

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Alfie Jacques Ambassador Award Board Announces 2025 Recipients

Nedrow, NY — The Alfie Jacques Ambassador Award board is honored to announce its 2025 recipients.

Established in 2023, the Alfie Jacques Ambassador Award was created to keep the legacy of the Onondaga Stickmaker alive, to promote the game's sacred Indigenous roots, and to honor members of the larger community who share Alfie's love of lacrosse and his commitment to its growth.

In 2025, for the first time, the award will be presented to two recipients — Oren Lyons and Roy Simmons Jr. — two longtime friends and former teammates whose lives and legacies stand as profound representations of what the game of lacrosse is about. Both Lyons and Simmons have walked alongside Alfie Jacques for decades, as advocates and storytellers. They have lived lives that reflect the deep spiritual and communal roots of the game.

Oren Lyons

A Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation and a lifelong defender of Indigenous rights and the natural world, Oren Lyons has been a guiding force in preserving the sacred origins of lacrosse. As a former Syracuse University goaltender and a central voice in the creation of the Iroquois Nationals, Lyons has brought Indigenous philosophy and diplomacy to global forums while always continuing to honor the spiritual essence of the game. Through his oratory, leadership, and advocacy, Lyons embodies the clarity, humility, and cultural reverence that defined Alfie Jacques and that this award seeks to uphold.

Roy Simmons Jr.

The legendary former head coach of Syracuse University men's lacrosse, Roy Simmons Jr. is widely credited for elevating the sport while also maintaining a connection to its Indigenous heritage. A lifelong friend of Alfie Jacques, Simmons made it his mission to introduce players, fans, and the broader public to the Native origins of lacrosse, often inviting Alfie to speak to his teams and shaping a culture of respect and curiosity. Known as much for his connection to his players as for his national titles, Simmons championed creativity in all aspects of his coaching.

"When the award was created, we discussed the balance between North American and International recipients and that one day we may want to honor more than one person per year," said Robert Carpenter, Founder of Inside Lacrosse Magazine. "It wasn't the plan to pick two recipients so soon, but when the idea of honoring the two lifelong friends, teammates and lacrosse iconoclasts was examined, it's a step the board unanimously and enthusiastically wanted to take."

- will get a quote from oren and roy
- anyone else want to add a quote?

The inaugural recipient was Sid Jamieson, the first Native American NCAA head coach and founding coach of the Iroquois Nationals.

The 2025 awards will be the kick-off event for the 2025 Wooden Stick Festival in Syracuse, NY on the weekend of September 12-14.

For more information about the Alfie Jacques Ambassador Award and past recipients, visit www.alfieaward.com.

2024 Recipient Sid Jamieson is available for interviews.

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TOP TO BOTTOM:

OREN LYONS, ROY SIMMONS, ALFIE JACQUES











