**THE 400K CLUB**

**Salt of the Earth**

After long playing career that only recently ended, Homer Schwartz keeps on truckin' as president of the Potomac Chapter

As a player, Homer Schwartz was involved in his share of moments in lacrosse history. That tends to happen when suiting up for Johns Hopkins, as he did in the early 1960s. The former All-American, who scored three goals and had three assists in his first collegiate game, helped usher in lacrosse at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in a pre-NCAA national championship game May 12, 1962. The Blue Jays lost to the Midshipmen — "We couldn't beat [Bill] Bilderback," Schwartz said — but the game drew 14,000 fans, the largest crowd to see a college game at that time. That's one of Schwartz's favorite memories from a long playing career that only recently slowed down due to some health issues. He's 69.

Schwartz's greatest impact on the game, however, may have come since he became secretary, and then president, of the Potomac Chapter of US Lacrosse near the nation's capital in 1998. "I thought I wanted to coach, but Tom Shekells [co-founder of the chapter] asked me to try officiating," Schwartz said. "I realized this game needed officials. I didn't need to be knocking heads with [area high school coaches] Kevin Giblin and Rob Bordley.

But Schwartz didn't just officiate. With other board members, he started the chapter's hall of fame, initiated fundraisers like the chapter's annual golf outing, organized instructional clinics, developed a partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance, and overall helped grow the chapter's membership from 1,200 to 10,000.

"I've been in the playing world and the giving-back world, and I'm not sure what I enjoy the most," Schwartz said. "I never thought I'd say that, because I loved playing so much."

Schwartz oversees a chapter that serves 10,000 US Lacrosse members in the Washington, D.C. area.

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**USL APRIL CALENDAR**

1. Applications for US Lacrosse First Stick Program grants become available at uslacrosse.org.

2. "Seinfeld's" Newman: "Tuesday has no feel." Good day to read some of the inaugural US Lacrosse Youth Rules and Best Practices Guidebook.

3. Give USL officials program manager and NCAA referee Charlie Obermayer a great birthday present: say thanks to any official you know or become a ref at uslacrosse.org.

4. 10-2-Watch: Every Friday, LaxMagazine.com's writers pick the winners of 10 great games during the college weekend.

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14. Hampton University Lacrosse Day. Mike Crawford died before his dream of starting lacrosse at historically black Hampton University could be realized. He died of cardiac arrest due to an enlarged heart in December 2010. Crawford's parents took up the mantle, received an equipment grant from US Lacrosse and helped establish a Hampton club that now participates in the NCLL with fellow HBCUs Morgan State and Howard. This day will include a reception for the Morgan State "Ten Beers" team and a day of competition featuring the three college teams and St. Thomas More High School.
His efforts have not gone unnoticed. "Homer runs our most functional chapter and is one of our most dedicated volunteers," said Sara Noon, managing director of membership at US Lacrosse. "And he is a salt-of-the-earthy type, a wonderful, amazing person." Schwartz was inducted into the Potomac Chapter Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Johns Hopkins University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2011. Former Hopkins teammate Jimmy Greenwood said, "Homer just keeps on truckin', being the way he is."

Only recently did that include a considerable reduction in playing lacrosse. Schwartz atoned for being selected as an alternate for Team USA in the 1974 Federation of International Lacrosse World Championship in Australia by heading Down Under to play in 2002 as part of the world lacrosse festival's over-45 division. He was 60.

"I love the people in lacrosse. It's been hard for me to stop playing," Schwartz said. "Lacrosse has given so much to my life, that's why I keep giving back."

—Paul Krome and Bill Tanton

US Lacrosse recently eclipsed 400,000 members nationwide. "The 400K Club" is a new Lacrosse Magazine series telling the stories of donors, staff and volunteers that continue to help make it happen.

US Lacrosse's Melissa Coyne and Mike Cochran will travel to Ohio to meet with youth lacrosse leaders about the organization's new youth rules and best practices.

Hampton made its NCLL debut under the guidance of former Morgan State Bear Lloyd Carter of Blax Lax.

NorCal Chapter's "Character Combine" workshop for coaches at Folsom (Calif.) High (info at norcallacrosse.org).

19 Throwback Thursday highlights memorable players and teams from 15 years of US Lacrosse youth events at fb.com/uslacrossechampionships.

21 Deadline for applications from communities to request a US Lacrosse umpire developmental clinic between July and December 2012.

28 US Lacrosse recently entered into an agreement with the American Family Insurance Association to provide a comprehensive health insurance program for its members.