



Saints Spotlight: Nancy Tucker '19

Eliza MacLean Feb 25 2020

Nancy Tucker '19 grew up in a small town outside of Richmond, Virginia. Before she graduated from St. Andrew's in May 2019, she shared some of her reflections on her four years as a three-sport athlete at SAS. Nancy currently attends Haverford College, where she is a member of the women's lacrosse team.

I've played lacrosse all four years at St. Andrew's, and I've been playing lacrosse my whole life. I also played field hockey all four years. Freshman year, I was too scared to try out for

varsity, but Coach Davila brought a couple people up from JV and I was lucky to be a part of that group. I love Dav—she's awesome. She's the reason why I stuck with it. I played squash all four years too: JV freshman year and varsity sophomore, junior and senior year.

I don't think I'll ever forget last night's [lacrosse] win against Ursuline. I'll be able to feel that feeling that we had at the end of that game for the rest of my life. I think the biggest thing was confidence. We've had our ups and downs this season and I think sometimes, it's hard to remember that we are a good team. Last night proved that [we are], and we proved that to ourselves.

My freshman year on the lacrosse team, we played Cape Henlopen in the second round of the state tournament and the entire school came. There were three buses full of people at our game with their faces painted. It's really fun to have that—it's so fun when everyone comes out and supports each other. I think the times when the school shows

up, and they're screaming, and you're on the field, and you can hear them, and you know that they're there for your team—I think those are the most memorable moments.

We're so lucky to be able to live with each other, and when we go out in the field and play every day, you have a different sense of chemistry with those other players, because you live with them, and you're in a dorm with them, and you're with them 24/7. I think that's an advantage we have over other schools. That's what I really, really like about St. Andrew's and that's what I'm excited for next year [playing lacrosse at Haverford].

Something that's really unique [at St. Andrew's] is that a lot of people try a sport for the first time. I think, also, the fact that we have a bunch of new players on every team, even if it's a varsity team, means some of the underclassmen get a bigger leadership role. So, I feel like that just makes us gel and mesh more, and gives underclassmen the confidence to shine. They know they need to step up and be leaders. That's been a big thing on the lacrosse team this year. Having a bunch of people who are new to the sport means some of their classmates have been playing for a while longer, and so they are kind of are big leaders to the girls in their own class.

In athletics at St. Andrew's, we always work really hard. That's our reputation with other schools: that we always fight hard for a win. The skills, and the meshing and the gelling will always come, if you work hard—you just have to wait for the other stuff to come, and it will. It will happen, and I think that's what's really fun—when it does finally click. It's just the most amazing feeling.

I'm going to Haverford College, and I'm going to play there as an attacker. I really love the team. It was kind of a similar community as we have here and that's kind of why I wanted to go. The coach was a lot like Coach Carroll in that she's super intense and focused on the field. But also off the field, she's very approachable and nice and cares a lot about her athletes. Everyone works really hard and that's something I want to be a part of. I'm really excited to go and to be on another team. I can't imagine not being on a team while I'm at school. It's something that makes me work harder and makes me excited for each day.