

# Sports

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THE POST-CRESCENT

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## Sticktuitiveness leads Neenah grad to lacrosse title match

Two years ago, Trey Bomier was an 18-year-old who was being coached.

Last year, he was a 19-year-old coaching 18-year-olds.

"I have a whole new level of appreciation of what coaches go through," said Bomier, a former lacrosse player at Neenah High School who returns there today as the assistant coach of Waunakee, which will take on Hartland Arrowhead in the Wisconsin Lacrosse Federation high school championship game at Rocket Stadium.

"It's quite a paradigm shift, from being coached to coaching."

He obviously didn't win his players over with his salt

### Mike Woods

Post-Crescent  
Sports Columnist



and pepper hair, or his richly detailed resume. But he found a way.

"The turning point was when a bunch of Waunakee kids came out and watched me play a college game," said Bomier, who just completed his sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin and plays on one of the school's club teams.

"We were playing (UW) Stout and I absolutely destroyed this kid on defense. Just obliterated

### Wisconsin Lacrosse Federation State Championship

#### Today's schedule

At Rocket Stadium, Neenah High School

8:30 a.m.: Wisconsin boys' middle school game, Madison vs. Fox Valley

10 a.m.: Wisconsin state girls' high school showcase

Noon: Wisconsin boys' high

school third-place game, Wausau vs. Bay Port

2 p.m.: Wisconsin boys' middle school game, Milwaukee vs. Green Bay

4 p.m.: Wisconsin boys' high school state championship, Waunakee vs. Hartland Arrowhead

him. From that point on, it was 'Yes sir. No sir.' Not too many people were talking back. And I suit up once in a while in practice. But they're very respectful kids. It's not a problem."

Bomier fell in love with the sport when a cousin introduced it to him during a trip to Denver. When he

entered Neenah High School, he immediately joined the lacrosse team and played four years, earning a couple of all-conference nods along the way.

When he got to Wisconsin — where he's majoring in history and political science with a minor in business and an eye on law

school — he joined a club team and met a law student who was also serving as the head coach at Waunakee.

Bomier was asked if he wanted to help and he said yes. Then at the end of last season, the law student who hired him was graduated and moved to Chicago, and the other assistant finished up his undergraduate degree and moved to Boston. So there sat Bomier, with the Waunakee athletic director, interviewing candidates to take over a program that is fast becoming a community staple.

"We hired a guy, Jeremy Parker, who had no lacrosse experience," said Bomier, 20, who has his real estate

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# WOODS: Neenah grad eyes lacrosse crown

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license and works as a realtor during the summer months. "He was a seventh-grade football coach. But he picked up the game quickly."

Apparently, for Waunakee will bring a 19-2 record into the state final with its only two losses this season coming at the hands of Arrowhead.

Lacrosse has become a cool sport in Waunakee, a city of roughly 11,000. It has its own booster club, youth program and while it's not a WIAA sanctioned sport, it's recognized by the school and the kids earn letters.

This year's team's features 13 seniors.

Next year's team will feature nine or 10 freshmen who've been playing since the fifth grade.

"It's become like a second home to me," said Bomier of Waunakee. "Kind of smaller version of Neenah. It's real nice."

And today promises to be nice. While Bomier played football for Neenah at Rocket Stadium, he never played a lacrosse game there. But he knows the return will be difficult.

When you think of Arrowhead vs. Waunakee, think early 1990s.

Think Packers vs. Cowboys.

Waunakee is the Packers. In last year's state semis, Waunakee lost by a goal with less than a minute to play.

In two games this year, it lost by a total of five goals.

But he's confident, and so is Waunakee.

"It's going to be very special to walk on that field and carry a lacrosse stick," said Bomier. "Just being able to play that sport on that field."

"Hopefully, it will work out and we can win the state championship. That would be the icing on the cake."

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