



## 2012 MVP Tournament Open Division Champions

*“The Best Coaches, The Best Facilities, The Best Competition, The Best Experience!” 2011 Parent feedback*

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# Travel Team Testimonials

Our son is living his dream. It was unimaginable to us a few years ago that a kid from Northeast Ohio would be noticed, recruited and then play lacrosse at a school like University of Virginia. Yet that is what James is doing. We just returned from watching James play against Princeton and it was such a wonderful experience.

There is only one organization we have to thank for James being recruited by UVA and that is Burning River Lacrosse. Without Woody and the team behind him it would not have been possible. We thank Woody and all those in the program for the position that James finds himself in. Burning River provided the following:

- Access to the Coaches James wanted to play in front of. The series of tournaments James played in from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade gave him access to all the elite coaches in college lacrosse. In the two top programs my son was *considering*, every Coach on their staff had seen James play multiple times...that is extremely rare.
- Communication with Coaches and their programs: In a couple of cases Woody personally made the connection between the college program and James. Woody also facilitated communication during “dead” times while complying with the demanding and complicated rules of the NCAA. Through phone calls and emails Woody kept the communication process going so that James had not just choices but the right choices for his college career. Woody was also instrumental in setting up unofficial college visits before James junior year which made an early decision possible.
- Knowledge about the recruiting process. Recruiting is a business and being recruited is a transaction. Burning River prepared my wife, James and I for the generalities of the process. When we got farther along the recruiting path Woody and his team gave us the specifics we needed to make an informed choice, for James to present himself properly and for all of us to feel good about James’ final choice. During the actual final recruiting visits we discussed our feelings with Woody and the options the colleges were providing by phone. We considered him our partner in the process.
- Lacrosse IQ. The biggest difference between Div. 1 lacrosse players and Ohio players is Lacrosse IQ. Burning River provided the education needed to play at the next level. Burning River teaches and coaches the skills, techniques, tactics and strategies that just aren’t taught sufficiently in the areas High School programs. Burning River supplemented and expanded what James knew about lacrosse. Burning River coaches, at times, replaced what others had taught him with the more modern game of lacrosse played in college.
- Competition and cooperation. Burning River gave James an opportunity to play with a variety of players who had a variety of styles. This taught him a great deal about the game. Burning River also played a competitive tournament schedule which gave James a chance to play against the best.
- Values. Burning River honors the game. Lacrosse is not football. The values of Lacrosse are one of the reasons it is the fastest growing sport in the U.S.. The game was meant to be fun and sportsmanship is cherished. The game is meant to be played aggressively, within the rules, with an all-out style and teamwork is the key to enjoyment. Burning River taught those values and “walked the talk”. There aren’t knuckleheads in the program. Everyone is a good fit. Everyone has a chance to shine.

- Realistic Confidence. Being recruited is not easy. There are times when you may have doubts or you may need things put into perspective. Burning River and Woody were there for our family throughout the process.

My son is living his dream. He is playing the sport he loves and getting an education at a great academic institution. Burning River made this possible and we thank them. If your athlete wants to play college lacrosse our experience shows Burning River Lacrosse is your choice.

Joe Dahlheimer