

2018 Campbell Alumni Award Springfield Cougars Lacrosse Club

Springfield Lacrosse has a rich tradition of elite players. Every year, our Boys Program honors exceptional alumni by having all boys wear that player's name and number on its shooting shirts. In its inaugural year (2014), SCLC recognized #22 - Greg Campbell. Due to Greg's impact on Springfield's most accomplished players, SCLC decided to permanently refer to this honor as the "Campbell Alumni Award" presented to alumni who exemplify "Springfield Pride" and continuously support and give back to the Springfield Lacrosse Community.

In 2018, the Campbell Alumni Award is presented to Drew Adams (number 14), Springfield High School Class of 2005. Read on for Drew's story.....



2018 Campbell Alumni Award

Springfield Cougars Lacrosse Club

Springfield Lacrosse is considered a titan around the national lacrosse landscape. Our small town has supplied the lacrosse world with talent few can compare to. We have sent 3x players to US national teams, 6x to play in the MLL, countless NCAA Division 1 student athletes and dozens of HS All-Americans. Each of these have been obtained by our 2018 honoree: Drew Adams.

Drew Adams name is one of the first you'll hear when discussing the best goalies in the sport. A 2005 Springfield High graduate, Drew earned All-State and All-American honors before heading to Penn State where he continued to shine. Drew is currently in his 9th season with the Long Island Lizards where he has been a 3x time Goalie of Year and 2014 USA team member.

Drew began his lacrosse career in 4th Grade as a midfielder. In those days, the Springfield Athletic Association had enough players at the 4th grade level to form 4x teams who practiced then scrimmaged each other every Sunday at Memorial Field. Drew remembers scouring the woods during ball hunts with friends after shooting drills. Moving up the SAA ranks, he attributes his early interest in the sport to great youth coaching.

"I was very fortunate to have great coaches at a young age that got me interested in lacrosse and excited to play. Mr. Duffy, Mr. Orlando, Mr. Park, and Mr. Seaman were coaches I remember playing for earliest. They made the game fun while still challenging us to play have and get better. I've always tried to approach lacrosse with the same balance."

Drew's passion for goaltending didn't come for a few years until the Summer of 8th Grade. On top of the organized sports of soccer, baseball, and lacrosse for the SAA, Drew and his friends would play any game they could get enough people for, including street hockey.

"I played goalie in street hockey a lot growing up and my friends and I always enjoyed it. I wanted to try goalie in lacrosse as well and finally got the opportunity one day at practice. I had so much fun that I decided to just stick with it."

In High School, Drew began to set himself apart as an elite goaltender. Under former Springfield HS Head Coach Michael Friel, Drew was feared amongst his central league opponents earning "Delco Player of the Year" in 2005. He recalls the best moment of his High School career was winning the Central League Championship against Ridley his senior year.

"It's fun to play with your close friends and we had worked hard over our 4 years. It was nice to share that moment with teammates and coaches."

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Drew went on to play at Penn State where it was evident that a fun hobby could turn into a career. After he was named a USILA All-Star as well as College All American, he set his sights to the future.

In addition to his professional lacrosse career with the MLL, Drew is involved in many camps and clinics around the country giving time back to the sport that has given him so much. Drew recognizes that the game of lacrosse has changed significantly, especially at the youth/club lacrosse level since he had been there. Club teams with high price tags are oversaturating the summer tournament circuit and Drew is happy to see Springfield has taken steps to return the game back to instruction and tradition.

“The game has gotten a lot more serious at the youth level since I played. I remember always looking forward to a game or practice and having fun. I also remember having a lot of pride playing for Springfield, and with players and for coaches in town. I think as club lacrosse has become more of a business, its taken away from the purity of the sport at the youth level. I've always thought what makes Springfield Lacrosse different is the pride in community. So many people contributing to the program from the youth to HS levels out of love for Springfield Lacrosse. That passion is contagious and regardless of your role, it makes you proud to be involved.”

In 2018, we're privileged to wear #14 in honor of Springfield's own Drew Adams.

