



2005 HOF Induction Speech

Dorothy Lee Hayden - Inductee

Thanks Betsy Griffith, Head of The Madeira School, who started this celebration by declaring Dr. Dottie's Day. Girls dressed like me (well, not like this) and sang Hooray Dottie to the tune of Hello Dollie.

Through the years this game has changed. When I first picked up a crosse no lacrosse was being played in Baltimore County public schools.

I rented my first crosse from Bacharach Rasin. The handle was warped but the price was right -- \$3.00 for the season.

Fields have changed from 3 chalk circles on grass to arcs, fans and restraining lines painted on artificial turf.

One pair of cleats was all I needed. Today my players spend most of practice changing their shoes.

Regardless of the changes to the game, my lacrosse friends are a constant source of inspiration. They taught me to do things right for all the right reasons -- Rosie Sinclair, the first woman inducted into this Hall of Fame was my first coach.

Caroline Hausserman greeted this shy, bewildered youngster making sure I survived the week at my first camp in Maine. At Merestead I learned from the finest coaches in the U.S. and Great Britain. I am humbled to be joining many of them in this Hall of Fame. Lessons learned from Haussie are lessons of character and courage. Haussie taught me to behave like a grown-up, and gave me the confidence to take advantage of opportunities that opened many doors for me. Thanks for believing in me.

Being a members of the 1975 U.S Touring Team is as important to me today as it was 30 years ago. Standing on foreign soil singing the National Anthem and hearing echoes from the fans in the stands is thrilling. Our victory over England (and everyone else) puffs us up with pride, and serves as a reminder of the importance of hard work and strong leadership, but the character of this team defies explanation. Family and friends joining our reunions sense a magical camaraderie and unprecedented mutual appreciation. Seven are here tonight. Thanks for great times and continuing support. Hear me loud and clear: 75 is still alive!

Jackie Pitts played, coached and organized lacrosse throughout the world. She allowed me to learn from her expertise. Traveling with Jackie brings a new adventure every minute from sumo wrestlers to international relations. Thanks Jackie for opening my eyes to many cultures.

Lessons learned from my lacrosse friends have never failed me, but none are as treasured as the lessons learned from the lifetime of love from my family.

Thanks Joan & Denny for always looking out for me.

Mom & Dad know very little about lacrosse but they know the importance of family. My mom was the athlete -- a dancer -- I inherited none of her grace or foot skills -- I can only hope I learned from her gentle kindness and giving heart. And I am proud of my Dad. His care and devotion to his family are lessons few of us can master. Thanks, Dad for sharing all your wit and wisdom.

Congratulations fellow inductees. I am honored to be in the company of all the great and near great people in the world of lacrosse.