



March 6, 2009

Dear Hockey Community

Below is an update on the condition of Derek Zike, the Midget Minor U16 player who was injured in January. This is a letter from dad.

Hi everyone, Derek has been busy of late he has been perfecting his driving skills in his new power chair and enjoying his independence. The therapists were elated yesterday when he started using his tricep muscles. Derek has practiced laying on his stomach and raising his head to strengthen his neck muscles and using momentum rolling side to side. He seems to be eating more now and we can't keep enough peanut butter in stock. Derek practiced holding a cup today which was difficult but he just kept at it .His arms were tired today from his intense workout yesterday and he struggled to get through his therapy session ..Grandma said he was a little grumpy today, ha!

Robin has been researching rehab places in Indy this week and gathering information to see where Derek can go once he gets home. Robin's ribs are feeling better and her arm is still tender. I tried to sign her cast last night when she was sleeping but she busted me. She went to her salon today to have her hair done, she thoroughly enjoyed this since it has been taking her two plus hours just to wash and dry it. All the girls at the salon have been doing her clients hair and donating the money to Derek's fund! Thanks to all of you!

I have been working and it is so hard to focus with everything going on. The neighbors came over last and helped move furniture from the living room and den to make room for the new bath and bedroom. A good friend of ours (Joe Logan) is leading a team of craftsman to do the remodeling. Our friend Todd Kohne has been hear the past two days helping get our computer going .This has been overwhelming trying to work and oversee the house

transformation. Sometimes I feel like I'm walking through this valley all alone and carrying this unbelievable load which I cannot even begin to explain. I have never asked for anything from anybody my entire life, but now I'm asking you to pray for me and my family to give us strength to get through this.

Derek wanted me to add that Mike Babcock of the Detroit Redwings visited today and brought an autographed jersey and told him of he wanted to go to the Wings game just give him a call. What a class act! Also a father of two Team Illinois players (Morbeck) came by yesterday and brought autographed jerseys from the Milwaukee Admirals and Manitoba Moose. On a closing note Derek was excited when he heard that there was a new episode of (The Office) on tonight.

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up and helped during this difficult time .Mike