

James Metzger is the pride of Hofstra

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James Metzger with current Hofstra University student-athletes.
Credit: Hofstra University

For more than 50 years, [James Metzger](#) has been a [Long Island](#) fixture.

Metzger's highlights include standout student-athlete in [lacrosse](#) and football at Half Hollow Hills High School in Suffolk County. Then, he was a lacrosse All-American at [Hofstra University](#). After graduation, he learned all he could about the insurance industry and then set out to form his own company.

For years, Metzger's daily mantra has been, "[Everything I ever needed to know about business I learned on the sports field.](#)" Now, he is providing many others with the same opportunity.

"The two years I spent at Hofstra (1979-1980), plus my prior athletic experiences, helped build the foundation on which I built my professional life in sales and in business," said Metzger. "After being away from the competition on the field for so long, I found that I needed to return to where it all started and to support today's students and athletes."

Metzger founded The Whitmore Group Ltd., during 1989 and serves as its chair and CEO. The Garden City company provides benefits consulting, financial and estate planning, management and sales consulting, business development, operations review, senior management and board consulting, and commercial private lending services.

Over the last year, Metzger has made significant contributions to both Half Hollow Hills and Hofstra. His philanthropic gifts support athletic programs and education.

At Half Hollow Hills, Metzger established an endowment and an athletic award. At Hofstra, Metzger signed a \$1.5 million pledge to support all of Hofstra's student-athletes. That gift followed previous support for Hofstra and marked the largest commitment in the university's sports department history.

In recognition of Metzger's generosity, Hofstra Athletics renamed the *Capital Improvements Fund*, which received half the allocation, the *James C. Metzger Fund for Capital Improvements*. Since the fund's inception many years ago, resources have been used to renovate strength and conditioning centers, improve sports medicine facilities and add lights to Hofstra Softball Stadium. The athletic programs raise half the funds necessary to complete approved capital projects. The total is matched by the Metzger Fund to ensure each project is completed.

Going Back To Lacrosse

Twenty-five years ago after his last lacrosse game, Metzger walked away from the sport. During recent years, as his nephew became interested in the game and opened scouts' eyes, Metzger realized the impact that the game has had on his business career.

"I reached out to former Hofstra lacrosse greats -- Kevin Huff, Bob Quinlan and Vinnie Sombrotto -- to assist me with my nephew's recruiting process since I had been out of the game for so long," said Metzger. "Throughout these conversations, we talked more and more about Hofstra."

Giving Back To Hofstra

Metzger's initial gift to Hofstra supported the lacrosse program, and it included a complete renovation of the existing men's locker room and offices. The project bears the names of his Hofstra coach, Harry Royle, and teammate Sombrotto.

All of this rekindled Metzger's enthusiasm for sports and education. He became a season ticket holder for Hofstra's men's lacrosse and basketball. The university renamed the women's lacrosse locker room in his honor for his additional generous support of that program.

Metzger also funded the Hofstra Traditions Project to recognize the history and impact of the Hofstra men's and women's lacrosse and football programs. It honors not only outstanding Hofstra players, but it recognizes every player who competed at the university.

Metzger's support of Hofstra includes serving on the Pride Club Board of Directors, which oversees athletics fundraising. His company is a sponsor of Hofstra athletics. Metzger also reconnected with his favorite faculty member, history professor Michael D'Innocenzo, and he endowed a summer internship in the Center for Civic Engagement to honor his professor.

For both Hofstra and where it all started at Half Hollow Hills High School, Metzger is committed to helping athletes and students advance on the field and in their careers.

"It is special to have the opportunity to be able to support these two schools," said Metzger. "The ability to give back financially to my Long Island community, while also contributing my experiences and knowledge from both sports and business, will give many others the opportunity to succeed on the sports field, or in business, or along any other path they choose in life."