

# Remembering Jonathan Barch

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Over the holiday break, Chiles High and the lacrosse team lost one of its beloved members; Jonathan Barch, 16, had his life cut short in an auto accident on Deerlake Road. He was the only child of Doug and Becky Barch.

Jonathan was always involved in sports; he played hockey at Skate World and The Rink from second grade until high school. Once in high school, he became an inaugural member of the new lacrosse team. His hockey career was very successful; he played defense, but still had the ability to take it down the ice and score. Jonathan also played on numerous championship teams with the traveling team, the Tallahassee Tidal Waves.

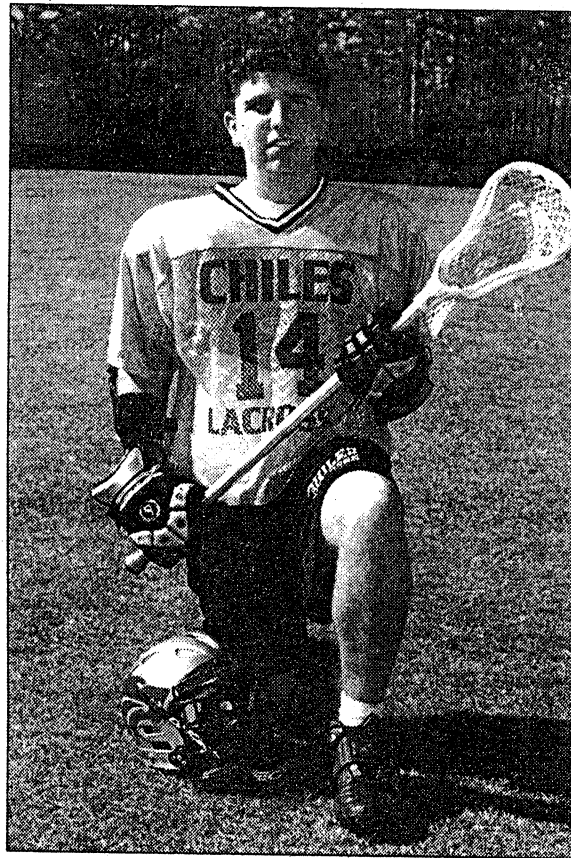
On the lacrosse team, Jonathan always gave one hundred percent (or sometimes even more). One

thing about Jonathan was that he never complained; even while getting only a few shifts in a forty-eight minute game, you'd never hear him say something negative about the situation. It's too bad that his lacrosse career never had a chance to fully bloom.

Off the field, Jonathan Barch was also an intriguing person. He was an avid player of his Playstation 2 and loved

Madden (any year) and the Grand Theft Auto games. But mostly, sports were

involved in his life. Growing sticks we bought at



Jonathan in his lacrosse uniform.

up, Jonathan and I created the game "mini-hockey." Using the miniature hockey

we bought at Tallahassee Tiger Sharks games, laundry baskets, and a ball, we tried to hit it as hard as we could to score a goal or block the other's attempt at scoring. Eventually the game grew to be pretty complex as real goalie equipment became involved. We usually played in his living room and we broke our fair share of items. If it wasn't mini-hockey, it was real hockey in his garage. I also played hockey and was a goalie. I would suit up in all my gear and try to block his splapshots and breakaway moves. I blocked it fifty percent of the time; he scored fifty percent of the time.

Picture Courtesy of Sports Section Photography

One of the things Jonathan will be remembered for is his hair; no matter how often he got it cut, it would always be long and puffy. A lot of people joked around with him about it, but it was all in good taste. We'd all love to have him and his head of hair around today.

Jonathan Barch will forever be missed. If you would like to pay your respect to a fellow student, please attend the February 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) lacrosse game against Lincoln. Before the game that begins at 7:00 PM, there will be a ceremony to honor Jonathan and to forever retire jersey number fourteen. Please attend if possible. Also, the 2005 lacrosse season is dedicated in memory to Jonathan and each player will be wearing an honorary patch.