



2004 HOF Speech

Barb Jordan - Inductee

Thank you US Lacrosse for this honor, this wonderful evening, and the opportunity to pay my respect and gratitude to the people who made this moment possible. I'd also like to congratulate the other 2004 inductees, and those who have been inducted in the past. Thank you also to all of my friends and family who made it here tonight – I am so happy to be able to share this evening with you.

Since learning of my induction in June, I have put great thought into the reasons why I am standing before you tonight. I wish I could state a profound philosophical theory that would awe you, but frankly the reasons are quite simple, yet deeply meaningful to me.

When I first began playing lacrosse in seventh grade, I mainly did it because all of my friends were trying it. After striving to learn the basic skills, I thought my efforts might be better served on the track, since I could run – just not with the ball in my stick. I spent a great deal of practice time racing down the field cradling wildly – though the ball had fallen out of my stick as soon as I had started to move.

But I stuck with it, and through all of my playing days; my years at Penn State, my time on the US Team, and now in my coaching life, I have been fortunate to be surrounded by incredibly gifted and special people. Coaches who challenged me and motivated me, teammates who inspired me and became life long friends, and colleagues who have become an integral part of my life. Because of the influence of these people throughout my life, I believe I am now a coach with aspirations not just of winning, but even more importantly with aspirations to give back to the sport, to teach, and to pass on the vital lessons that I learned from so many people who have touched my life. To all of my coaches, teammates, colleagues, and family - from my heart, thank you for everything you have done for me.

It is written that this award is given to "honor those who by their deeds and by the example of their lives", have contributed. I am proud of my

accomplishments, but when I read those words I think I pale in comparison to the two people in my life that those words truly personify – my parents. I have never met two more giving, self less, caring, and generous people. They have never taken the easy road, they have never put their own needs in front of others, and they treat everyone with kindness and respect. My goal each day is to emulate their values and to strive to live by their example. Although it is my name on this plaque – as my Mom celebrates her 79th birthday and my Dad his 80th, and together they celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary next week – I would like to dedicate this great honor to my role models, my reason, my parents, Jean and Leo Jordan.

Thank you.