luck, Robbie,

Craig Cook for

My brother and teammate Jeff Cook

Johns Hopkins University 1982

Turnbull Award 1981, 1982

Enners Award 1981

Team USA 1982

National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 2006