

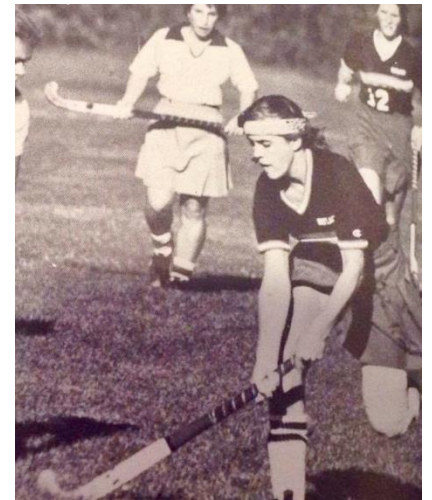
JULIE LEWIS PODANY

CLASS OF 1982



FIELD
HOCKEY

As a five-time captain and varsity starter for ten of her 12 seasons of Wayland High School athletics, Julie Lewis Podany made her mark across nearly every Wayland playing surface. In field hockey, Julie scored 14 goals, including a hat trick, in 14 games her senior year, leading her team to the 1981 DCL championship. As of her graduation in 1982, Julie was the all-time leading scorer in Wayland field hockey team history. Captain of the basketball team her junior and senior year, Julie averaged 13.4 points and four assists on the 1982 16-1 championship team. As a two time captain of the tennis team, Julie racked up a 10-1 record her junior year and was named a DCL All-Star her senior year, where she played #1 singles. All in all, Julie was named a DCL All-Star six times throughout the course of her high school career.



After Wayland High School, Julie went to Vanderbilt University, where she walked onto the women's basketball team as a freshman. As a sophomore and junior, Julie took on the role of player/coach of the Vanderbilt club field hockey team. Julie has continued to pursue her love of tennis; her 4.5 USTA women's team finished third in the nation in 2008, and she currently plays on the A team at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.



Julie and her husband Jon have three daughters, Nikki, Morgan, and Kelli, and live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Julie credits her experience as an athlete with many of the life lessons she's learned, such as "you can do a lot more than you think you can, so keep trying," "surround yourself with great, positive people and teammates, because they will lift you up when you can't get up by yourself," and finally, "never ever quit!"

"I'd like to thank Bill Drake, my first tennis coach. He taught me to 'Go for every ball, because even when you think you can't get to it, if you try, you'll be surprised at how many you actually can get and hit back.' This has applied to every sport I've ever played."

"Donna Olson, my field hockey coach at Wayland High School, was very keen on being in good shape in order to compete at your best. She made us realize that even if our opponent was better, we could still win if we were in better shape and could outlast them in the second half!"

"Finally, I'd like to recognize my mom, who passed away eight years ago, for teaching me about love, loyalty, support, and the importance of being the unsung hero. She went to virtually every game and match of my career! I've tried to be at all of my daughters' games and matches whenever possible, because I know how much I appreciated my mom being there."

