

# Thanks, Dad

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

LI student-athletes pen Father's Day letters



DAVID MEISENHOLDER

**To: JARVIS BROWN**  
**From: CIARA BROWN**  
 Half Hollow Hills West, girls soccer, Sr. Dad,

For as long as I can remember, it has always been you and me. From watching you coach football to listening to your stories on the long ride home after soccer games, it has always been just us. Your words of encouragement have inspired me to always put my best foot forward and give 110% to everything I pursue.

I cannot imagine where I would be today without your support. You believed in me when I did not believe in myself. You pulled me up when I felt down. You had tough conversations with me and hugged me to reassure me that I am safe and will succeed.

You taught me so many valuable lessons about being a leader on and off the field, how

to set examples for Kennedy and Ayden, and supporting people in need.

You have sacrificed so much for me and stood by me every step in my journey to ensure I never felt alone. Your presence, from attending all of my soccer games and concerts to supporting me during important moments like college visits and tryouts, has meant the world to me.

Thank you for being my biggest cheerleader, my unofficial coach on the sideline and my guiding star. Your patience and love have had a lasting impact on me.

As I continue to pursue my aspirations, I take comfort in knowing that I can call on you for a pep talk anytime. My goal is to make you proud and pass on all the life lessons you have given me and inspire others just as you have inspired me.

*I love you, Dad*

**To: MICHAEL TESTA**  
**From: AVERY TESTA**  
 South Side, girls soccer and lacrosse, Sr. Dad,

I can't remember a time in my life when I didn't have a ball or stick in my hand. That is all attributed to you for fostering my love for sports and competing. You made sure I learned how to play every sport and you always volunteered to help coach because nothing was more important to you than spending time with me and watching me play.

Since I was young, you've taken me to so many sporting events and made sure weekend soccer and lacrosse tournaments were not only filled with games but with fun excursions. You have been by my side in memorable moments like playing with the RVC Williamsport team, the Lady

Cyclones' three county championships and a state championship final game, and our love of lacrosse. There has been nothing better than this time spent with you.

I truly wouldn't be the person or player that I am today without you. Through my challenges with illness and injury, you've been there for me when I needed it most. You turned every tear into laughter. There are truly not enough words to describe my gratitude for you. Thank you for always instilling the most important values within me.

You have taught me to have a fierce work ethic in order to achieve my goals and to have compassion and kindness for others. As I'm getting ready to leave for college, please know how much I love you and thank you for being my best friend!

*Happy Father's Day,  
 Avery*

