

Hello, my name is Kevin Ward, for those who don't know me I am the youngest son of Debbie and John Ward,

Firstly I'd like to thank my coaches, without your guidance I would be a shadow of the man I am today, you've given me the tools to be a successful and confident young man, and for that I am eternally grateful.

As the youngest in my family I pride myself on representing a legacy.

A legacy spanning 3 sons and a daughter, a legacy represented by the number 19.

This legacy was built on strong values, family, perseverance, kindness and strength. It has been my honor to represent my family. It has been my pleasure to represent my club, but even the fastest among us cannot outrun time.

A 19th century composer named Gustav Mahler once said "Tradition is not to preserve the ashes, but to pass on the flame" Well, I spent my childhood waiting for that flame, I watched each of my siblings play lacrosse, I envied them, to me they were titans.

So when the day came to represent, to put on that purple helmet and proudly wear the Eureka jersey, I couldn't suit up fast enough.



There are a lot of words to describe lacrosse. It's creative, fun, fast, but it's also painful. There's a price to pay when you love the game, it takes sacrifice, endurance, dedication.

There are times you want to give up, times a 17 seems impossible, times you're on the ground and you don't know if you'll ever get back on your feet. But that's the beauty of lacrosse, at the end of the day I don't look back on those bad memories with malice, instead I remember the culture that surrounded me, the culture that extended a hand and helped me to my feet. The culture my family helped build, the same one each and every one of you play a part in.

So, to my team, I encourage you to build that culture, to play with pride, to never settle. Uplift those around and inspire those who will come after you, the same way my brothers inspired me. There is nothing more rewarding than sparking a love for our game. Teach the youth, educate them, because one day you will stand where I stand now and it will be your duty, not to preserve your ashes but to hand the torch to the next generation. When that moment comes you'll understand the pride and joy that I feel right now.

Each of you have the potential to be great, not just at lacrosse but in life as well. Thank you for a great Senior year.