



2005 HOF Induction Speech

Susan Ganzenmuller – Inductee

Thank you Joan, for introducing me tonight. Truly, my involvement in women's lacrosse is a lucky accident. If I hadn't moved from Denver, Colorado to Simsbury, Connecticut in 1980, and Joan and I had not been reacquainted there, I would not be standing here tonight, the recipient of this incredible honor.

To the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame Committee, thank you for selecting me to receive this honor. To the US Lacrosse Board of Directors and Bollinger Insurance, thank you for hosting this grand celebration. Congratulations to each of my fellow honorees.

I am thrilled to have so many of my family and friends here sharing this evening with me. Thirty-six years ago, I was blessed to marry my husband, Tuck. He is not only my best friend, but he has been my biggest supporter and counselor since the day I blew my first whistle. And...my mother who long ago taught me "that volunteer service is the act of doing what you love for the sake of loving it. When you give freely of your time, energy and resources to something that you love, you are rewarded with greater gifts than you ever expected"...**IT'S TRUE.**

I am honored to be in the company of so many here who share my passion for lacrosse. In my opinion, women's lacrosse played well showcases feminine grace, strength and athleticism more than any other game women play.

It is a joy for me to be on the field with the athletes, and I strive to be a strong role model for them. I honor and respect their skill, and hope that I in turn, have earned their respect and trust. Being an official has taught me to make split second decisions and to take responsibility for them all. I have gained the courage to stand by my convictions; tempered with humility to admit and correct my mistakes. Officiating has honed values most important to me...Respect and Integrity.

Teaching and working with umpires in many venues throughout the USA and around the world has been particularly satisfying for me. These opportunities have widened my circle of friends, broadened my world view and have helped to raise the standards and improve the consistency among umpires world wide. Teaching others not only benefits them, but improves my officiating as well...The game is better for that.

I truly identify with what former NFL official, Jim Tunney, once said, "If you merge the quest for excellence with the credo of fairness, officiating gets inside you. It ceases to be something you do in your spare time and officiating becomes who you are." For the past 25 years, officiating and service to the women's game have defined my life. I hope that I have passed on to others my passion for officiating and the game. My hope for the future is this; the traditions / spirit / integrity...the soul of the women's game...is not compromised during this time of explosive growth. Thank you for this honor.