



Nicholas Neferis

Year of Induction: **2022**

Year of Graduation: **2014**

The Varsity Boys' Lacrosse program at Johnson City celebrated several championships with Nick Neferis at midfield facing off against opponents to take the Wildcat lax team to victory after victory. However, Neferis' talents in stick-handling and face-offs began years before varsity lacrosse. Neferis was introduced to the sport as a third-grader in the Johnson City Youth program. He played lacrosse in this program through sixth grade and then transitioned into the school district's modified program in seventh grade.

With the basics learned, the coaches noticed a talented player in Neferis and moved him to the varsity program as an eighth grade student-athlete. Assistant Coach Adam Frys remembered, " We knew he was coming but as an 8th grader he was the best player on varsity. Nick immediately elevated the program, on and off the field. Leadership, face-offs, ground balls, goals, assists....(He) defined Wildcat lacrosse."

Neferis was a two sport athlete during high school as he also played football for two years on the Wildcat varsity team as a safety, linebacker and fullback. He was the team captain as a senior and an Ernie Davis Classic selection. Neferis was also named Scholar Athlete and Academic All Star in 11th and 12th grade. He received recognition from NYSPHSAA in 11th and 12th grade as Scholar Athlete and was a member of the Team Award for the same in 2012.

However, it was through the sport of lacrosse that Neferis excelled. He received numerous awards, honors and achievements. In 2011 as a 9th grader, he received the Sportsmanship Award and was named All-Division 1st Team Midfielder. In 10th grade, he was once again named All-Division 1st Team Midfielder and voted Most Valuable Player at the end of the 2012 game that sealed the championship for the Wildcats. Again in 2013, Neferis was named All-Division 1st Team Midfielder as well as All-Tournament Section IV Midfielder. During his senior year, Neferis was named captain of the varsity team. The accolades continued in 2014 when he made Wildcat lacrosse history in being named All-American for Section IV as he piled up 75 goals with 118 points that averaged 7.38 points per game.

While Neferis played on the varsity team, the Johnson City boys varsity lacrosse team were the 2012 Section IV champions (the first in their history) and the 2013 Section IV champions and the 2013 Division II champions with an 18-0 undefeated regular season.

But it was Neferis' individual statistics that helped to explain the reason JC enjoyed those championship years. He was the all-time leader in goals (239), points (341), groundballs (158) and face-off percentage (69%). By winning face-off after face-off his teammates were able to rack up the winning scores that led to their success.

Academically, he was also a stand-out in the classroom. He was 10th in his graduating class with a 98.6 GPA. From 8th grade through 12th grade he received the Scholar Athlete Award, the Academic All-Star Award and the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Award. The Wildcat lacrosse team also received the NYSPHSAA Scholar Team Award in 2012 and 2013.

After graduating from high school, Neferis pursued his Bachelors' degree at Seton Hill University where he continued to play Division II lacrosse for four years and continued to excel. As a freshman in 2015, he appeared in 14 games winning 80% of his faceoffs and was named freshman captain. During his 2016 sophomore year, Neferis appeared in all 15 games with 13 starts. His face-off wins totaled 63.7% (100/157) and he led his team with 57 ground balls. He even added goals to his statistics with three goals against Ohio Valley and two more against Lindenwood. Participating in NYIT, his face-off performance was exceptional with 21 out of 23 face-offs won. Because of this outstanding sophomore performance, he was named All-ECAC Honorable Mention and ECAC Specialist of the Week. In his 2017 junior year, he appeared in all 16 contests with 14 starts. He had a .645 win percentage in face-offs (49/76) and led the team with 69 ground balls. Recognition for these impressive statistics came with being named G-MAC player of the week and being named to the G-MAC Academic All Conference team. In 2018, his team and coaches acknowledged his leadership by naming him team captain. Neferis appeared and started in all 19 contest and racked up 54 ground balls. Again he was named to the G-MAC All Conference team.

College life brought other honors, scholarships and awards to Neferis. He was the recipient of the Community Service Scholarship, the Elizabeth Seton Presidential Scholarship, the Seton Hill Leadership Grant and the Seton Hill Athletic Scholarship. He was awarded the PSAC Scholar Athlete Award (2015), the ECAC Scholar Athlete Award (2016), the ECAC 2X

Athlete of the Week and GMAC Athlete of the Week. He also enjoyed the rewards of his efforts on the field along with his teammates and coaches with the 2017 Great Midwest Athletic Conference Championship (1st in program history), 2018 Great Midwest Athletic Conference Championship, the 2018 NCAA Regional Championship, and became the 2018 NCAA Final 4 Semifinalists.

Neferis graduated from Seton Hall University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics with a minor in computer science. He now lives in Pittsburgh, PA and works as a software engineer. He has maintained his love of the game by playing Senior A box lacrosse for the Pittsburgh Gnomes. "The fastest game on two feet" is in his blood.

High school Coach Bo Flynn perfectly summed up the reason Nick Neferis is being inducted into the Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame in 2022 and the Hall of Fame Committee agrees whole-heartedly.

"Nick was the ultimate Johnson City Wildcat: fierce, competitive and loyal to his teammates. His hard work, dedication and leadership were integral to not only his success, but to that of the team as well. Coach Frys and I could not think of a more deserving candidate to be inducted into the JC Hall of Fame as the lacrosse program's first inductee."