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Wednesday, January, 07, 2015 - 10:10:31 AM

Laurier baseball alumni finishes field of dreams in Kitchener

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Construction started just four months ago, but PlayBall Academy Canada, in all its brand new shininess, is now open.

The brainchild of former Wilfrid Laurier University infielder Trevor Nyp officially opened its doors on Saturday to a massive crowd of coaches, players and a few special guests.

“It’s overwhelming. We didn’t think we’d get to this point two or three weeks ago. I didn’t we’d get to this point and be open today,” said Sam Hirani, an investing partner in the 20,000 square-foot facility. “Just the reaction from people — it tells me we did the right thing.”

The building, which includes batting cages, a full-sized indoor infield with turf grass, a fitness area and pitching points, was officially opened by a ceremonial first pitch from Dalton Pompey, who is being touted as the Toronto Blue Jays centerfielder of the future.

He was brought to the organization through the Ontario Blue Jays, of which Pompey is an alumni. The sons of Hirani and investor Trevor Reading play on that team and were able to mine the connection.

“Facilities like these — man, I wish I had these when I was growing up,” said Pompey, who hails from Mississauga, before the official opening ceremony. “I think the kids will get such great use out of a place like this.”

“It’s been crazy. Even in the last week, it’s been insane. Like the amount of followers that we’ve had on social media outlets has been outstanding. It’s a little hard on the cellphone,” said Nyp.

As online: <http://www.waterloochronicle.ca/sports/laurier-baseball-alumn-finishes-field-of-dreams-in-kitchener/>