

UNDER THE CROWN

*A Quarterly Newsletter from
KINGS LACROSSE*



IN THIS ISSUE:

TOWN LAX ON THE RISE:

ON THE REBOUND FROM COVID

PREMIER YOUTH LACROSSE LEAGUE

2022 SEASON IS UNDERWAY!!

NEXT LEVEL KINGS:

COLLEGE COMMITS

COACHES SPOTLIGHT:

**STANDING ON THE SIDELINES W/
CHRIS CUNNINGTON**

AROUND THE KINGDOM

YOUTH & HS UPDATES

PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS:

2022: JOE DALY - MIDFIELD

2023: DREW BERARDI - MIDFIELD

2024: JAKE BELL - ATTACK

2025: TRAVIS HARPER - ATTACK

2026: TEDDY GLYNN - MIDFIELD

2027: BEN NESSARELLA - MIDFIELD/FO

2028: NATE CANNELL - GOALIE

2029: JOE NICOSIA - DEFENSE

2030: PARKER BRODEUR - GOALIE

2031: OWEN MORSE - MIDFIELD

**YOUTH & HS TRYOUT DATES ANNOUNCED
FOR 2022-23 ANNUAL TEAMS**

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: PAXTON BLANCHARD -
KEANE STATE COLLEGE '21, '23G**

COMING IN JUNE:

A SNEAK PEEK AT 2022-23

Can Town lax and Club lax actually grow TOGETHER?!?

By Chris McGuirk

With the first “normal” spring town youth season in 4 years, town lax is roaring back across southeastern MA! Participation and new players to the sport are up! How is this possible with club lax bigger than ever before as well? Maybe club and town are actually helping each other?!? Kings co-director Greg Clements and myself have been extremely active in the youth lacrosse community in southeastern Massachusetts for a very long time. Greg goes back almost 30 years, and I about 15 years. Safe to say we have seen a lot.....(continued on pg 8).

2022 PYLL

**Premier Youth Lacrosse
League (PYLL) is in full swing!!**

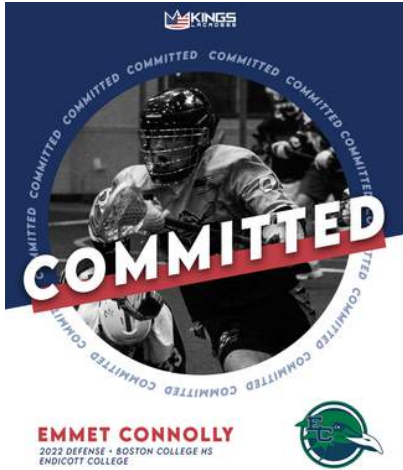
Started about 9 years ago, the PYLL has grown into one of the healthiest, most organized, and most competitive club spring leagues in the country.

Like everything else in the lacrosse world, the pandemic forced the league to rethink everything to survive. Old rivalries were put aside for the greater good, and the league we have now is better than ever before. Thanks to all the clubs involved!!

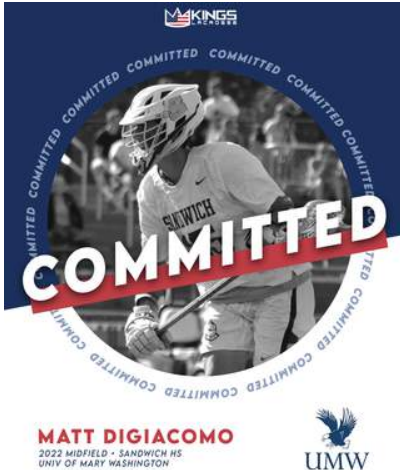
**3d NE - 4LEAF - LAXACHUSETTS -
LITTLE NECKS - KINGS - NH TOMAHAWKS -
PIATELLI LC - TWISTERS**

NEXT LEVEL KINGS

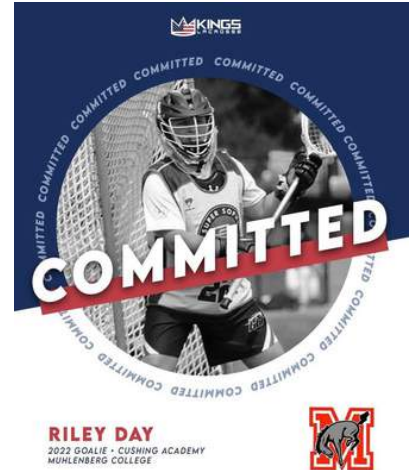
2022 & 2023 College Commits:



EMMETT CONNOLLY
2022 DEFENSE • BOSTON COLLEGE HS
ENDICOTT COLLEGE



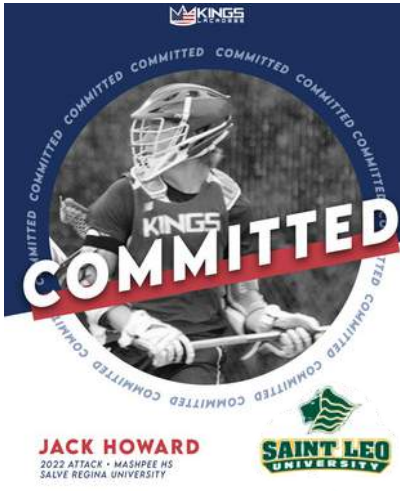
MATT DIGIACOMO
2022 MIDFIELD • SANDWICH HS
UNIV OF MARY WASHINGTON




RILEY DAY
2022 GOALIE • CUSHING ACADEMY
MUEHLBERG COLLEGE



JESSE WOODILL
2022 DEFENSE
SANDWICH HS
NAZARETH COLLEGE



JACK HOWARD
2022 ATTACK • MASHPEE HS
SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY



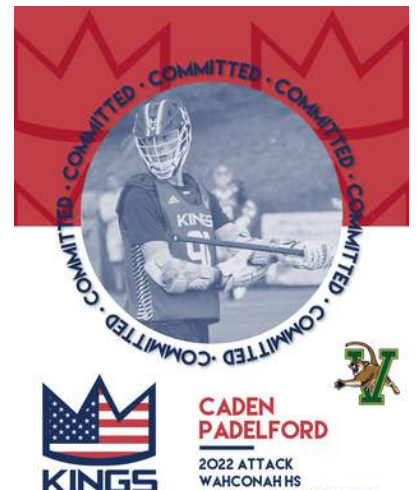
ADAM LABER
2022 FACEOFF
BARNSTABLE HS
SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY



WILL LEIPHART
2022 DEFENSE
HINGHAM HS
CLARKSON UNIVERSITY



DAN BADER
2022 DEFENSE
SANDWICH HS
VASSAR COLLEGE



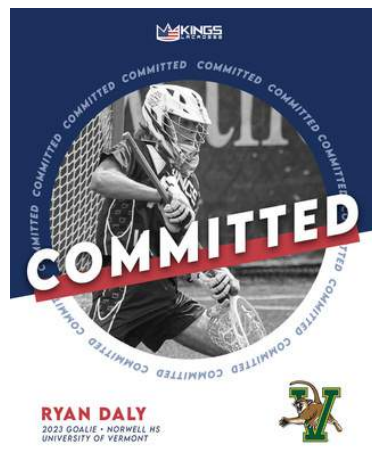
CADEN PADELFORD
2022 ATTACK
WAHCONAH HS
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT



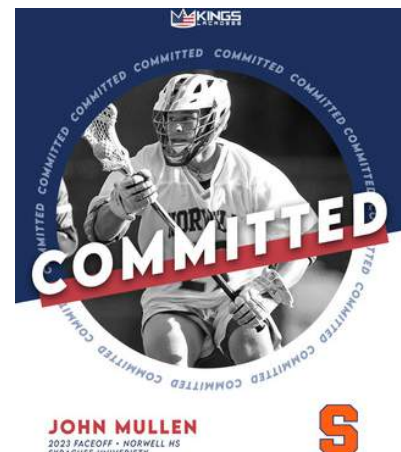
NATE CURTIN
2022 ATTACK
NORWELL HS
PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY



CHARLIE PACKARD
2023 MIDFIELD • HINGHAM HS
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



RYAN DALY
2023 GOALIE • NORWELL HS
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT



JOHN MULLEN
2023 FACEOFF • NORWELL HS
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Coaches Spotlight:

Standing on the Sidelines w/ Chris Cunnington

By Greg Clements

Meet Kings 2023 coach, Chris

Cunnington. Coach Cunnington joined the Kings in the fall of 2020. A native of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., Cunnington attended and played for legendary Yorktown High School, which has put out some of the best players to have ever played the game. He went on to become a four-year member of the lacrosse team at Springfield College from 2015-18, serving as team captain his senior season. As a four-year starter on defense, he appeared in 64 career games and earned numerous accolades, including All-NEWMAC first team, All-ECAC second team, and IMLCA All-Northeast Region. Most recently he served two seasons at Western New England University as their Defensive Coordinator in 2019 & 2020.



Chris is currently in his 2nd year as a Physical Education teacher at the elementary level in Dennis, MA and serves as the Head Coach at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School. When he's not on the field coaching or teaching, he enjoys a variety of outdoor activities such as golf, running, mountain biking and relaxing on the Cape beaches.

Chris brings a lot of passion, energy and knowledge to our high school program. There's no question that our players benefit from their time with him. He's a great communicator, teacher and a natural leader. He understands every position on the field and approaches the game with a competitive nature. His outgoing personality makes him well liked amongst our high school players.

We're fortunate to have Coach Cunnington on our staff. He will continue to have a positive impact on our players, our club and I'm confident he will build a solid lacrosse program at D-Y before long. His experience and knowledge make him a commodity in the coaching world and we are very fortunate to have him coaching with the Kings!!



Around the KINGDOM...

Youth Teams:

By Chris McGuirk

WINTER RECAP:

Our January and February a-la-carte Skills Sessions went off without a hitch. We had offerings in four different venues on four different nights. This allowed the families of all of our youth players the flexibility to attend whatever nights fit their schedule. We are already looking at next winter and building out an even more robust winter calendar to allow you the flexibility you need to maximize the value of our Winter Training.

March was bigger and more robust this year as well; we added more team-focused sessions including film sessions, chalk talks, team building, as well as on-field practices and games. This was the second year where we utilized March for team-focused events and we will continue to do so next year as well.

Our annual late-March play day at Union Point was a great preseason test for both our Blue and Red teams. Our teams battled, got some wins, and most importantly got to get out on a full field and shake off some winter rust in preparation for the spring.

SPRING PYLL LEAGUE:

We are half way through the spring league; with 4 regular season games down, and 4 more to go. We are officially at .500 overall. Strongest teams out of the gate are:

- 2030 Blue team: At 3-1 with their only loss being a 6-3 grind to LXC Black, the 30's look to be one of the top teams in New England for many years to come!!
- 2026 Blue AA, Red A, & White A: The Blue and Red teams are a combined 7-1, and the White team is 2-2. In a stacked 2026 grade (20 total teams), our 26 teams are rising to the top.
- 29 Blue: Their record of 2-2 doesn't tell the whole story. In a very competitive 29AA Division, they have battled in 2 very competitive losses with LXC and had a couple great wins vs 3d Red and Piatelli.

THANK YOU players & parents for your continued commitment to The Kings!
#hailkings



Around the KINGDOM - High School

2022's - Leaders leading the way!!

By Greg Clements

The 2022 Kings players have left their mark and legacy on our club, now they're all taking the stage for their final season representing their schools. When we look closely at this group of players and the impact they've had on their high school team, one thing really stands out, they're a group of leaders with a team first attitude!!

This spring, 14 of the 20 players from our Kings 2022 team are currently serving as captains of their high school team during their senior campaign at 11 different schools across 5 different leagues.

Here's a list of schools where our 2022's are leading the way as captains:

Barnstable HS - Adam Laber - Midfield / Face-Off (Salve Regina University)

Cushing Academy - Riley Day - Goalie (Wittenburg College)

Hanover HS - Griffin O'Brien - Defense (TBA)

Hanover HS - Dylan Rice - Midfield (Union College)

Marshfield HS - Casey Trodden - Midfield (Bentley University)

Martha's Vineyard Reg. HS - Graham Stearns - Goalie (Colgate University)

Mashpee HS - Jack Howard - Attack (St. Leo University)

Norwell - Joe Daly - Midfield (Penn State University)

Norwell HS - Griffin Vetrano - Attack (University of Maryland)

Sandwich HS - Danny Bader - Defense (Vassar College)

Sandwich HS - Jesse Woodill - Defense (Nazareth College)

Silver Lake Reg. HS - Tommy Condon - Midfield (TBA)

Sturgis East Charter School - Harrison O'Brien - Midfield (TBA)

Wahconah Reg. HS - Caden Padelford - Attack (University of Vermont)

Although the following are not captains on their respective high school teams, they are certainly leaders on their team, in their school and within their community:

Chris Broderick - Silver Lake Reg. HS - Midfield (Providence College)

Emmet Connolly - Boston College HS - Defense (Endicott College)

Nate Curtin - Norwell - Attack (Salve Regina University)

Matt DiGiacomo - Sandwich HS - Midfield (University of Mary Washington)

Will Leiphart - Hingham HS - Defense (Clarkson University)

Henry Zabierek - Germantown Friends School - Midfield (TBA)

The world needs leaders that don't need to be given a title that indicates it, all of these young men walk the walk and are true leaders. While we are sad our time coaching these individuals has past, we are proud to see them all move on and push for greater things in life. Many of these players we have watched grow through the years from children into young men. We are proud to watch them excel on the field with their HS teams one last time during their senior year. ***We wish our entire 2022 class the very best this spring and beyond!! You'll always be remembered as a King!!***

2022-2030 PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS



2022: Joe Daly Norwell High School Attack / Midfield

Joe was a State Finalist on both the lacrosse and hockey teams at Norwell High School.

Favorites:

Place: Nantucket

Food: Chicken Parmesan

Class: History

Athlete: Tiger Woods

Lacrosse player: Will Manny

Person: My parents

Kings coach: Fitzgibbons/Weckbecker

Most Memorable moment playing for the

Kings: "Winning the primetime shoutout tournament in 9th grade and all of the Stowe tournaments!!"

"Joe's commitment to the club and his team are what separates him from the average player. He there when you need him. Always able to contribute big goals at big moments".

- '22 Coach Brian Fitzgibbons

Joe has played with the Skipjacks, Boston Kings & Kings for 9 years!!



2023: Drew Berardi Nauset Reg. High School Midfield

Drew plays varsity golf, basketball & lacrosse at Nauset Regional High School.

Favorites:

Place: Home

Food: Cheeseburgers

Class: Environmental Science

Athlete: Chris Paul

Lacrosse player: Grant Ament

People: My Grandfather

Kings coach: Ryan Murphy

Most Memorable moment playing for the

Kings: "Cliff jumping in Lake Placid!!"

"Drew is a smart player that contributes heavily on both ends of the field. His play making abilities on offense are what make him so dynamic. He's capable of making everyone on the field a threat to score." - '23 Coach Greg Clements

Drew has played with the Cape Cod Kings & Kings for 5 years!!



2024: Jake Bell Hingham High School Attack

Jake plays on the varsity golf team at Hingham High School.

Favorites:

Place: New Orleans, LA

Food: Burgers

Class: Math

Athlete: Steph Curry

Lacrosse player: Will Manny

Person: My parents

Kings coach: Ryan Murphy

Most Memorable moment playing for the Kings:

"Winning the 2024 Championships at Stowe".

"Jake is a skilled and high IQ attackman. A few of his top traits are vision while dodging, finishing around the crease and shooting. Never misses a practice or training for field or box. Known by the Kings staff as Mr. Consistent!."

- '24 Coach Ryan Murphy

Jake has played with the Boston Kings & Kings for 8 years!!



2025: Travis Harper Thayer Academy Attack

Travis plays basketball and lacrosse at Thayer Academy.

Favorites:

Place: Cape Cod

Food: Waffles

Class: History

Athlete: Jayson Tatum

Lacrosse player: Connor Fields

Person: My dad

Kings coach: Coach Tierney

Most Memorable moment playing for the

Kings: "Winning the Primetime tournament in New Hampshire this past summer".

"Travis is a smart player that uses his size well to get inside his defender when dodging. He is a real threat to score off-ball with a blistering time and room shot! He will turn heads and continue to be a major part of our 2025 offense over the next couple of years." - '25 Coach Marcus Craigwell

Travis has played with the Boston Kings & Kings for 6 years!!



2026: Teddy Glynn Norwell, MA Midfield

When not on the lax field, Teddy plays basketball and soccer in Norwell, MA

Favorites:

Place: The Beach

Food: Cheeseburger

Class: History

Athlete: Ja Morant

Lacrosse player: Ryan Drenner

Person: My parents

Kings coach: Coach Murphy

Most Memorable moment playing for the

Kings: "Winning the Stowe Tournament!!"

"Teddy is a multi-faceted midfielder with quick feet and quicker hands. His touch, playmaking abilities and IQ make him an asset on all areas of the field. As a life-long Kings player and a great teammate amongst his peers, Teddy is a critical member of our 2026 squad."

- '26 Coach Chris McQuirk

Teddy has played with the Boston Kings & Kings for 5 years!!



2027: Ben Nessarella Plymouth, MA Midfield / Face-offs

Ben also enjoys playing golf.

Favorites:

Place: Wolfeboro, NH

Food: Chicken Parmesan

Class: Science

Athlete: Tyreek Hill

Lacrosse player: Joe Nardella

Person: My Parents

Kings coach: Coach Deane

Most Memorable moment playing for the

Kings: "Winning the Scarecrow Festival in the Fall."

"Ben is becoming one of the most committed, competitive and coachable 2027s in our program. All the time and effort he puts into growing his skill set, is for the betterment of the team. He is setting the standard for the type of teammate our Kings want to be!."

- '27 Coach Andrew Deane

Ben has played with the Kings for 3 years!!



**2028: Nate Cannell
Pembroke, MA
Goalie**

Nate also plays football, baseball and enjoys soccer, basketball, flag football, rock climbing and box lacrosse. .

Favorites:
Place: Kauai, Hawaii
Food: Orange Chicken
Class: Social Studies
Athlete: Mike Evans
Lacrosse player: John Galloway
People: My dad
Kings coach: Coach Forns
Most Memorable moment playing for the Kings: "Winning the Primetime Shootout!!"

"Nate is a very talented goalie and one that has worked hard to develop his game over the years. His effort and determination have put him in great position to succeed and lead our 2028 team. He has a confidence about him that allows him to play fearless between the pipes." - '28 Coach Greg Lally

Nate has played with the Boston Kings & Kings for 5 years!!



**2029: Joe Nicosia
Westwood, MA
Defense/LSM**

Joe also enjoys skiing and playing soccer and football.

Favorites:
Place: Florida
Food: Steak
Class: Gym/PE
Athlete: Davontae Adams
Lacrosse player: Jarrod Neumann
Person: My Nana
Kings coach: Coach Murphy
Most Memorable moment playing for the Kings: "Winning the championship in OT at the 2021 Cranberry Classic "

"Joe is a great leader on our defense. Selfishly helps his teammates on the field and always willing to listen and learn more about the game. These traits will serve both our team and Joe well in the future. Joe's leadership and hard work have him on track to excel!!"

- '29 Coach Drew Mullin

Joe has played with the Kings for 3 years!!



**2030: Parker Brodeur
Falmouth, MA
Goalie**

Parker can also be found playing baseball and basketball.

Favorites:
Place: Newfoundland, Canada
Food: Chicken Wings
Class: Phys. Ed.
Athlete: Jack Bifano (my cousin that plays basketball at Marymount University)
Lacrosse player: Rob Pannell
Person: My Nana
Kings coach: Coach Deane
Most Memorable moment playing for the Kings: "My first Kings game ever when I had 17 saves and got a game ball."

"Parker has been a team leader since he started with the Kings. He always gives 100% and has kept games close and winnable for his teammates. He is going to be an exciting goalie to watch this season with his quick hands and feet. - '30/'31 Coach Grier

Parker has played with the Kings for just over 1 year!!



**2031: Owen Morse
Marshfield, MA
Midfield**

Owen loves to ski and play football.

Favorites:
Place: Hills Beach, Maine
Food: Homemade Mac & Cheese
Class: Math
Athlete: Mac Jones
Lacrosse player: Paul Rabil
People: My dad
Kings coach: Coach Grier
Most Memorable moment playing for the Kings: "The time I trucked a kid from the Tomahawks!!"

"Owen has proven himself as a dependable and positive teammate and an absolute pleasure to coach. He knows when to step it up on the field and is a player we can count on to make big plays win big momen. He is going to have a huge impact on the field this year."

- '30/'31 Coach Adam Grier

Owen is playing in his 2nd season with the Kings.

**MAKE YOUR TEAM BETTER NEXT YEAR....
SPREAD THE WORD, BRING A FRIEND!!**

2022-23 Team Tryouts

**Union Point Sports Complex - Weymouth, MA
Youth Teams - 2027, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32's**

- 2027's - Thursday, July 21 & Monday, July 25
- 2028's - Tuesday, July 19 & Monday, July 25
- 2029's - Wednesday, July 20 & Monday, July 25
- 2030's - Wednesday, July 20 & Monday, July 25
- 2031 & 2032's - Tuesday, July 19 & Thursday, July 21

HS Teams - 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026's

- 2026's - Tuesday, July 26 - 6:00-7:30pm
- 2023 & 2024's - Wednesday, July 27 - 7:00-8:30pm
- 2025's - Wednesday, July 27 - 5:30-7:00pm



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Town Lax is Back...

...continued from page 1...

by Chris McGuirk

The big growth years in the 2000's, to the league shake-up years in the 2010's (from MBYLL to TPL and CTL), to the covid disrupted years we are coming out of now. Certainly exciting times! But where are we now? And, where are we going?? Where we are now depends on who you ask and what town they are from, but looking at the big picture here is what we are seeing...



Club programs have grown and there are more kids than ever playing outside of their town spring programs; but unlike the pre-covid years, we are also seeing the town numbers growing as well!

Fueled we think by so many new kids coming into the sport at all youth ages, many towns are seeing their numbers finally growing for the first time in 5+ years. I know personally, my Norwell 8th grade group has added 10 new players, most of which are first-timers to the sport. And I have heard the same story from Scituate, Falmouth, and other towns; where middle school age kids are jumping into the sport like never before. Add to this continued growth at the "normal" entry ages of K-4, and even now organized pre-k little laxer programs that are at capacity (*What up, Scoops!*), and we have ourselves a real town lax resurgence.

The idea that *both* club *and* town could grow *together* was never something that most town lacrosse people I know would ever think could happen 5+ years ago (pre-covid). And, to be fair, the data back then was pointing to a contraction of town lax as club lax grew (something none of us wanted). So, to see town lax back on the rise is exciting and points to a bright future. Personally, I think the main drivers of this growth is the fact that Club and Town are working better together than they ever have. With town now owning Sundays in the Spring, and Club owning Saturdays; players can do both more easily. There are still some conflicts in March and June, but it is way better than it was 5 years ago. I have always said that there are some things that club can do for a player that town cannot, and other very important things that only town can offer a player. So having both options for a young player is critical for the overall health of our lacrosse eco-system. Well, it seems that both club and town now have a better understanding of their roles, and are really coexisting well together.

My son Jake is "graduating" from Norwell Youth lacrosse this year. His 8 year run will finish with the "healthiest" year he's ever seen. With 35 kids, 2 full teams, and so many great friends he gets to play the sport he loves with. At the same time, he has his Kings team will be balling-out vs some of the top teams in New England and traveling to some amazing tournaments. Truly *THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS* for a youth player, and a situation I sincerely hope is available to all players for years to come.

Thanks to all the town lax dads out there that continue to volunteer their time to keep the sport we love alive and well! See you out there this spring! LONG LIVE TOWN LAX!!!!

Alumni Spotlight: Paxton Blanchard

Q & A's with Coach Murphy

College: Keene State College '21, '23G

High School: Norwell (MA) '17

Position: Midfield

Undergrad Major: Business Mngmt/Safety Studies

Graduate Major: Safety & Occupational Health
Applied Sciences

Since his time playing with NLAX/Skipjacks/Boston Kings, Paxton has moved on to further his education and playing career at Keene State College, where he recently completed his undergraduate degree last spring. He is in his 2nd year serving as a team captain for the Owls. Paxton returned to the Kings last summer coaching with our 2028 teams. Considering he had another year of NCAA eligibility, he decided to stay at KSC to further his education pursuing a graduate degree and to use his final year of eligibility to play in college.

Let's catch up with Paxton:

What was your favorite moment playing with NLAX/Skipjacks/Boston Kings?

- Winning the Stowe Tournament back to back years in 2013 & 2014.

What the best part about coaching for the Kings?

- Giving back to the community where I learned, trained and grew as a player. It is awesome to give that same knowledge to the next generation of Kings!

Why did you choose to go back to Keene State for a 5th year?

After not playing in 2019 & 2021 due to covid, I wanted to go back and win another LEC Championship as well as further my education to obtain a Masters in Safety and Occupational Health Applied Sciences.

What has been your favorite moment at Keene State College?

- Winning the Little East Championships as a freshman in 2018.

What is something you enjoy at college aside from lacrosse?

- I have been the head athletic photographer for the past 4 years. I get to attend the games of all of the other teams on campus, which helped me to form relationships with other student athletes on campus.

What are your plans for after college?

- I plan to get a job in the Safety and Occupational health field as well as continue to coach and work with the next generation of athletes.

