

Robbie,

I hope you are enjoying your special stick. I hope the game of lacrosse brings you a lifetime of incredible memories. There's no doubt in my mind that the game will bring you numerous lifelong friendships, and experiences that you could have never had without being a part of the sport of lacrosse. So much of my life and the path that I have chosen has been directed by the game of lacrosse. I grew up playing in Sudlersville, Maryland for the Sudlersville Thunder, Lightning, and Storm teams, as well as the Eastern Shore All-Stars. I was a high school All-American at Kent County High School. I was a two-time All-American at Washington College, and coached at my alma mater for two years while getting my master's degree in History. I was drafted in 2005 to play professionally for the Los Angeles Riptide, and worked as a pro-sponsored athlete for Adrenaline Lacrosse in San Diego. Lacrosse has taken me across the country, and to places I could have never dreamed of going.

As I look back at having received the Turnbull Award my senior year at Washington College, I look back on that time in my life and think about how hard I worked to earn the Turnbull Award. I enjoyed my playing career immensely, and to be recognized as the top attackman in the country, and particularly in the name of a war hero is a tremendous honor. It is a reminder still today that hard work, and sacrifice pays off.

Some advice I might offer is to enjoy your time with each team you play on. The team always has to come first, and it's your job to put in the work to make sure you don't let your team down. Play other sports, so when you play lacrosse it is fresh and fun. Remember that is just a game and it's supposed to be fun. I think the lessons you will learn from your experience in lacrosse (and other sports) will prepare you for the challenges that you will encounter in adult life—so make the most of your learning opportunities.

I had some excellent coaches during my career, and they all constantly preached (and practiced) “Fundamentals, Fundamentals, Fundamentals.” As a coach myself now for Shore Kaos Lacrosse, I have become more aware of the mental part of the game in addition to the physical part. Be a student of the game—there is so much to learn!

I hope the late Colonel Turnbull and his family would be proud of what I have tried to do to help my community through the sport of lacrosse. Perhaps they would be of you, as well!

My very best to you, Robbie.

Jon Fellows

Washington College 2002  
Turnbull Award 2002