



June 2, 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,

School is out and Derek had completed two credits and was working on a third, he has enjoyed school and seeing all his friends and teachers. He said he was looking forward to sleeping in this morning. Derek went to friends graduation parties and visited friends for the Stanley Cup over the weekend. Derek was getting burnt out on therapy every day and seemed to be frustrated at times but a call from his coach (Mark Kapsalis) last week seemed to get him fired up again. Derek visited the Fishers rink last week and while he was there he said to his Mom "this was a bad idea, I really want to be skating right now." He visited with coaches Mike Berger and Mark Catron while at the rink last week and joked around with all the hockey dads.

Derek continues to make progress in therapy with transfers and getting stronger. He is practicing dressing himself and it really wears him out. He will change therapy next week from 5day x 2hrs to 3days x 3hrs and we will have a friend come next week who is a Occupational Therapist to help Derek on the other two days. We purchased a 6'x8' therapy mat table and a Motomed motorized leg and hand bike for therapy at home.

Last week the NAHL(North American Hockey League) chose Derek with their number 1 overall pick in the draft and set up an auction to raise money for Derek's special needs fund. What a first class move from this organization. Derek was thrilled to see his name in the draft. The hockey world is amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!! A special thanks to the Ingersall Rand

Corporation for donating and installing a auto-operator door in our house with push wall plates and remote control for his wheelchair. Now as Derek is rolling out the door opens automatically. Thanks to the Grosse Ile JV Prep hockey team, Racer Bantam Minor team, and John Huntebrinker for their donations to Derek's fund. The bike-a-thon was postponed for three weeks for more training time.

Thanks to everyone for helping Derek and his Family during this difficult time, without all of you we could not have got through this! And I cannot say enough about the HOCKEY COMMUNITY, Wow! all of you continue you to be amazing !!!!!!. Pray for Derek that he continues to stay mentally strong and keeps making progress in therapy and gets more feeling and movement in his fingers and legs.

Thanks Mike