



>> 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 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 Sheckells (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.**

>> USL APRIL CALENDAR

**1** Applications for **US Lacrosse First Stick Program** grants become available at [uslacrosse.org](http://uslacrosse.org).

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

**6** 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](http://uslacrosse.org).

**13** 10-2-Watch: Every Friday, [LaxMagazine.com](http://LaxMagazine.com)'s writers pick the winners of 10 great games during the college weekend.

## 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 Bears" team and a day of competition featuring the three college teams and St. Thomas More High School.

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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-earth 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.

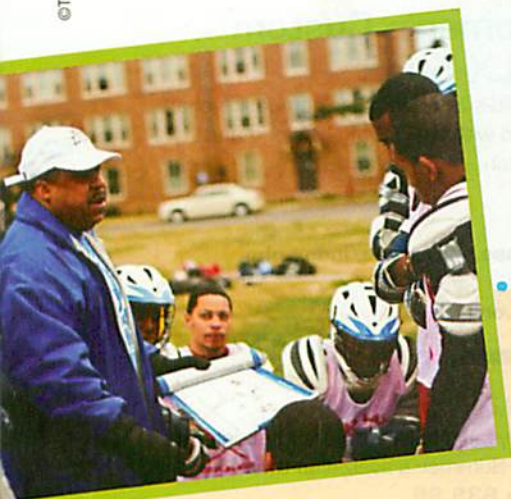
"I love the people in lacrosse. It's been hard for me to stop playing," Schwartz said. "Lacrosse has given so much to my life, that's why I keep giving back."

—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.**

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



**1 Injury study co-sponsored by USL published by AJSM**

The *American Journal of Sports Medicine* has published a study of girls' lacrosse head injuries partially funded by US Lacrosse. Researchers, which included US Lacrosse Sports Science and Safety Committee members Andrew Lincoln of MedStar Health Research Institute and Jon Almquist, a certified athletic trainer in the Fairfax County (Va.) Public Schools, examined video footage of head injury incidents of nearly 2,500 girls' lacrosse players between the ages of 14 and 18 during the 2008 and 2009 seasons. The study found that most head injuries result from stick-to-head contact during aggressive play near the goal at the varsity level. In addition, the researchers determined that most of these head injuries resulted from unintentional stick contact. Read more at [uslacrosse.org/safety](http://uslacrosse.org/safety).

**2 Feldman gift honors club players**

A gift by Dr. Lawrence A. Feldman, founder of LaxPower, Inc., will allow US Lacrosse to honor annually four collegiate non-varsity

players that demonstrate excellence on the field and in the classroom. The 2012 Amtahcha Award for the US Lacrosse WCLA Player of the Year will be selected by the US Lacrosse Women's Game Committee and presented by a member of the US Lacrosse staff to the top scholar-athlete in the WCLA's Divisions I and II at the US Lacrosse WCLA National Championships May 9-12 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The MCLA Player of the Year award will be presented to the top scholar-athlete in the MCLA's Divisions I and II at its national championship tournaments May 14-19 in Greenville, S.C. A portion of Feldman's gift will support US Lacrosse's efforts to expand the participation base of youth lacrosse.

**3 Welcome Arkansas**

US Lacrosse has added the Arkansas Chapter as the organization's 64th regional chapter. The new chapter will provide programs, services and leadership to the lacrosse community in the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as Southern Missouri. The chapter is based in Bentonville, Ark., with an executive board that has

representation from each of the regions within its geographic footprint. Dacia Boehmler, a girls' coach in the Northwest Arkansas Lacrosse Club and the secretary of that group, is the inaugural president of the Arkansas Chapter.

**4 USL expands men's officials training**

The US Lacrosse Officials Education Program has expanded to include three levels from beginner to collegiate men's lacrosse officials. Developed in conjunction with the pre-existing Lacrosse Referee Development (LAREDO) program, it requires annual recertification. At each of the three levels, officials must view the US Lacrosse "Concussions in Lacrosse: Signs, Symptoms and Playing Safe" video, attend a local training session, complete a rule interpretation session, and pass an online rule test administered by US Lacrosse. They must also complete level-specific classroom curricula and pass an on-field evaluation administered by a US Lacrosse certified trainer. For more info, visit [uslacrosse.org/education](http://uslacrosse.org/education).

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

**19** Throwback Thursday highlights memorable players and teams from 15 years of US Lacrosse youth events at [fb.com/uslacrossechampionships](http://fb.com/uslacrossechampionships).

**21** 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.

**28** NorCal Chapter's **"Character Combine"** workshop for coaches at Folsom (Calif.) High (info at [norcallacrosse.org](http://norcallacrosse.org)).