



**ANNUAL GOLF
CLASSIC**

AND

**JOHN DRISCOLL
MEMORIAL FUND RAISING DINNER**

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE "JOHN F. DRISCOLL CHILDREN'S TRUST"

**PLANDOME COUNTRY CLUB
THURSDAY, MAY 8TH, 2003**



On November 19, 2002, John Driscoll lost a six-year fight with brain cancer. John, one of Manhasset's all-time greatest athletes, battled his cancer in the same fashion in which he lived his life, with dignity and class.

John attended St. Mary's Elementary School and Manhasset High School (1976), where he was a member of both the varsity basketball and lacrosse teams. He was a 1980 graduate of the University of Virginia, where he was captain of the lacrosse team. Throughout both his high school and college careers he received many awards including High School All American, the only two-time MVP of the Nassau County Championship Game (1975 and 1976), three-time college All American and All-ACC selection, and recipient of the Lieutenant Donald McLaughlin, Jr. Memorial Award as the Most Outstanding Midfielder in Division I NCAA Competition. He also was selected to the South Squad in the 39th Annual North-South All-Star Classic. He was a two-time member of the USA National Team, winning the World Championships in 1982 and 1986. John played five years with the New York Saints Major Indoor Lacrosse League, winning the MILL Championship in 1988. He was inducted into the Manhasset Lacrosse Hall of Fame, the Long Island Metro Lacrosse Hall of Fame, the Virginia Hall of Fame, and the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. John's most recent contribution to the sport was as Assistant Coach for Notre Dame University's lacrosse team.

Those who were fortunate enough to see John Driscoll play lacrosse were struck by his speed, by his focus and intensity, and by his quiet confidence. Those who were privileged enough to know John remember him as a gentleman, a man of character, integrity and strength.

Many attempted to describe John's tremendous talent and passion for the game. John was a take-charge player who could determine the outcome of virtually any contest. Norman Engelke recalled Johnny's contribution in the 1975 victory over Sewanhakea for the Nassau County championship, "We were undefeated going into that game and really thought we were going to win ... but we just couldn't stop him." John's coach of the USA team that captured the 1982 World Championship, Tom Flatley, described Johnny's role in the team's win against Team Canada: "He just put on a show ... he lit up the scoreboard in the second half." In calling John Driscoll a "Lacrosse Legend", Newsday was not exaggerating - reporter Mike Candel, who covered lacrosse for over 20 years, said "In

my tenure, I don't remember seeing a better midfielder come off Long Island." Bob Rule is even more emphatic: "He was the best all-around player I've ever seen ... He refused to let anyone beat him."

But most memorable about John are not his outstanding athletic accomplishments, but the manner in which he achieved them. Norman Engelke's, Bobby, a former Team USA teammate of John's and John's coach on the New York Saints recalls that John "wasn't much of a rah-rah guy, but his actions spoke louder than his words." Or as Alan Lowe summed it up, "He didn't have an ego. He just did what he had to do. After games or practices, he was a gentleman."

Many of you here today will recall that John made a special effort to attend last year's Manhasset Lacrosse Hall of Fame induction ceremony, despite advice from his doctors against flying in from South Bend. John felt it was important that he be present to honor the memory of his lifetime Manhasset friend, Tim Coughlin, a victim of the 9/11 attacks, who was inducted last year. John also wanted to be with his family and friends from Manhasset and the lacrosse community - and once again made the extra effort and personal sacrifice to make it happen.



"We will all miss his graceful and positive manner, his great humility, and his even greater courage. John shared his tremendous passion for lacrosse

with us and in the process shared so much more", Kevin Corrigan, former U. VA teammate and head coach at Notre Dame.

John is survived by his loving wife Kara (McGowan) and adoring two-year-old triplet sons, John Michael, Patrick Thomas, and Ryan Francis. John was raised to be the man he was by his wonderful parents, Richard and Joan Driscoll. He also is survived by his seven brothers and sisters, Richard, Mary Murphy, Theresa Haeseker, Kevin, Patricia Connolly, JoAnn Pujols, and Laura Driscoll, as well as his grandmother, Mary Cielo, mother- and father-in-law, Susan and Dennis McGowan, and 20 nieces and nephews.

This year there will be no new inductees into the Manhasset Lacrosse Hall of Fame. The Manhasset Hall of Fame and Manhasset PAL are pleased to be able to honor the memory of John Driscoll, the tremendous lacrosse player, the gentleman, our great friend, wonderful brother and son, and loving husband and father.