



**Letter from Mrs. Zike**  
**2/10/09**

Hockey families and friends,

We have had allot of trial and error on the lungs the last few days. I believe the conclusion is to stay on the bypap during sleeping hours. Taylor was here to celebrate his 16th bday and he was thrilled to see Derek in the wheelchair. Deb Desimone and Brianna (Derek's host mom and big sis from Chicago) visited.

It was the shot in the arm he needed. Derek is off all IV and isn't on as many heavy drugs and it seemed he was having an emotional time. We thought it was just pain from being in the chair for awhile but I think it was more emotional and that is when the DeSimone's showed (perfect). They stayed with Derek and we drove Taylor to Cleveland on Saturday and watched one game and came back to the hospital. Joe Boris a dad of one of Derek's teammate's webcamed his teams games this weekend. Derek was over the moon excited with their win over TI. And was able to talk to several players and Mr. Boris, and coach Kapsalis after the game. Unfortunately, we lost Sunday in a high scoring 7-6 game. It looks as if Derek is moving rooms to the rehab floor Monday. They have tried to scare us that it will be the toughest thing he has ever been through. They don't know about Fury boot camp.

Eating has been the challenge this week. He has lost weight some scales say 30lbs but they are going with 22lbs in the 3 weeks he has been here. My friend Norma from Indy brought strawberry pies from Grays Cafeteria. She brought 2 Taylor and Derek normally eat one each. Derek had one bite. Then the next day and after we can't feed him enough strawberries. So his appetite seems to be coming back!! Small success we are happy for. In the last week we have had random leg movement we are happy about. It doesn't seem to be deliberate. He has added triceps to his working muscles he didn't have. Mike brought in his hockey stick and he cannot grip it so is really trying to work on his hands.

So, continue to pray especially for a good transition to the hard true reality of a regular room on a regular floor.(sort of regular, our new normal) Normal seems to reinvent itself every couple of days.

Robin

PS I owe so many thank you cards, I want to thank everyone making it possible for us to stay with Derek this is the hardest thing we have ever faced. Your prayers and generosity has been holding us up. Thank you again