



April 13, 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 is having a great week; he is having more trace movements in his legs (quadriceps and hamstrings) and small movement in his feet. Derek used the lat machine in physical therapy and worked out using 30lb weights. Some trace movements in his fingers and feeling on the top of his hands. He has also been working on caething himself with lots of success. Robin and I have been here this week training to take care of him .We have been working on transfer to and from his bed and chair and he is getting stronger and making progress. Derek has been mentally very strong and the therapist says he is in an athlete ZONE, very determined and focused. Derek has been fitted with a manual wheelchair with power assist (every time Derek pushes the wheelchair it will go about 5-10 times farther electronically assisted than a regular wheelchair, which will save his rotator cuffs (shoulder) over time. Derek is excited about coming home April 8th, he is looking forward to seeing all his friends.

Yesterday we got some good news, the hospital informed us that an anonymous donor donated a voice accessible cell phone, laptop computer with joy stick and trackball, and voice activated software. There are some great people out there, the unfortunate thing being anonymous is you can't thank them, so I hope they read this and we want to thank them and know how grateful we are! Thank You! The PICU unit brought Derek a MOTT'S HOCKEY jersey and said they are going to autograph it. A special thanks to all the Doctors, Nurses, and Therapist in the PICU who worked so hard to get Derek where he is today, and thanks for their

continued support and compassion, these people are the best at what they do and we were very fortunate to be at University of Michigan when this tragedy struck. Derek and his family will never forget what you did for him!!! Thank You!

I would like to thank Dick Miller for bringing an autographed picture of Bobby Orr; it says "To my friend Derek #1, sincere best wishes Bobby Orr #4". Thanks to Bobby Orr for taking the time to touch a boys heart! Also best wishes to Tim Miller #18 UM hockey player for being drafted to the Columbus Blue Jackets and playing for the Syracuse Crunch. Thanks to the Indianapolis Ice organization for having a fundraiser at the hockey game last Saturday night .It had some special meaning to it with both the Indy and Chicago teams playing each other (both teams banged their sticks and had a huge applause when they announced Derek's name. Thanks to Jana Strain and Juliana Kohne and their families for organizing the silent auction and all their hard work. Thanks to Phillip Wilson for putting together a great article in the Indy Star and helping support the fundraiser event. Thanks to Sam's teachers for helping to paint Derek's bedroom and bathroom and coming to the hockey game, I think we have some new hockey fans.

The house is coming along; all the painting is finished thanks to Kari Hoekzema, Kevin Johnson, Adam, Steve Kohne, and my Mom. The plumbing should be finished tomorrow and the French doors should be installed soon. Thanks to Pat June, Joe Logan, Lindel Smith, Chip Hadden, John Schwarz, and Scott Hoekzema for all their help on the house transformation. You guys all are truly a blessing to us! Thank you!

Thanks to these restaurants for being so generous with great food (the Brown Jug, Connor O'Neils, Blue Leprechaun, Mcdonalds, Creekside, Angelo's, Pizza House) all of Ann Arbor.

MTV will be going home with us and documenting Derek's progress, maybe everyone could greet Derek when he gets home on the 8th; we will let you all know his time of arrival. All for now, Mike