

On February 24th, the Washington Bayhawks held open tryouts at Georgetown Prep. Almost 70 players competed for five invitations to the 2008 Bayhawks Training Camp, odds that may seem pretty long to some. However, the story behind current Bayhawks defenseman **Nate Bauers** should provide some inspiration.

Bauers is a 2004 Fairfield graduate and he began his career with the Bayhawks on February 3rd of last year, at the Bayhawks First Annual Open Tryout. He was eager to tryout, stating that he would have loved to do it immediately following graduation, but the MLL only allowed open tryouts beginning with the 2007 season.

Despite his enthusiasm, Bauers admitted that his “level of fitness had definitely suffered since graduation.” He attempted to keep a running and agility regimen prior to tryouts, but the cold weather prevented him from sticking to an outdoor routine. Despite his fitness level Bauers thought he had a pretty good chance of making it to training camp – until he arrived at tryouts. Bitter cold weather, freezing hands, and somewhat rusty skills seemed to be stacked against him, but the coaches thought differently.

Bauers did make it to training camp, as well as onto the Bayhawks practice squad, and he eventually landed a spot on the team. Beyond making the team, he received credible playing time as well as the honor of Defensive Player of the Week, all of which came as a huge surprise to him.

Besides playing for the Bayhawks, Nate is a full time Management Analyst for the department of energy. He has found that the MLL commitment is one that “allows you to handle your real job as well as lacrosse, without conflict.”

After a highly successfully rookie year, Bauers encouraged the players who tried out on Sunday to “try and do something to get noticed, but do no play beyond your means...the coaches have seen enough lacrosse and they know what they are looking for, just do your best and have fun.”

(This story was written by Kristine Dietz of the Washington Bayhawks staff.)