

Griffin McLarty held first held a bat and glove in Little League baseball, having fun just messing around with his peers.

Ten years later, McLarty is still doing that, but he never imagined it would be as a player in the Major League..

McLarty, a former College of Charleston pitcher, was the 8th-round draft pick by the Baltimore Orioles in the 2019 MLB draft.

Griffin's career during his three years at CofC, was defined by his work ethic and determination, which was a huge factor in being selected by the Orioles.

"I took a great responsibility in taking care of all the little things I could control in my daily routine to be sure I was prepared more than ever, knowing I would be observed critically during my games," said McLarty.

Becoming a professional player is not as glamorous in reality as it seems, McLarty notes. Instead, it is just like any other job. Like everyone else, McLarty had to work just as hard to get to be where he is today.

"I didn't expect it to be glamorous, I knew it was very much a blue collar environment," he said. "You have to work hard and it's a day to day grind. Overall, I enjoy the game enough to stick with it and be around people with the same work ethic and common goal."

McLarty will always be grateful for his time at the College of Charleston and admits he would not be where he is today without his teammates and coaches.

So now he has some advice for young players coming behind him..

"Prepare the hardest in the fall, work on your game-day rituals everyday," he said. "When it comes time to play, just go out there and have fun."

Continuing to be a good role model is even more motivation for working hard, playing through adversity and perseverance even when the season, the games and the road is tough.

McLarty leads a good example for the younger generation of little league players to dream big and never sell themselves short, but always be grateful for whatever opportunity presents itself.

"I will always appreciate my Little League days and the time I had in college, but I am very grateful for the opportunity that not many people have. I want to take advantage of it the best I can."