



Lacrosse may be new to many in the North Penn area; it is by no means a new sport. Lacrosse has been played for centuries in North America by Native Americans and was an important part of their culture and traditions. The unique curved shape of the sticks used by the players reminded the French settlers of a bishop's staff or "Crosse" (still the official name for the stick and net used by the players), which is where the name came from. The Iroquois called the game "bagataway" or the "creator's game", which reflects the spiritual importance the tribes placed on the game. They felt that the game was a gift from the creator, and playing the game somehow restored balance to the earth. The Cherokee took a somewhat different view of the game. They called the game the "little brother of war" and used it to prepare warriors for real battles. This certainly reflects the competitive nature of the game and is also an indication of the importance of "teamwork" within the sport!

The game continued to be played by the Native Americans, and was adopted by the settlers in upstate New York and Canada. The game remains popular in Canada- lacrosse is Canada's official national sport. The game was introduced as a collegiate sport in the 1890's by Johns Hopkins University (who remains a powerhouse in the game today, winning the 2007 NCAA Division I title). During the 20th century, the game evolved into several forms, including indoor lacrosse, and women's lacrosse. For the better part of the 20th century, men's lacrosse was played primarily at prep schools, and was not well known beyond these circles. The expense of the equipment and the popularity of baseball effectively hid the game from the vast majority people.

Recent innovations in equipment design have enabled for lighter, less expensive equipment. The game is becoming a popular spring sport throughout the United States. This rapid growth is especially evident in the Philadelphia area. Most high schools in the Philadelphia area now offer lacrosse as a spring varsity sport, and the game has become available to a much wider audience. Lacrosse is now recognized as the fastest growing team sport in the United States.

The North Penn Lacrosse Club was founded in 1997 in order to provide the youth of the North Penn School District the opportunity to participate in the fastest-growing team sport in the United States, men's lacrosse. The club's "founding fathers" concentrated on establishing the sport at North Penn High School as a varsity sport. The first season, the team had an 8-6 record, playing mostly junior varsity and club teams. The sport became an officially sanctioned varsity sport in 2002 and North Penn now participates in the Suburban One league, along with the other local high schools in our area.

The youth teams started in 1999 as a feeder program for the high school team. North Penn Lacrosse Club participates in the South Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Lacrosse Association (SEPYLA). Our club offers lacrosse for grades 3-8 for all youth within the North Penn School District boundaries. Our players have gone on to star at North Penn, Lansdale Catholic and other high schools and colleges in the area.

Our club focuses on introducing this exciting "new" game to the youth of our area, and teaching players the fundamental skills of the game. We stress the importance of team play, and focus on teaching the players to enjoy participating in the game. We recognize our role as pioneers in establishing the game in the North Penn area. We hope to lay the foundation so that future generations of North Penn residents can enjoy the "creator's game" and develop the respect and love for this magnificent game that our Native American ancestors gave to us.