

COURTNEY HOBBS – AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE CHAMPION

Courtney Hobbs hails from a proud lacrosse dynasty in Adelaide and first picked up a stick at just five years old, playing in school competitions in 1986. Her grandfather, Don Hobbs, was a luminary in South Australian and Australian lacrosse circles, beginning his career with St Peters in the 1930s, a club that would later become the Glenelg Lacrosse Club. Lacrosse truly runs in her blood—her father and three uncles all represented South Australia at the senior level, with two of her uncles also representing Australia.

Courtney's passion for the sport was evident from the start. She joined Glenelg's A Grade team at just 13 years old and soon found herself competing against Australian greats such as Jenny Williams and Kylie Taylor. By the age of 16, she was a key player in a team she deeply admired, winning several senior premierships and a best & fairest award alongside Australian role models Tracy Robb (Rehn) and Wendy Walsh (Greaves)—a period she recalls as one of her fondest in the game.

In Year 6, Courtney transferred to Wilderness School, where the stars aligned with SA lacrosse legend Judy Thurgood as her PE teacher. With the support of Judy and her father, Graham, the foundations were laid for the Wilderness Lacrosse Club. Courtney played in the Wilderness team, which played as a Glenelg team until Wilderness became a club in its own right in 2001, winning numerous junior premierships before the Wilderness club formed and fielded its first state league team.

Returning from college in the U.S.A., she proudly represented Wilderness from 2001–2013, earning numerous senior club best & fairest awards and MVPs. Her proudest moment came in 2006 when Wilderness won its first senior women's premiership. In 2014, her dedication and contribution were recognised when she became one of the club's first life members.

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AT MARYLAND

In 1999, at just 17 years old, Courtney seized an opportunity that would forever change the trajectory of her life, receiving a lacrosse scholarship to the University of Maryland, one of the most successful and respected lacrosse programs in the world.

Under the guidance of Hall of Fame coaches Cindy Timchal and Gary Gait, she quickly adapted to the elite level of NCAA Division I competition. Her years at Maryland were nothing short of extraordinary.

During her collegiate career, Courtney was part of the powerhouse Terrapins team that captured three NCAA National Championships and three ACC Championships. She had the privilege of playing alongside and learning from Jen Adams, a fellow Australian and one of the most influential figures in women's lacrosse history. Jen's creativity, humility, and unmatched work ethic left a profound impact on Courtney both on and off the field.

Throughout her first three years the team was virtually unstoppable, suffering only three losses. However, her senior year brought change, with the departure of key players marking a new era for the program. As team captain, Courtney embraced the challenge of leading a younger squad, experiencing the highs and lows of a fiercely competitive season. Gone were the days of winning comfortably; many games were decided by a single goal, sometimes in Maryland's favour and sometimes not.

Despite a heartbreaking quarterfinal exit to Cornell University, that season was a powerful learning experience, reinforcing the importance of leadership, resilience, and growth through adversity.

Capping off her collegiate career, Courtney was honoured with selection to the prestigious All-American first team, an acknowledgement of her skill, leadership, and impact on the field. Her experience in the NCAA not only shaped her as an elite athlete but also instilled lifelong values of perseverance, teamwork, and pursuit of excellence.

Courtney played for the Terrapins from 1999 – 2002, and was a student coach in 2003.

While her college career was an incredible chapter, the most cherished part of Courtney's journey was proudly representing Australia in six world cups as a player, a testament to her longevity, skill, and commitment to the sport.

The pinnacle of her international career came in 2005, when she and her teammates claimed the gold medal in Annapolis, Maryland, an historic and unforgettable moment.

For Courtney, representing Australia was about far more than the medals, it was about the gruelling preparation, the sacrifices, the relentless training, and the unbreakable bonds formed with teammates over years of shared adversity and triumph. The pride of wearing the green and gold came with immense responsibility, but also incredible pride and reward.

Courtney's career is also a story of resilience and determination. Remarkably, she continued to represent Australia at the highest level even after becoming a mother to three children, a feat made possible thanks to the unwavering support of her coaches, Sue Sofarnos, Max Madonia, and Trish Adams, whose belief in her ability to balance family and elite sport never wavered.

Her journey from Glenelg to Maryland, to world cup podiums around the world, stands as a testament to her passion, perseverance, and the power of community.

STATE REPRESENTATION

Courtney was selected in the 1995 & 96 S.A. Under 16 teams, followed by selection in the S.A. senior team from 1996 - 1999 (Premiers 1999), 2002 -04, 2006 – 09, 2011 and 2015 - 17. While still a player Courtney coached the S.A. Under 18 team in 2014 & 2015.



Australian Under 19 touring team 1998

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Courtney represented Australia in 1998 in the Australian Under 19 team touring Japan and the U.S.A. and again in 1999 in the Under 19 World Cup in Perth where Australia won the silver medal. This was followed by 5 consecutive world cup appearances in 2001 (England –silver), 2005 (USA - gold), 2009 (Prague – silver and vice captain), 2013 (Canada – bronze and co-captain), and 2017 (England - 4th place in overtime, and co-captain).



Courtney in world cup action

AWARDS

Best & fairest Glenelg -1997& 2016
MVP Wilderness - 2002
B&F Wilderness - 2009
LSA MVP - 2006, 2016 & 2017
LSA highest goal scorer - 2016
LSA All-Star team – 2002,2004,2006 - 08,2011,2015 -17 (9 occasions)
Bonython Medal (S.A. best & fairest) - 2017
Anzac Medal – 2017(S.A. MVP award given on Anzac Day)
Presidents Medal (Best & fairest in grand final) - 2017
Senior Championship game MVP – 2003,2009,2011,2015,2016,2017
All-Star Australian team – 2011,2015,2016,2017
Senior Australian Championship Best Player – 2017
Shelley Maher Trophy - 2017 (Best & fairest across Australia based on votes for domestic games)
Lacrosse Australia merit award 2008

GREATEST INFLUENCES?

Wendy Walsh and Tracy Robb were two players I really looked up to during my junior years at club level.

Wendy was a hardworking defensive middie who played with incredible determination. Despite being a smaller player, she played big - tough, fearless, and proud. She never complained, gave 100% every time, and led by example both on and off the field.

Tracy was also a standout for me. She was relentless in her work rate, fast, agile, and always on the move. I admired how she pushed herself and set a high standard, and I aspired to emulate her speed, intensity, and overall presence on the field.

Cindy Timchal and Gary Gait had a life-changing impact on my lacrosse career. Being recruited to the University of Maryland by them shaped not only my playing journey but also who I became as an athlete. The knowledge, discipline, and work ethic they instilled in me laid the foundation for everything that followed. Without their guidance and belief in me, I wouldn't have gone on to represent Australia in five world championships.

Sarah Forbes was the ultimate Australian leader. As captain, she embodied positivity, determination, and resilience. As an Australian player, I never wanted to let her down - she inspired that kind of respect. She constantly lifted the bar, leading by example through injuries and adversity. Sarah represented true team spirit, the essence of the Australian sporting culture, and was an incredible example of leadership, commitment, and unity.

BEST PLAYERS I HAVE SEEN?

Jen Adams – Skill, creativity, game sense

Sarah Forbes – Leadership, dominance in midfield, hardworking

Tracy Robb – Agile, quick attacker,

Hannah Nielsen – Intelligent lacrosse IQ, skilful player

Stacey Morlang – hard working strong midfielder, great centre player



Stacey Morlang, Courtney & Jen Adams – Canada 2013

TOUGHEST OPPONENTS

Kelly Amonte Hiller (USA) – strong midfielder, tough

Dana Dobbie (Canada) – queen of the draw and creative in attack

Sue McSolvín (Victorian) – big game goalie. She was a brick wall in the goals and could clear a ball like no one else.

Stacey Morlang (Victorian) – toughest opponent in college (Loyola) and state games. We had many battles matching up against each other, in the draw and around the crease.

Sascha Newmarch (S.A.) – All rounder midfielder. Could take the draw, play aggressive defense and was a weapon in attack. I was fortunate enough to play on most of her teams and not come up against her too much.

TESTIMONIALS

SASCHA NEWMARCH (Former Australian player)

Having had the privilege of playing alongside Courtney at club, state and on the international stage, I can confidently say she is one of the fiercest lacrosse players I've encountered. Courtney is small in size, but her talent on the field is matched only by her dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the sport.

Courtney has represented Australia at 6 world cups including the 2005 world cup where Australia defeated the USA, regaining world title honours after 20 years of U.S. dominance. Alongside representing Australia, Courtney studied and played lacrosse at the University of Maryland, helping her team win 3 Division 1 national championships during her 4 year tenure.

HANNAH NIELSEN (Current Australian champion)

Courtney's game sense, speed, and sheer determination made her a constant threat to all opponents and an invaluable asset to any team she was a part of. Courtney played with a level of intensity and intelligence that elevates everyone around her. Her ability to read the play and execute under pressure was second to none.

Beyond her athletic ability Courtney is a natural leader. She brings energy, positivity, and professionalism to every training session and match. She's a role model, a teammate, and a true ambassador for lacrosse in Australia and around the world. It's been an honour to share the field with her and witness her journey firsthand.

Courtney was one of the toughest teammates I ever had the pleasure of playing with, she was small but mighty. There wasn't a battle that Courtney wouldn't run head first into. She inspired with her willingness to run through a brick wall and do whatever it takes for her team.

When matching up in drills, we still laugh about not wanting to ever be matched up on Hobbsy. She was an attacker's worst nightmare during practice - you would be furious with her by the end because of the bruises, smack talking, relentless physicality she would bring. However, in between reps or at the end of practice there was no one you would laugh harder with or want to be around. Her energy was always contagious and she was always the life of the locker room.

As a younger player I always looked up to her because of these things. She was someone I wanted to be like, and someone I tried to model my work ethic, leadership, and toughness on. Hobbsy is a lifelong teammate and it has always been such an honour standing by her side on the field.