

Dear Robbie,

Mrs. Lee Hual, widow of the late Percy Williams, USNA '55, and Turnbull Award recipient that year, asked me to write to you in regard to Percy's lacrosse accomplishments, which brought back many positive memories.

I joined the Navy team as a sophomore in the spring of 1955, Percy's senior year. I had known him in 1953 as we were in the same Company for a year when I was a freshman. He had talked to me numerous times when he found out I was playing on the freshman lacrosse team, and encouraged me from time to time during the season.

The Navy lacrosse team won the National Championship in 1954, so when I came out for the varsity in 1955, I knew that the competition would be tough at the attack position. Fortunately, I was left-handed and had an advantage of being able to more accurately pass the ball to my teammates at the midfield and attack position. Here again, Percy had made that point to me and worked out with me separately many times before and after regular practice. The result being that I became the starter at that position, opposite Percy, during the season.

The season went well for the team; we won the first six games handily with Percy racking up many goals each game. The seventh game was against our biggest rival, Maryland, and was essentially the game for another national championship. Unfortunately, we lost 9–8 in the last seconds of the game, but again, Percy led the offense for the team. His performance in that game sealed his position for selection as a First-Team All-American; and, more importantly, the winner of the Jack Turnbull Memorial Award presented to the nation's top attackman. Navy went on to win the remaining three games. Navy held all teams that year to single digits, while scoring double digits (up to 21 goals) in every game, primarily due to Percy's outstanding scoring capabilities.

For the remaining two years I played at Navy, there were many times I reflected on how Percy had mentored me through his patience, cajoling, and lighthearted personality. He was a winner in all respects, and I value his memories as a teammate and friend.

I hope that you'll be lucky enough to have a teammate like Percy at some point in your career. More importantly, I hope that you will *be* a teammate like Percy. It has meant the world to me all these years.

Good luck.

Shannon Heyward

Navy Lacrosse '57

[RHS Note: Shannon was a three-time All-American at Navy and is a retired Navy Captain!]