

25
YEARS

FAMILY, FAITH, ACADEMICS, LACROSSE

Celebrating the Legacy of CCDS Lacrosse

Twenty-five years ago, most people in Charlotte didn't know much about lacrosse. With the popular sport now available to boys and girls beginning in elementary school-age youth programs, it's hard to believe that this fast-paced game was ever a new idea for Charlotteans. We can thank our own Brad Touma for helping to bring the sport to Charlotte and for making the Bucs a nationally known lacrosse powerhouse.

His love of lacrosse began as a high school student at Detroit Country Day School, and he played midfield at Denison University. After graduation, he coached briefly at the Pingry School, then followed his high school mentor Gene Reilly to Charlotte Country Day to bring the sport to CCDS in 1986.

Coach Touma took over the team in 1987 and in the ensuing 25 years has made CCDS the most successful high school program in North Carolina history (see timeline next page). Yet his coaching philosophy is not about winning. "Athletics in general, and lacrosse in particular, are a great vehicle to test and challenge young men to grow in preparation for the challenges that await them," he said.

"We believe family, faith, academics, and lacrosse—in that order—should be the priority."

Thomas Passenant '11, now a player at Hofstra University, said, "Coach Touma tried to incorporate life lessons in all of our lacrosse practices. He routinely says that the harder you work on the field, the harder you will work off of it. He tried to make us not only better lacrosse players, but better people as a whole."

On May 5, nearly 200 lacrosse alumni, family, and friends came together to celebrate Coach Touma's 25th year of coaching at CCDS at the annual Alumni Lacrosse Reunion. The high point of the day was Patrick Hobson '89 announcing the naming of the Bradley C. Touma Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will offer financial assistance to qualified and deserving students.

In 2003, the varsity lacrosse team made a contribution to the General Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of Coach

Touma. Throughout the years, the fund continued to grow, reflecting the inspirational role that Coach Touma has played in so many lives. In this milestone year, Patrick led an effort to raise \$210,000 from the CCDS lacrosse family to create the named endowed scholarship.

During his presentation, Patrick said, "Coach Touma has not only been a leader in academics and athletics, but also a mentor who has helped shape the moral character of hundreds of students in ways that have empowered them to lead fulfilling lives."

Coach Touma was completely surprised by the scholarship announcement. He said later: "I am humbled and overwhelmed by the generosity and thoughtfulness of this gift. This scholarship ensures that deserving, young people will benefit from this great school that has done so much for me and my family."



Patrick Hobson '89 congratulates Coach Brad Touma after announcing the establishment of the Bradley C. Touma Endowed Scholarship Fund.

LAX By the Numbers

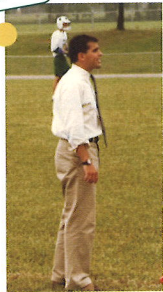
- 6** Academic All-Americans
- 9** State Championships
- 14** U.S. LACROSSE National Senior Game participants
- 16** All-Americans
- 17** Conference Titles
- 20** State Championship game appearances
- 21** NCAA players
- 100** All-Conference selections
- 141** All-State selections
- 393** Victories

1987



CCDS fields its first varsity lacrosse team coached by Gene Reilly. Brad Touma joins CCDS as a history teacher and assistant lacrosse coach. The team went 2-6.

1988

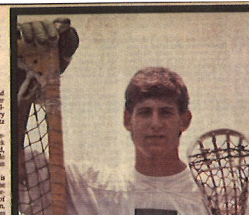


Coach Touma takes over as the Buccaneers head lacrosse coach. The team goes 7-6 and plays teams hundreds of miles away, as there are no local opponents.

1989

Lefkowitz city's first lax star

By David Smith
Sports Editor
Despite being only the second player from North Carolina to ever earn high school honors, All-American honors, Charlotte Country Day lacrosse player David Lefkowitz will fight a battle for respect. It's not that Lefkowitz isn't doing well. His 40 career goals will stand up to any great defender. Instead, Lefkowitz's problem has been to do with academics and image than lacrosse.



David Lefkowitz '89 is the first CCDS player, and only the second in North Carolina, to be named an All-American in high school lacrosse.

1991



2003

ONE OF THE STATE'S BEST PLAYERS

Bacon raises a racket at Country Day with his skill

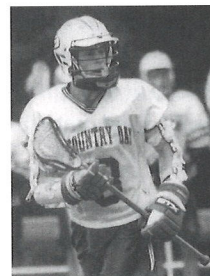
Bucs standout attracts top lacrosse programs, including Towson

By Brett Honeycutt
Staff Writer
Charlotte Country Day's Oliver Bacon stands 5-foot-9½ inches and weighs 185 pounds. Nothing seems imposing or startling about that. But let him on a lacrosse field and these measurements become his.

Bacon, whose team hosts Durham Academy today at 4:30 p.m. in a showdown of the state's top two teams. "It seems like in college lacrosse, coaches are more willing to take players (who) are producing on the field." Which is what he has done and why he's considered one of the best lacrosse players to ever come out of North Carolina. His speed, sense of the field, feel for the sport and the fact he's left-handed attracted attention from top-20 college programs, and earned him All-American honors as a junior last year and



Oliver Bacon '03 is the only player to be named an All-American twice. He was also named an All-American at Towson University.

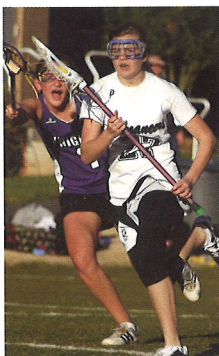


Jimmy Hlavacek '00 is the only player to be named both an All-American and an Academic All-American.



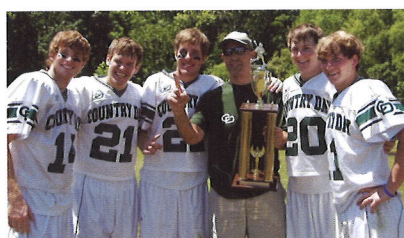
Coaches Hoffman and Touma often travel to see former players at the next level. They visited Andy Jonas '97, who played at UNC-Chapel Hill, and was captain in 2002.

2005



Girls begin playing lacrosse as a club sport. A varsity team was created in 2006, however, the NCISAA won't sanction girls' lacrosse until 2009.

2008



The Bucs win their first of a four-year run of state championship wins. The late Sam Cook helped the team captains celebrate.

CEREMONIES SATURDAY

Country Day coach is in N.C. Lacrosse Hall of Fame

By Dan Tierney
dtierney@charlotteobserver.com
With his team's latest state championship recently earned, Brad Touma will get a special gift for his career accomplishments. A spot in the N.C. Lacrosse Hall of Fame. The Charlotte Country Day boys' lacrosse coach will join seven other inductees at a celebration May 31 in Greensboro for their contributions to the



Coach Touma is inducted in the N.C. Lacrosse Hall of Fame.



Art Hoffman joins the team as assistant varsity coach. A junior varsity team, coached by Mike Fresina, is added, and Middle School play begins with the addition of a 7th grade team.

1993

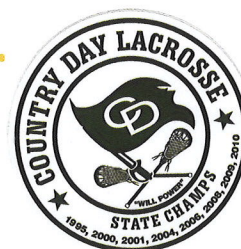
Defenseman Aran O'Malley '93 is named the school's first Academic All-American. Five additional players have also earned this honor.

1994

Chase Monroe joins the team as an assistant coach.

1995

CCDS upsets top-seeded Durham Academy to take its first state championship. They scored twice in the final 48 seconds, stunning the Cavaliers with an 8-7 victory. Over the next eight years, the interstate rivals will face each other every year in the state title game.



1998

The Bucs stun national lacrosse powerhouse Boys' Latin School of Maryland. In a letter of congratulations to Coach Touma, BL coach Bob Shriver, wrote "We have not lost a non-league game in 15 years! Your kids not only outplayed us, but you sure as hell out coached us as well."



Country Day athletes who broke a pledge learn a lesson

By KEN GARFIELD
Hartford, Conn.
Charlotte Country Day School lacrosse coach Bob Touma had heard the talk swirling around his undefeated team. One player slipped beer at a Garth Brooks concert in Columbia. Another chewed tobacco during a trip to play a game in Wilmington.

The Bucs end the season 17-6. Four of those losses are the result of forfeits. Coach Touma handed his players a tough lesson in honor when he learned that many had violated the school's pledge against consuming alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, and therefore were suspended from play.

The Lacrosse Jamboree is established by Coach Touma. The annual event hosted at CCDS has raised thousands of dollars to benefit the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University and The Crossnore School.

1997

MECKLENBURG NEIGHBORS

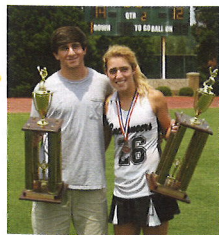
Lacrosse is on upswing

By HERB WHITE
Special Correspondent

In a part of the country where high school football and basketball are kings, lacrosse is making some inroads.

Ten years into his tenure, Coach Touma is credited with building the sport to surging popularity at CCDS and in greater Charlotte.

He told the *Charlotte Observer*, "Lacrosse has the elements that Americans like in team sports: speed, power, and contact."



2010

In back-to-back games on Dowd Field, both the varsity boys' and

varsity girls' lacrosse teams win the state championship. Siblings Lukas Lovett '10 and Bella Lovett '11 helped lead their teams to victory.

2011



The 2010-11 team celebrates its fourth straight state championship.



Twins Thomas Passenant '11 and Derek Passenant '11 made the varsity team their freshmen year, making them the only players to win a state championship every year they played. Thomas now plays at Hofstra.

MAY 2012

Nearly 200 CCDS lacrosse players and their families return to CCDS to celebrate 25 years of lacrosse under the leadership of Coach Touma. An endowed scholarship fund is created in Coach Touma's honor. (See page 19)