



Dear Hockey Community:

Here is an update to Derek Zike's condition as of February 12, 2009.

Derek's surgeries are completed for the time being. Derek's surgeries ranged from the date of the injury to a few days ago and included the removal of bone fragments from the spinal cord to a completion of the fusion to the injured area. Despite a few setbacks with his breathing, Derek tolerated the surgeries well. All of Derek's incisions healed nicely.

In the last two days, ALL of Derek's IV lines and breathing tubes were removed and he is progressing very nicely on his breathing. In addition, his appetite is getting stronger every day and he is now "eating like a horse" to regain some of the significant weight loss he suffered in addition to the spinal injuries. He is currently eating without any assistance from a caloric intake perspective and he should continue to eat on his own.

Derek's current "feel" line is approximately 4 inches below his nipple line along his chest. While that may not seem like good news, it is truly good news. Since the time of the injury, the "feeling" line has moved down these four inches and clearly the progress is moving in the correct direction.

In addition, Derek is experiencing a lot of pain and burning sensations to his legs and arms, particularly his fingers. The medical staff puts him through daily extensive physical therapy and between the pain, burning and physical therapy, Derek is exhausted by the end of the day. The burning and pain, while clearly not an enjoyable experience for Derek, appears to show some progress for the nerves injured in the incident. While the news seems to be good, the waiting for additional progress is taxing on Derek and his family.

Derek's current condition permitted him to move from ICU to another room in the hospital. Although the wait to move to another room was extended because the hospital was full, Derek moved to the step down room yesterday. His current address is:

C.S. Mott Children's Hospital
1500 East Medical Center Drive
6 Mott 6698-1
Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

In addition to his physical therapy, the medical staff moves Derek to a 45 degree position using a slide board. As his blood pressure adjusts to the movement from a laying position to the 45 degree position, and by using a cable and pulley system to stabilize Derek, they eventually move him to 90 degrees (essentially upright).

A reporter for the Detroit News, Joanne Gerstner, wrote a great article about Derek and his trials and tribulations to date. It is a definite must read and can be found at the following link:
<http://detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090210/SPORTS07/902100325/1004>

Derek is maintaining a tremendous outlook and is highly motivated in every aspect of his medical treatments.

This past weekend, when the Fury minor midget team played two games against Team Illinois, one of the Fury parents, Mr. Boris, set up a live streaming video of the game permitting Derek to watch his team play two great games against TI. Derek's only complaint was that he wanted two wins and not a weekend split with TI!

While Derek and his family work on his recovery, there is still more the community can do to help them.

The Fury and Arctic benefit for Derek and his family is **TOMORROW**, Friday, February 13, 2009, at Arctic Ice Arena in Orland Park, Illinois. The event includes a charity game of former professional players, a four course dinner at the Arctic restaurant, silent auction, chuck-a-puck and other activities. The Fury website has a link to the evening's events so please take a look at the website and plan on attending the event as a show of support for the Zikes!

You may contribute an item to the silent auction and any items which you wish to donate to the silent auction may be delivered to:

Arctic Ice Arena
c/o John Stevens
Zike Benefit
10700 West 160th Street
Orland Park, IL 60467

If you wish to make a financial contribution, please open the Chicago Fury website (www.chicagofury.com) and click the link entitled, "Contribution Information for Derek Zike" and you will see information to send a financial contribution directly to the bank account established for Derek's trust.

Please return frequently to the Chicago Fury website for updates on Derek's condition and other information regarding Derek and his family.

The Fury looks forward to seeing you at the benefit!

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

The Chicago Fury