



2005 HOF Induction Speech

Gary C. Gait - Inductee

I knew that I could come up here and thank everyone that has been a part of my lacrosse experience and fill my time easily, but when I actually began listing those people I started to realize that the list could fill an entire stadium. I will briefly touch on just a few that have made my life in lacrosse special.

Without my wife Nicole, I could never have realized my dreams of making a career out of game that I love. My passion to compete can only be matched by my passion for my wife and her support for my constant travel and dedication to the sport. She has always been the constant that allows me to continue to blaze the trails. Taylor and Braedon thank you for sharing me with lacrosse, you are my greatest legacy and I love you.

My parents introduced me to this great game all in an effort to wear a pair of twins out so they could go to bed early. I thank my mother, for her tireless efforts to ensure that I was at every practice and game. I thank my father, for always providing the greatest forum to learn and compete. Both of them gave me and my brother a wonderful gift, the opportunity to play and the drive to excel in every moment we were able to compete.

Paul, you have been by my side for my 34, going on 35, years of playing lacrosse, without you I would never have been here today. It was always our understanding that together we could elevate our level of play to far greater heights than we ever could have done alone. The countless hours we spent practicing, playing, and always challenging each other will live within me forever.

My teammates...Players...without those that I have gone to battle with, this would be meaningless. To share the same goals, to win and be the best, create a unique bond in the brotherhood of the game. The TEAM is an amazing opportunity to see inside the players next to you. Each teammate has given me something special of themselves, a small piece that has made me the competitor that enters this Hall. I have been proud to play with each and every one of you.

My coaches, there has not been one coach that I didn't learn from in lacrosse or in life. My life has been shaped and molded by so many, and to each one of them, thank you. Roy, who gave Paul and I the greatest opportunity, taught me my most cherished lesson, the game has no limits, no boundaries and played in its purest form transcends from sport to art.

I apologize to all of those that I have not mentioned tonight. Know that you have not been forgotten. I hope that we all can continue this journey of lacrosse and life together as the game transcends from a niche sport to a sport of Mammoth proportions.