

You gain strength and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you cannot do.

Eleanor Roosevelt

It is well known that life is tough. We screw up and make mistakes on a daily basis; it is normal. How we react to difficulty is most important and it all begins with a confidence and a desire to conquer life's hurdles knowing we may fail. Confidence doesn't just appear out of thin air. It begins with the individual combined with great support from family, coaches and instructors. Nathan Driscoll, our March Athlete of the Month, over the past year has grown from a timid boy to now one of the most energetic and passionate athletes coming through our doors.

In the fall of 2016 at the age of 7, Nathan began his work at the BBC with our Fall program. He continued it into the winter with our little league class. Nathan was nervous; he was 7 and he was working with some 10-12 year olds. There were days he would participate and there were days he would sit out. Mom and Dad were great, they didn't push, they let him figure it out himself. This year was different. We decided to split classes into 7-9 year olds and 10-12 year olds and I believe that helped Nathan become more confident and comfortable in that setting. Overtime we saw a change in Nathan. He was more excited and involved in class. He started to attend pitching classes and rent cages with his parents. Hitting and pitching lessons came as well; he just loved being there. Coach John Richardi said it best, "Last year I saw a bashful kid, not sure if baseball was for him to now a different kid who can't wait to get to practice. By sticking with it and conquering his fear he has become a better player."

Nathan has shown all of us that conquering fears does not come overnight as it takes time and a strong work ethic. Nathan's confidence in his abilities and his desire to get better helped him get to where he is now. Also, Nathan's parents, by allowing him to figure it out himself, have fostered in him a mental toughness and independence that will give him a huge advantage later in life.

Keep up the great work Nathan; we are all so proud of you!

Jim Joyce