**Scituate Youth Lacrosse Building Tradition**

   
Unlike most of the other youth sports offered in Scituate, the lacrosse program does not have a long tradition. In fact, if we ran a poll of parents and children who had ever heard of the game ten years ago, we would have probably received blank stares or vague answers from most everyone.  
   
The irony is that lacrosse is possibly the oldest team sport in North America.  
Originally, the sport was played by Huron and Iroquois tribes to settle disputes, establish hunting grounds, and prepare for war. A French missionary is believed to have named the sport  
"la crosse" in 1637 because the sticks resembled the "crosier" or hooked staff carried by bishops.  
   
The success of the Scituate program has been astounding over the past decade. The idea for the program was originally conceived around the kitchen table by a number of individuals who had been exposed to the sport in prep school or college, and the Scituate Youth Lacrosse program was born.  
   
Learn to catch and throw clinics were held on a small patch of grass behind the high school. The early days were a bit ragged as the program struggled against established programs like Cohasset and Duxbury. In fact, even finding field space was very difficult, as the program had to work around spring soccer, baseball and softball.  
   
However, after a few years, the program received more traction, thanks to a dedicated grass roots youth program that morphed into a legitimate high school sport in the town. The early years of competition were very difficult. Playing against established programs on the South Shore, Scituate had seasons where they only won one or two games.  
   
High school coaches Chris Weber and Paula Evans, however, doggedly taught the basics of the game and the youth program continued to produce more and more skilled payers.  We have had remarkable successes since, throughout both the boys and girls high school programs and we continue to be encouraged by the growing numbers of youths that sign up for Scituate Lacrosse. Over the past four years, our numbers have grown by over 100 percent which now totals over 440 boys and girls from grades 1 through 8.  No Scituate sports program has grown so far or so fast.  
   
If your child likes basketball, soccer, or especially ice or field hockey, they will love lacrosse.  
The similarities are clear and the kids who excel in these sports are typically a natural for lacrosse, the spacing, passing and pace is similar, and has close correlation with offense and defense on the lacrosse field. Additionally, it is great off-season conditioning for these other sports.