



LACROSSE MATTERS



BECAUSE OF LACROSSE: "DIFFERENT" BOYS ARE JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE

The only thing closely resembling a team previously for some players at The Ferris School for Boys, a secure-care facility for court-committed males ages 13-18 in Pices Corner, Delaware, may have been a gang.

Officials were noticing an increase in disciplinary problems during the spring when no sport was offered for the boys to participate. While education, therapy and other various forms of treatment are instrumental during a Ferris resident's stay, exercise and teamwork are valuable, too. After briefly considering baseball, they decided on lacrosse, a first of its kind in a correctional facility.

With assistance from US Lacrosse, the Wilmington Friends School, US Lacrosse Delaware Chapter President Lee Powers (an assistant coach at Wilmington Friends), and Coach Kalyn McDonough (who played and coaches women's lacrosse at the University of Delaware), the team was launched in January 2017 and is making a big difference in the lives of the boys and faculty at Ferris.

"If you saw them at the beginning of the season and you see them now, it's an amazing transition and

it really has to do with the great coaches and the kids from Friends who've come over to play with them," said Nancy Deitz, director of the state's Youth Rehabilitative Services Division. "Teenagers and sports have a connection that transitions across every socio-economic environment. They're all just kids."

"I love being part of this team," one player said. "This is the first time I ever played sports. It shows you how to work with other people, to think first, and not go off on your aggression and your anger."

"It's given me the opportunity to be a role model for my brothers and sisters," said another player. "On the field, it allows me to show a positive thing I'm doing while I'm here."

The friendships that have developed between the Ferris lacrosse players and Wilmington Friends School players may be the best outcome.

Wilmington Friends senior lacrosse player Owen Ganse decided to help Friends assistant coach Lee Powers teach the game of lacrosse to Ferris players and coaches as part of his community service requirement.

"I finished that like the second week," Ganse said of those community-service objectives, "but I just kept coming back."

"These are some nice boys," Powers said. "There are some kids who can really play. The difference between these guys and my Friends kids is opportunity. You take these kids and put them on a team at Friends or Tower Hill or Cape, they'd do great. There's a boy out here who's going to go to Caesar Rodney next year and he'll play. He's a really nice young man." Another player had a 3.5 grade-point average at his previous high school while taking Advanced Placement classes. "He said 'I just made one mistake,'" Powers added of that player's placement at Ferris.

"One thing I want these kids to know is, lacrosse people like lacrosse people and we step up and take care of each other. We don't care where you're from, what part of town, whether you're black or white, whether you speak English or not," said Powers. "Lacrosse people take care of lacrosse people, and we talk to the kids about the Native American origins, that this is the medicine game. We play this to heal our communities, we play this to be together."



CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Because of Lacrosse...

J. Gordon Cooney, Jr., Chair, US Lacrosse Foundation

mirrors those of many of you.

Growth. Little did I know when I picked up my first, heavy, Brine PL66 stick, that I'd be playing 40 years later. Little did I envision my own personal growth not only in the fundamentals, but also the life lessons that come from being part of the lacrosse culture. Although I have experienced this over decades, I see the same growth in boys and girls who play youth lacrosse for only a few years.

Competition and Friendship. All sports involve competition and connections, but there is something special about the Creator's Game that forms a common ground with others who have done the same: you not only create bonds with your teammates in the heat of battle, but

there's a sportsmanship that forms lasting friendships with opponents, too. I have developed tremendous friendships because of lacrosse.

Identity. A remarkable aspect of lacrosse is room for individual style. In my mind's eye, I can still see players who played with their own unmistakable and individual flair. Team play comes first, but unique stickwork and execution leave room for style and the development of a sense of identity.

Respect for the Game. I have played many sports, but none like lacrosse. Maybe it's the Native American roots or because it is so intensely enjoyable to play. Maybe it's because stewards of the game are so committed to growing the game with respect for the game itself. May we always, above all, respect lacrosse's traditions.

I count myself deeply fortunate to have had lacrosse play a big part in my life. When you answer this question, it may be for different specific reasons, but I hope you will say the same.



They are fierce, yet humble. They are pioneers, yet playful. They are focused, but fun. They are rock stars, but totally approachable. They are our world champions, on and off the field. Twice.

Executive Committee

J. Gordon Cooney, Jr., Chair
Ed Nordberg, Treasurer
Kristin Noto, Secretary

Sol Kumin
Joe Macaione
Sylvester Minitier

Rachel Ocken
Will Wynperle

Board Members

Jeffrey Barber
Chris Bartlett
James Birlle, Jr.
J. Brooks Bradley
Brian Carcaterra
Scott Caven
Todd Crockett
Mike Ferrucci
John Gagliardi
JJ Gilbane
Andrew Godfrey
Kevin Hall
Francis X. Kelly, III

Mark Klym
Serena Black Martin
Robert Mongeluzzi
Timothy Monnin
Jack Sebastian
Scott Seymour
Karen Trudel

John Poulton
Legal Advisory
George Graffy
USL Board Rep

Steve Stenersen CEO, US Lacrosse
sstenersen@uslacrosse.org, #101

Kira Muller Editor, Lacrosse Matters
kmuller@uslacrosse.org, #105

US LACROSSE

2 Loveton Circle, Sparks, MD 21152
410.235.6882 // uslacrosse.org

"BECAUSE OF LACROSSE..."

For almost seven years, I have heard these words countless times. It is a phrase that connects and roots people in the understanding that lacrosse is more than a sport—it's a community. I have been enormously proud to serve this community and the US Lacrosse mission, and even as I transition out of my role, it will remain part of the fabric of who I am, always.

Working for US Lacrosse is not about showing up for a job everyday; it is about mission and service. But most of all, it is about the people: the extraordinary individuals who comprise our community, and for whom the sport will always be more about the friendships, than the wins and losses. This isn't limited to the elite player, but all of us who have found the magic of lacrosse and the way it binds us to each other.

For coaches, parents, grandparents, players, fans, staff, volunteers and board members, the culture of our sport is deeply rooted in the people who understand the special gift of the lacrosse community. It is a gift I have had the privilege of stewarding during



my time at US Lacrosse, and one I do not pass on lightly. The community will come with me, while the reins of stewardship I will pass on. I can only hope, in the words of Ed Nordberg, that I have given my very best and left US Lacrosse a little bit better than when I started.

Thank you to the people who have made my time here so very special. Because of you, lacrosse will always be so much more than a game to me.

See you soon.

Susie Chase

A FAMILY OF 19 HEARTBEATS

What does hustle and heart look like? It looks like every member of the Team USA Women who went undefeated in 12 games over 18 days in two world competitions. "We've accomplished things in these four weeks that no other team has ever done. We are World Cup Champions. We are World Games Champions. And, most importantly, we are now, and forever will be, a family of 19 heartbeats," said U.S. midfielder Taylor Cummings.

In the cold and driving rain, they captured the first gold medal in a 10-5 battle against Canada in the final of the 10-day FIL Women's

Lacrosse World Cup on July 22, 2017, in Guildford, England. The next day they travelled to Wroclaw, Poland, to participate in The World Games – a multi-sport Olympic-style event supported by the IOC and televised on the Olympic Channel. Down early in the final to Canada, that hustle and heart kicked in again, leading to an 11-8 win over Canada in the first-ever lacrosse competition in the World Games. We couldn't be more proud, or more in awe.

Our Team USA Women are everything we hope lacrosse players to be. They play with grit, but act with grace.



GRATITUDE WALL: BECAUSE OF LACROSSE...THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

MY ATTENDANCE, GRADES, PHYSICAL CONDITION AND OVERALL MORALE HAS IMPROVED DRASTICALLY.

Savannah, 16, Springdale, Ark.

I WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ADOPTED BY AN AMAZING FAMILY THAT I NOW CALL MY 4EVER FAMILY.

Bon, @Cinnabon227, via twitter

I LEARNED A NEW SPORT AND FORMED A BOND WITH MY TEAMMATES THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY.

Torin, 15, Springdale, Ark.

LACROSSE PROVIDES A WAY TO KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE AND TO GIVE MY HEART TO SOMETHING I LOVE.

Sterling, 15, Kimberly, Idaho

I SEE NEW PLAYERS STEP OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE AND GAIN CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES.

Anne Zilvitis, Denver, Colo.

I DIDN'T GAIN THE "FRESHMAN 15!"

Allison, 19, Kingsville, Md.

I KNOW MY TEAM/FAMILY WILL ALWAYS HAVE MY BACK.

Arian, 15, Eastvale, Calif.

WHEN I AM IN A SITUATION WHERE I DON'T KNOW A SOUL AND FEEL ALONE, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS START A CONVERSATION AROUND LAX AND I INSTANTLY HAVE A NEW FRIEND!

Andi O'Connor, Cockeysville, Md.

I GET TO TRAVEL THE COUNTRY WITH MY BEST FRIENDS, DOING WHAT I LOVE WITH THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

Maddy Liedel, @maddyliedel via twitter

I GET BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH BEFORE THE GAME BUT WHEN THE BALL GOES UP IN THE AIR, IT IS ALL FUN!

Lily, 13, Clarke County, Va.

I'M HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE. FROM THE SPORT TO THE PEOPLE I'VE MET, IT'S A BLAST.

Kyle, 16, Eastvale, Calif.

WE'VE SEEN OUR SON MATURE BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD AND MAKE SO MANY NEW FRIENDS.

Amanda, 47, Inman, S.C.

I AM NOT STUCK PLAYING GOLF.

Ethan, 15, West Greenwich, R.I.

LACROSSE HAS MADE ME A BETTER PERSON AND MORE IN SHAPE.

Brian, 15, Eastvale, Calif.

THE BOYS HAVE A WONDERFUL FRIENDSHIP ON AND OFF THE FIELD, AND SO DO THE PARENTS!

Julie, 46, Inman, S.C.

MY SON "CAME INTO HIS OWN" AS HE FELL IN LOVE WITH LACROSSE.

Macian, 43, Boiling Springs, S.C.

I GOT TO GO TO COLLEGE!!! STILL LOVE THE SPORT SO MUCH THAT I UMPIRE!!!

Keryn Lynn, via Facebook

Health | Wellness | Friendships | Discipline | Fun | Improved Cognitive Skills | Teamwork | Role Models | Opportunities | Physical Activity | Sense of Belonging

BECAUSE OF LACROSSE, LIVES ENRICHED



Isaiah Dawson

The elite-level Nation United team consists of 50-75 percent players from underrepresented backgrounds and geographic areas throughout the country. The team competes in two tournaments a year to showcase the talents of young men from diverse backgrounds, inspire diversity among young new lacrosse players, and provide the resources and skill development for those athletes aspiring to succeed in the sport. Nation United is now striving to offer the same experience to elite-level female high school lacrosse players.

Just as important as the tournaments, the Ambassadors of Nation United cultivate long-lasting relationships with teammates and coaches from a variety of backgrounds, receive guidance on college recruitment, and participate in service-based events to develop a sense of commitment to community.

Sterlyn says, "Playing with Nation United feels like a dream come true. Being able to play with other elite players who look like me is something I've always wanted to do."

"Ultimately, I hope that through Nation United we are creating and leaving a footprint that will impact the sport for decades to come," says Chazz Woodson, co-founder and boys' national team coach. "We're teaching our kids the importance of ambassadorship and being caretakers of the game."

It wasn't too long ago these two young men were trying lacrosse for the first time through the First Stick Program. Now Isaiah is a 2018 Harvard commit, and Sterlyn is a 2018 Hofstra commit. And for life, these young men will serve as ambassadors of lacrosse to encourage others to follow in their footprints.



Sterlyn Ardrey

FROM FIRST STICKS TO FOOTPRINTS

You can give a kid a lacrosse stick, but can you make him an ambassador? You sure can and you did.

In 2012, Isaiah Dawson was playing lacrosse for the South Bay Outlaws in San Diego when his team was awarded a US Lacrosse First Stick Grant. The fire for lacrosse grew from there. Isaiah continued to develop his skills, leading him to Bishop High School to receive top notch lacrosse coaching and education. At a school with a long history of lacrosse success, Isaiah grew to be nationally recognized as one of the top-rated members of the class of 2018.

Sterlyn Ardrey began playing lacrosse for the Charlotte (N.C.) Condors when his program received a US Lacrosse First Stick Grant in 2011. Much like Isaiah, Sterlyn continued to learn the game and master his skills, leading him to The McCallie School in Tennessee to play lacrosse and receive a high level education.

As Sterlyn progressed through high school and club, there was one obstacle that kept coming back. "I was either the only one, or one of two black players on the field," said Sterlyn. "It made me feel isolated. Playing at McCallie helped me grow and learn how to deal with challenges on the field in a more mature manner."

In 2016, Sterlyn and Isaiah were able to face those shared challenges together when they became ambassadors and teammates as a part of the Nation United Lacrosse Club. Nation United was organized with the mission to utilize elite-level lacrosse to inspire diversity and increase participation in the sport.



SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN

Four years ago, Rick and Jennifer Baker's seven year old son, Trip, was diagnosed with leukemia. Having just moved to Wyoming from Southern California, the Bakers were without family and friends as treatments started for Trip.

While his parents were focusing on Trip's health, Trip was focusing on lacrosse. He made his dad promise that he'd start a lacrosse team for Trip to play on after undergoing a stem-cell transplant and being cleared for sports again. "I went to those I had been coaching in hockey and who had become strong family friends, and asked them to believe in me as they did in my son's recovery, and join me in creating a lacrosse club," said Rick.

And they did. Wyoming is a big state with few people, so a lot of travel is necessary. This, coupled with the expense of equipment, put many of these coal families in a tough spot. With the help of the First Stick Program in 2017, Rick was able to outfit 20 players - some of whom had been using old, pre-owned equipment from eBay and thrift stores from visits to Utah - and see the program grow from 12 players to 29 in its second season.



"Thank you for allowing me to pass my passion along to what I believe will be countless youth in my corner of Wyoming, and the exponential growth of the sport nationwide," said Rick. We believe, too.

REPLACING SCARS WITH STICKS

When Terry Dooley became a parent volunteer for his son's lacrosse team in San Diego, it opened doors he never knew existed. Under the guidance of Dennis Yeatman, he learned everything he could about coaching, the Native American roots of lacrosse, and the power of the wooden lacrosse stick. Yeatman had shown Dooley a wooden Hattersley stick he traded with an English player in the 1970s, and Dooley's curiosity about lacrosse grew deeper.

But it was an introduction to Brendon Drew that sealed the deal for his affinity with lacrosse. "Brendon and I share a background in emergency medical services, and the baggage that comes along with it," said Terry. "Lacrosse gave us an outlet to not pay attention to those scars."

Highly decorated as first-responders, the two had an instant connection based on their life-altering experiences. They used lacrosse to keep themselves grounded; the magic came with the stick. Before Brendon left for a tour of duty, he ordered a wooden stick for Terry to be made in the Iroquois tradition by Alf Jacques, the stick-maker in Upstate New York. While Brendon was still deployed, his wife presented Terry with the stick at the end of the season team party. Terry was almost as honored to receive the stick as he was to be asked to be the godfather of Brendon's twins.

Terry packed his family up and headed to the Adirondacks for vacation, eventually landing on the reservation where Alf makes his sticks and discovering the more spiritual side of lacrosse. "It was like meeting the Pope," said Terry. While there, Terry ordered a stick for Brendon, and had the Hattersley stick refinished for Dennis because "the only thing better than getting an 'Alfie' is having Alf agree to make one for someone else."

The Native Americans believe the stick is an extension of your arm; the perfect gift for these brothers-in-arms in lacrosse and life.





2017 INDUCTION CELEBRATION

60TH ANNIVERSARY

DOUG KNIGHT
LESLIE BLANKIN LANE
JIM McDONALD
LAURETTE PAYETTE
CASEY POWELL
JILL JOHNSON REDFERN
BROOKS SWEET
ROBYN NYE WOOD
DON ZIMMERMAN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND

304 INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE, HUNT VALLEY

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
CEREMONY BEGINS AT 6:00 PM
\$150 PER PATRON

PURCHASE TICKETS AT USLACROSSE.ORG/HOF

