



Dear Hockey Community:

Here is an update to Derek Zike's condition as of January 23, 2009.

Derek's breathing issue is moving in the right direction. In summary, Derek ingested some food into his airway creating a breathing difficulty and required the implementation of assisted breathing. Derek was sedated and a breathing apparatus was placed into his lungs to assist with his breathing.

To treat the breathing issue Derek underwent a bronchoscopy yesterday. A bronchoscopy is a medical procedure to visualize the lungs and perhaps remove foreign material from the lungs. Derek's bronchoscopy was successful in that the doctors were able to remove a significant amount of mucus which had developed in his lungs. He handled the procedure well and although he is partially sedated, his mood is good. Once his blood gases return to something closer to "normal", the thought is Derek will be taken off the breathing apparatus and will breathe on his own. When he is weaned off the breathing apparatus, Derek will hopefully be moved out of intensive care again.

The Fury and Arctic are planning a benefit for Friday, February 13, 2009, at Arctic Ice Arena in Orland Park, Illinois. The planning is ongoing and, once completed, will be placed on the Fury website for all to see. In addition, a trust for Derek and a financial account should be completed either Friday or Monday. The information discussing how families may contribute to the fund will also be placed on the Fury website.

Please return frequently to the Chicago Fury website for updates on Derek's condition and forthcoming information on how the hockey community may help Derek and his family.

Thank you for your thoughts and concerns and please keep your prayers coming.

The Chicago Fury