

Welles Remy Crowther

Community Service-Lacrosse, Ice Hockey, 1992-1995

Welles Crowther is perhaps best remembered as a four year member of the varsity lacrosse team; however, he also played varsity ice hockey and was co-captain in his senior year. In addition, Welles played two years of high school soccer. He graduated after four years on high honor roll from Nyack High School in 1995, and continued his athletic career at Boston College playing four years of Division 1 Lacrosse.

At Nyack High School, Welles was known for his love of sports, and his drive to help others succeed. His own words emphasize his personal philosophy on the field and in life: in the yearbook he quotes: "There is no I in team!"

In his junior year of high school, he was a member of the great team which ironically included Jon Hess. In fact, it was Jon who got Welles interested in lacrosse. Under Coach John Whisker, Crowther played attack, had many assists, did his part and was very successful. However, Welles's spirit of wanting to do more for the team had him becoming frustrated by being limited to the offensive half of the field. Yet, despite his own frustrations, he found a way to persevere and become the best player he could be at his position.

Welles played right wing for the ice hockey team He was pulled up to Varsity during his 8th grade year. In his senior year, he led the section in scoring. However, in hockey there is a point system, and again, because of his 'can do' spirit and do what is best for the team, most of his point total came from letting others share the glory: assists. Coach Dave Moreno, remembers Crowther as an unselfish player - again, his character.

Crowther was known as the player who helped many younger players get their first goal. He would ask the coach to put another kid in who had not yet scored a goal and put that player on Welles' line. Welles would then instruct that younger player to skate down the middle of the ice towards the opposing team's goal with his stick on the ice when Welles had the puck. At the top of the circle, Welles, who was also known for having a deadly wrist shot from the circle, would instead flip the puck over to the other player's stick and that young man could then bang it in the net as the goalie was concentrating on Welles. Welles would then go to the other team's goalie, get the puck and skate over to the Nyack bench to present the player with the puck from his first goal!

After graduating from high school, Welles attended Boston College, and played four years of lacrosse. He had continued to develop: physically and mentally for the game. Crowther moved from attack to middle, which enabled him to be even more productive. He could play the

entire length of the field, contributing to both defense and offense, something he wanted to do in order to help the team succeed.

After college, Welles went on to become an equities trader at Sandler O'Neill & Partners, in the World Trade Center. September 11, 2001 is the day Welles extended his role as "there is no I in team. Instead of just Welles Crowther, he is now known as "The Man in the Red Bandanna" who is credited with saving many lives that day. His spirit of teamwork, leadership and citizenship has continued through his family; educating and spreading the importance of camaraderie, sportsmanship and humanity across not only the county, but the United States and the world.

In part due to his early death, but more so because of his everlasting spirit, Welles Crowther's high school hockey number '19' was retired and his jersey is on display at Nyack High School. His lacrosse number is given to a young man who embodies Welles' spirit. In order for his passion for teamwork to live on, The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust was established by his family to honor and perpetuate his memory. This trust provides scholarships and support to young people to achieve their own personal excellence.

While his passing was early, he and another lacrosse player, both graduates of Nyack High School and Boston College, Stacey Sennas McGowan, are being inducted into the Nyack High School Hall of Fame posthumously. Both exuded excellence in humanity and teamwork.

It should also be noted that Welles new early on was meant for something greater. Welles joined Empire Hook and Ladder Co. at the age of 16 and completed the required training by age 17 to become a fully accepted firefighter. He participated in numerous working fires and attended many additional training evolutions, parades and much more. In the fire house there is a photo of Welles. He is the last image the men and women see of the company as they leave to do their jobs. The daily reminder: we are to help others.