

GGF Clinic #10 Was Better Than Ever!

Houston, Texas... Twenty-two top-level college field hockey coaches from across the US volunteered their time to instruct more than 150 campers at the 10th Greg Gephart Fund field hockey clinic on March 4 and 5, 2017.

There have been ten great clinics since 2001. This time...the days were cloudy, but spirits were high...

In the 1980s and 1990s Greg Gephart was a middle school math teacher and coach who loved the sport of field hockey and was determined to pass his love of the game on to middle and high school players. During his career he coached middle and high school field hockey in Oklahoma, Texas and North Carolina; was an assistant field hockey coach at Duke; worked for a national sports equipment company; forged hockey connections with Dutch Olympic hockey players; and even visited India to see how hockey sticks are made.

Greg wanted to give Houston area players an opportunity to learn more about the sport, so he invited his friends from the field hockey world in Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia, to come to Texas to give Houston players some tips on how to play the game at the next level. His dream was to have a clinic where players, their coaches, and field hockey umpires could all learn together to become better at playing, coaching, and refereeing games.

Greg died unexpectedly in December of 1999. Ten times since then, his friends and friends of theirs have put on a field hockey clinic in Houston to do what Greg strived to do...bring college level field hockey instruction to Texas players, coaches, and umpires.

March 4 and 5 was the 10th Field Hockey weekend sponsored by the Greg Gephart Fund for Youth Field Hockey. Again this year there was an even younger component... 4th and 5th graders were invited to a Saturday morning clinic with COLLEGE Coaches teaching them the basic stick skills... more of Greg's dream coming true.



The Participants



All day Saturday, and again on Sunday morning, middle and high school players worked with the college coaches while the high school coaches attended Level 1 and Level 2 instructional coaching clinics put on by the US FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (USFHA). Area umpires attended the USFHA umpires clinic, just as Greg had imagined.

The clinic ended at noon on Sunday with a coaches vs. campers full-field game. The campers divided into 3 groups to take on the college coaches in the demonstration game. It was a fast game with lots of long balls, several goals, and several saves by the camper goalies. Over 150 campers ages 9 – 18 had the opportunity to learn the basics of field hockey or raise their game to a higher level this weekend.

The Greg Gephart Fund Clinic committee, headed by Kara Mings, Kate Skubisz, and Jennifer Haynes, organized the clinic registration and logistics. The Kinkaid School donated the facilities in honor of former Kinkaid middle school teacher, Greg Gephart.

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The Coaches

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There was a lot of dedication and many people responsible for such a successful clinic. The Houston GGF Clinic committee is made up of field hockey parents who worked together for months to organize registration, order the shirts and equipment, organize and prepare the schedules, host the visiting coaches, and facilitate other clinic details. Amanda Janney, Indiana University Head Field Hockey Coach, Christy Utter, Head Field Hockey Coach at Holland Hall, Tulsa, OK, and Tina Edmonds, Head Coach of Texas Pride invited the college coaches and created the curriculum.

Exclusive to the GGF Clinic, Shelley Johnson from the University of North Carolina Leadership Academy conducted a leadership seminar for the high school players on Saturday. Parent and high school players were also invited to a seminar to learn the ins and outs of the college recruiting process.

This year the coaches and umpires' clinics were organized by USFHA. There was a 7-hour Level TWO instructional coaching clinic led by Craig Parnham, USFHA Director of Coach Education and Learning. Craig also coached the US Women's Olympic team in Rio. In addition, there was a 6-hour Level ONE Instructional Coaching clinic taught by Tina Edmonds, Texas Pride and previous two-time NCAA champion. Unique to the GGF clinic, there was also an umpire clinic. Rene Zelkin, who served on technical team for the umpires at the Rio Olympics, conducted the Saturday: 6-hour USFHA Umpire Education Clinic.

Plans are being made for the next clinic to be held in the spring of 2018. For photos of this and past GGF clinics, go to the website, ggfonline.org.



GGF Clinic Coordinators:

Amanda Janney - Head Coach, Indiana University
Christy Utter - Head Coach, Holland Hall, Tulsa, OK
Tina Edmonds - Head Coach, Texas Pride Field Hockey

Kinkaid Clinic Superstars:

Andy Martire - Kinkaid Headmaster
Jackie Ciconte - Kinkaid Varsity Field Hockey Coach
Jennifer Haynes - Kinkaid Athletic Trainer

Visiting Volunteer Coaches:

Will Byrne - Assistant Coach, Northwestern University
Kylie Cale - Assistant Coach, Washington & Lee University
Betta Ceretta - Assistant Coach, Brown University
Pat Cota - Assistant Coach, Stanford University
Wesley Drew - Assistant Coach, Duke University
Amy Fowler - Head Coach, Dartmouth College
Steve Jennings - Head Coach, American University
Shelley Johnson - Director, University of North Carolina Leadership Academy
Kerry Kiddoo - Assistant Coach, Appalachian State University, NC
Julie Mauro - Assistant Coach, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Diane Madl - Head Coach, Providence University
Adam Matter - Assistant Coach, University of Virginia
USA Field Hockey, U19 Women's National Team Coach
Kelly McManus - Assistant Coach, Bowdoin University
Julie Munson - Head Coach, Southern New Hampshire University
Caroline Nelson-Nichols - Head Coach, Columbia
Austin Pile - Assistant Coach, University of California, Berkeley, CA
Steve Simpson - Assistant Coach, Cornell University
Stuart Smith - Assistant Coach, Pennsylvania State University
Pam Stuper - Head Coach, Yale University; Board of Trustees, USA Field Hockey Foundation; USA Board Member, International Hockey Federation
Rolf Van de Kerkhoff - Head Coach, University of Delaware
Caitlin Walsh - Assistant Coach, Davidson College

USFHA coaches and representatives:

Shawn Hindy - Head Coach, Oakridge School, Arlington, TX; Board of Directors, USA Field Hockey
Elissa Unger - USFHA, US Field Hockey Foundation, Foundation Development Director
Craig Parnham - USA Field Hockey, Director of Coach Education and Learning; Head Coach of Women's National Team 2013-2016
Kara Mings - GGF committee Chair and USFHA Board of Directors





CONNECTIONS

The Connections column is the place for personal memories of Greg Gephart. The Greg Gephart Fund for Youth Field Hockey came into being in 2000 when Greg passed away unexpectedly of complications after surgery. Greg enjoyed widespread connections to the field hockey both nationally and internationally. His deepest connections come from teaching and coaching at The Kinkaid School in Houston, Durham Academy in Durham, North Carolina, and his involvement with NFHCA.

Michael Josephson is a speaker and lecturer, former law professor and attorney. This quote by Josephson hangs on the wall above my desk in my home office in Connecticut.

*So what will matter?
How will the value of your days be measured?*

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave.

*What will matter is not your success but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.*

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

*What will matter is not your competence but your character.
What will matter is not how many people knew you, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.*

*What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters.*

Greg Gephart chose to live a life that mattered. I was one of those young women whose life was changed because I had the pleasure and privilege of having Greg in my life. He was a wonderfully kind, caring, generous, compassionate and loving man. His character was second to none. I knew it nearly 25 years ago as a member of the USA Women's National Team. I saw it in Houston well over a decade ago. I felt it more than ever March 4-5 at the 10th Greg Gephart Clinic.

One of my fondest memories of Greg is in the mid-90's following a practice session on the east coast. A few of my teammates and I finished training and headed to the parking lot. There was Greg with a huge smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes. After giving us all a big hug, he opened up the trunk of his car. "Do you need another pair of turfs? Or a stick?" In those days there were no individual sponsorships and companies soliciting field hockey players to use their products. There was Longstreth. Barbara Longstreth. And Greg Gephart. We would typically get a pair of shoes and a new stick after A Camp selections when the squad was named in January. That gear was for the year and we could get things replaced if and when necessary. Greg knew that wasn't always enough so he checked in from time to time throughout the year to make sure we had what we needed.



I often looked at Greg and wondered how was he able to give us these things? He didn't appear to have the means to take care of so many of us for so many years, but yet he did. Time and time and time again. I remember that like it was yesterday. And I knew I wanted to be just like Greg.

Thank you Greg. You are one of a handful of people who have helped shape my life, empowered me to live a life that matters, and always look to pay it forward. I love you.

Pam (Neiss) Stuper
Caroline Ruth Thompson '02 Head Coach of Field Hockey at Yale University
USA Field Hockey Foundation Board of Trustees

Texas Field Hockey Competes at the Nook By Hope Haynes

What is the Nook you might ask? The Nook is a giant sports warehouse in Lancaster, PA that USA Field Hockey calls home. The Nook plays host to many field hockey events throughout the year.

In March, Texas Pride sent two teams from Houston to the Nook to compete in the 2017 National Indoor Tournament (NIT) in the U14 age group. There were over 150 teams that competed in the tournament. NIT's are held annually; each age group has a different weekend to play. U10, U12, and U14 do not have to qualify in order to attend the tournament, but U16 and U19 must qualify. Our teams from Houston did really well.

Both our U16 and U19 teams qualified for NIT's by competing against some very tough teams at the Regional Qualifying Tournament and they finished second! The 6th grade Texas Pride White team had a 2nd place finish with a 4-1 record. The combined 7th/8th grade team finished 3rd with a 3-1-1 record.

Field Hockey has grown so much in Texas even in the few short years that I have been playing. Much of the credit goes to Coach Tina Edmonds of Texas Pride; she has really helped the popularity of field hockey grow in Texas. I also credit the Greg Gephart Clinic for bringing in many amazing coaches to expose new kids to field hockey and teach more experienced kids new skills. The Greg Gephart Clinic allowed me to play with girls who were not only older but also more skilled than I was, and I learned so much from the other players and the awesome coaches. I also really like when I see coaches from GGC at national events and they actually remember me. This is very inspiring because it boosts my confidence and my exposure to colleges. I am thankful for the many opportunities I have in Texas for field hockey.



Texas Pride White-6th-Grade (left to right): Sarah Grace Raynes, Kate Consoli, Claire Nockolds, Bennett Jones, Audrey Post, Kyle Massey, Madison Kim, Hope Haynes, Anna Kate Black, Mia Abello, and our coach, Sarah Grace Ritter.



Texas Pride Red -7th/8th-Grade (top to bottom, left to right): Julia Rae, Ryan Pipkin, Tyler Kennedy, Erin Walsh, Emma Naarding, Vivienne Lachaux, Tatum Moore, Emmy Stubbs, Megan Wetzel, Sloan Davidson



Let's continue Greg's vision!

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