

Dear Robbie,

I have been in recent contact with Coach Scott in regard to you being in possession of the special lacrosse stick once used by the famous Turnbull brothers. My late father, Don Hahn, received the Turnbull Award in 1951 as a player at Princeton University.

My father was once described by John Steadman of *The Sunday American and the NewsPost* as “the greatest lacrosser to turn a stick in his palms since the late, lamented Jack Turnbull.” Apparently, their similarities did not stop with success on the lacrosse field. Steadman also wrote that both were “quiet, reserved, and gentlemanly.”

A child named Jack Turnbull (the nephew of the Award’s namesake) presented the Turnbull Award to Don in 1951. While details of that day may be lost to history, my father did recall telling the young fellow, “I did not know the man for whom you are named, but I understand that he is considered the greatest lacrosse player ever.”

Don received a number of awards during his career in addition to the Turnbull Award. He received Princeton’s top lacrosse award, the Higginbotham Trophy, in 1950 and 1951, and was a two-time First-Team All-America selection in those same years. In 1981, Don was elected into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

My father’s enjoyment of the game and respect for its traditions were obvious in speeches he made, though he seldom spoke of his own accomplishments, such was his modesty. Upon Don’s induction into the Hall of Fame, a teammate, Frank “Skip” Eccles wrote, “It is a particular pleasure to see the honor going to someone who bore his considerable success with such modesty and who always struck me as a most admirable person in every way.”

Speaking at the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) December dinner meeting in New York honoring the All-America Team of 1950, my father remarked,

“...We also have a great sense of responsibility—a responsibility to all of you gentlemen assembled here this evening in the common interest of lacrosse, a responsibility to the game itself. Looking back at the imposing list of those who were once honored as we are tonight and who have done so much, through example if not actual participation, to maintain the high caliber of intercollegiate lacrosse throughout the years, we can find much inspiration for meeting this responsibility.

“And so we accept this challenge of preserving in lacrosse what we consider vital to it. Chief among these is the high standard of competition balanced by an amazing degree of good will and congeniality among the competitors....Win or lose—it has always been fun to play lacrosse—and a privilege too. We shall do our best to preserve these fundamental elements of the game.”

Some 30 years later, Don would make the following remarks on the occasion of his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1982 at Homewood Field, Baltimore:

“For myself with humility and thanks; for my family with pride; with gratitude to my schools and coaches; with a bow to the fine competitors I have played against; and in recognition of—and ultimately on behalf of—those wonderful people and players—my teammates, without whom obviously this Award would never have come to me.

“With all of these feelings, I accept this honor today from my former coaches and can only wish for those playing now or yet to come, that the beautiful game of lacrosse continues to

provide the experience of clean sport and lasting friendships—among opponents as well as teammates—and *just plain fun* that it was my good fortune to know.”

These words, spoken by my father over the last half a century, still ring true today. I hope, as my father would, that you find clean sport, lasting friendships, and of course, just plain fun!

Best of luck,

Tobin Hahn

In memory of Donald Hahn

Turnbull Award 1951

All-America Team 1950, 1951

Higginbotham Trophy 1950, 1951

National Championship, Princeton 1951

National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Class of 1981