



## **2004 HOF Speech**

## **Jackie Hufnell – Inductee**

To be quietly forgotten is the best compliment an umpire receives post game. During 27 years of lacrosse umpiring a simple thank you, job well done has been more than enough...until tonight, when I am overwhelmed by all the attention. When I was inducted into the Pennsylvania Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2002, my son hugged me and asked...does this mean you are getting old, mom?

I am honored to be a member of the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame Class of 2004 and congratulate my fellow inductees for your achievements. Heartfelt thanks for all the hard work which has gone into the organization of this event.

Sharing this evening with my family and friends is especially important for me. You have been there in the good and not so good times and it is really nice to see everyone enjoying the evening. Thanks to each of you for always being there.

No one arrives at this spot unless others have opened doors. I should like to recognize some of those coaches who 'opened' those doors for me many yrs ago when I began my collegiate umpiring career...this will sound like a trip down memory lane, but hopefully it will bring smiles to many faces. Gillian Ratray at Penn State, followed by Sue Sheetze, Chris Saylor... Princeton, Janet Smith... Dela, Jane Miller... UVa, Tina Sloan Green... Temple, Sue Tyler...Maryland, Feffie Barnhill...W&M and Sue Stahl and Heather Dow with the US team. All of these coaches selected me for tournaments or to tour with the US team and work games internationally and it was from this experience that I have been able to move my game to a higher level. These outstanding women coaches gave me the opportunity to learn the game from the very best...thank you!

And this last group of people, I shall call my hometown umpiring buddies. Philly is a wonderful place to become an umpire. There is complete support and encouragement from our old-timers to our on the field, colleagues. So to Hall of Fame members, MG, JW and JWagner...thanks for being wonderful role models. To all the other umpires here this evening...remember all those missed meals,

days and days of games in pouring rain, new rules every season, sore muscles and road trips that never end...well, thanks to all of you for a job well done.