



May 17 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 all,

What a great surprise on Wednesday night in the US Hockey League Draft when the Clark Cup Champion Indiana Ice chose Derek Zike with a special pick in the 20th round .They will present Derek with a No. 71 jersey. Owner Paul Skjodt said "The Ice will always hold a spot for Derek and will be waiting for him as he continues his recovery". Coach Blashill called and said he was to welcome to all practices, games, and the locker room now that he is part of the organization and said he wished him well in his recovery.

What a classy move from the Ice organization !!!!

Derek has three weeks of school under his belt now and completed two credits and is hungry for more. He has enjoyed seeing all his friends. He has been working hard in therapy and last week while sitting on a therapy table with arms at his sides he lifted his bottom off the mat two inches, and he continues to work on transfers and getting stronger. On Mother's day he had to go to the hospital for a respiratory problem (caught a cold or seasonal allergy and his lungs aren't strong enough to cough up stuff) so he spent the night as a precaution and was home the next day by noon.

Robin started back to work Monday and worked four twelve hour days in a row but really enjoyed seeing all her clients .Sam has been running track and he finished second in the 800 m. Taylor enjoyed a trip to Toronto for a hockey tournament with the U18 Ice team last weekend.

MTV came Tuesday and spent three days with Derek, they rode to therapy with Derek and also spent the day at school one day. Sounds like MTV will be back one more time to film and then air sometime in July. Special thanks to the Detroit Red Wings organization Coach Babcock, players Maltby and Draper for auctioning off two special hockey sticks during their playoff game and raising \$14,000.00 for Derek and Kyle(the other hockey player injured that spent time in the hospital with Derek).

Also Derek's coach Marc Kapsalis is training like mad for his 200 mile Bike-for-Zike ride starting Thursday and ending Sunday. If anyone is interested in riding with marc the full 200 miles or joining in 50 or 25 miles out and ending at our house, or simply pledging your rider or supporting Marc feel free to contact him at 630-359-5531 or mkapsalis@comcast.net . Marc is doing this ride to raise money for additional therapy sessions so Derek can continue to make more progress.

We just took Derek to see Star Trek and he jumped out of his chair when the monster was chasing Capt. Kirk. All you trekkies it's a great movie .We ordered a therapy mat table 5'x7' w/ raising capability so we can stretch him and have some therapy done in our home. We are looking at ordering a motorized bike for Derek that will move his legs and a built in arm bike that will build tone in his legs and work his arms while providing some cardio.

Thanks for all of your prayers and letters and e-mails, each day seems to get a little easier but we dont know what to expect or what's around the corner. Each day with your thought and prayers you give us strength and hope. May God bless all of you, Mike