TODD LORENZ

Good evening,

Introduction

Thank you to all of you for attending this weekend. I have the honor of introducing to you the winner of

the James McFall Award for 2017 given to an individual who has gone beyond even what you super

human beings have done for the game of Lacrosse in Alberta.

Firstly a little about James McFall. I may be one of the last few of us who actually knew Jim and I can tell you that even as a referee he was an extremely nice guy who was dedicated to the game.

(Read Quote)

I can simply describe our recipient in one word. Passionate! I am pretty sure that when I mentioned that

word that many of you will have already identified who I am speaking about. Mr. Todd Lorenz is Mr.

Lacrosse and we in Alberta are blessed that he and his family understood how much better life is in

Alberta then in British Columbia and made their way here.

PLAYING DAYS

One cannot give back to the game unless you have received a benefit first. That started for Todd

in Steveson BC where he played his minor lacrosse. He made his way to Richmond to play for the Road

Runners in intermediate and two years later with the Jr. A team. During those years he fine-tuned his

game at both ends of the floor developing a reputation as being a hardnosed player with surprisingly

good hands; evidenced by being the first Road Runner in history to score 50 goals in one season.

The Sr. New Westminster Salmonbellies took notice and immediately Todd was playing in every key

situation for a top contender. 434 games and 13 years later Todd had amassed 380 goals and 477

assists for a total of 857 points. His career was highlighted with 3 Mann Cups winning them in 1986,

1989 and 1991. Although I did not know Todd at the time I distinctly remember him playing on national

TV against Six Nations when he took a hell of hit to which he responded with one hell of a vicious two

hander to start a brawl. I cannot remember one other person in that game but I do remember that

tenacious #9, the two handed slash and his work ethic.

So what does such a career get you? An induction into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame which happened in

2008.

Volunteer

For 99% of us after such a career we would be more than happy to walk away from the game and be

completely satisfied that our experience was a success and off into the sunset we would go. Fortunately

for us that would not be Mr. Lorenz’s choice and Alberta Lacrosse would be the benefactor. In 1997 the

Lorenz family made their way to St. Albert and immediately became involved with the Rams

Organization with Todd coaching his son Spencer. It did not take long before that organization

recognized what a resource they had and quickly moved to get him more involved. Todd also became

the coach of the previously coaching challenged Edmonton Outlaws (hmmm wait a second ….. I think I was the coach of that team!). From there this great resource

of lacrosse knowledge would be tapped into for the next 20 years.

It also did not take long for Albertans to find Todd’s one weakness. His inability to say NO. Soon there

was no camp or winter program that did not reach out to Todd to be involved. His enthusiasm was

infectious with all of his young students and their parents were blown away by how much there is to this

game.

Meanwhile I was sitting on the sidelines waiting for the right answer to my question. Todd when are you

going to help me coach the Miners. In 2007 he finally came up with the right answer and since then the

Miners have been the benefactor of this great lacrosse mind.

I suggest to you that Todd will have one claim that no other winner of the JM award will have and that is

to be included in a novel. We should all go out and purchase Arctic Thunder by Robert Feagan. A short

clip from the book:

“Awwwwwwwe!” everyone moaned, holding their noses and pushing Donnie.

“I did not!” Donnie cried, giving David a shove.

“Jeez that coach looks like a walrus,” Tommy said.

“He’s in half of this stuff on this DVD. His moustache is one big booger catcher.”

“That’s Todd Lorenz,” Mike said. “He lives in St. Albert and used to coach me. Spencer, his son, was on my team. Todd was an amazing player. He’s in the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, and now he’s one on the Edmonton Rush coaches.”

All of the boys turned to Ben, who nodded in affirmation. They looked back at Mike with a new level of respect in their eyes.

“As a matter of fact,” Donnie said, “Todd Lorenz won nine Senior A Mann cups in thirteen years with the New Westminster Salmonbellies. When he played intermediate A, he was the first player in Richmond, British Columbia, lacrosse history to score more than fifty goals in one season. He accumulated 857 points with the Salmonbellies. That’s 380 goals and 477 assists.”

“My God, Donnie!” Gwen cried. “Where do you come up with all this stuff?”

“It’s not stuff. It’s important trivia. Mike mentioned Todd when we were shooting the ball around one day, so I Googled him.”

OK so after listening to me you would think that for Todd his passion is the game of lacrosse. Or as my

wife, Layla would say “his has a disease called lacrosse”. I am here to tell you that his passion is not the

game of lacrosse but rather the passion to teach young people life lessons through the game of lacrosse.

I cannot tell you how many talks we have had about what we are trying to accomplish. For Todd it is to

help our players become better lacrosse players but more importantly help them become better

people. That has been the theme of his whole tenure with the Miners. The success on the floor such as

the 3 national championships is simply a bonus, and he would tell you that you cannot have

success on the floor without success in the dressing room.

The other constant topic of conversation with Todd is the future of lacrosse in Alberta. Just take a few

minutes to speak with him about our game and it will be sure to come around to how we can make our

game better in Alberta. To that end I know many of you are aware of the recent success at the

Midget national championships where Alberta for the first time were the gold medalist with a perfect 8

-0 record. Beating Ontario twice! Ask anyone close the team and they will give a huge credit to the

coaching of Dane Dobbie and Todd Lorenz.

FAMILY

One cannot have the “decease” and survive without the support of family. Thankfully Todd is blessed to

have that support. His wonderful wife Alana should be awarded this award as much as Todd. She has

been unwavering in her support which has allowed Todd to be who he is. His son, Spencer, always the

rock when he played and showed his father’s intensity making it an easy decision to make him our

captain for three years and still contributes to minor lacrosse. And finally Sheldon. Todd’s biggest fan

and also his biggest critic. For the record Sheldon had a better practice attendance record then his dad.

SUMMARY

I have looked down the list of the recipients and there are a lot of great people on that list. People who

love the game and loved the people of the game. I welcome Todd Lorenz with open arms to that list.

Thank you,