



November 15, 2009

Dear Hockey Community

Below is an update on the condition of Derek Zike, the Midget Minor U16 player who was injured in January 09. This is a letter from dad.

Hi All, Derek is busy with school and homework and going to hockey games. Derek was at the home opener of the Indy ICE hockey team, where the banner was raised for the 08/09 Clark Cup Champions. They introduced the team one by one through the mascot entrance with flashing lights and fog and last but not least they introduced Derek who spun his wheels at first on the ice but was helped to center ice with his teammates to a standing ovation. His mom and dad were overcome with emotions as we saw our son during one his happiest moments. What a class organization to do this for Derek. After each period he would take off for the locker room to take in all the hockey talk and motivation from Coach Blashill and staff. Derek proudly wore his new hockey jersey and he said "I think my team is going to good this year!" As he watched the game people would stop by and introduce themselves and welcome him to the team. Last weekend the ICE booster club invited him for pizza and drinks after the game. His brother's Taylor and Sam took him to the game on Halloween and Taylor drove, Derek was a little concerned about Taylor driving but everything went well and they watched the ICE play in their new Halloween jerseys. Derek doesn't seem to have any problem picking up corndogs or cotton candy while at the game, and he loves all the hockey. Last week during the game Bershbach came off the ice and tapped the glass and nodded to Derek, Derek nodded back and raised his hand. Our friend and former ICE player Lubos Krajcovic took Derek to the game last weekend in the van, Derek loves when his friends come by and take him to the game, he is 17 and doesn't always want to be around mom and dad.

Derek seems to be in a lighter mood now that he is not overwhelmed with four hours of therapy each day. He is getting

more sleep except for last Sunday night when I awoke to Derek screaming and yelling I thought he fell out of bed .I ran downstairs to my surprise he has a huge smile on his face and he says "you are not going to believe this, the Colts came back and beat the Patriots 35-34. We had a Halloween party and Derek was dressed up like Nascar guy. The name on his shirt was REX EASELY. Derek went with the whole family to the biggest hockey tournament of the year in Chicago, the Nike/Bauer Tournament and watched Taylor and Sam play to games each day. Lots of driving back and forth to each rink, but Derek did well. Sam's games were at 7am so we had to get up at 4:30 to get him ready and going which makes for a long day. Taylor's team played well and had three close games but did not advance, and Sam's team played solid and made it to the 1/4 finals and lost to the eventual champion 2-1.Derek is excited his favorite player Alex Ovechkin came off the injured list tonight and they are beating the Rangers 3-2.

Derek continues to do more with his hands and he can move himself around in bed. One night he dropped the bed controls and we heard him yell and Robin ran downstairs to see the foot of the bed up in the air and the head to the floor. So the blood was rushing to his head, he was ok and he and mom had a good laugh. He does electronic stimulation on his arms and legs each day and rides the bike twice a week and we agree looking into taking him to an indoor track for exercise and cardio. Derek continues to get e-mails and letters of encouragement, if you would like to contact Derek directly you can send him an e-mail at chicagofury71@yahoo.com .

Derek and his mom have been writing letters to colleges and personal statements and are picking colleges to visit. Derek wants to go to a school with a hockey program.