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NHLOA News

Minnesota Visit

Monday, March 09, 2009

Minnesota Zebras Care Visit

"Owen, you have to make a better effort eating your vegetables, Bryson, don't push your luck by trying to put off going to bed tonight." Those were two of the last things I said to my sons, Saturday night before they went to sleep. Talk about frivolous battles.



On Sunday, February 8th, approximately one hour before the start of our National Hockey League game at the Xcel Center in Minneapolis MN, my 3 Co workers, Paul Devorski, Tom Kowal, Scott Driscoll and I, realized what real battles are.

Allow me to introduce four special individuals; Coy Anderson 16, Coy has T-Cell ALL Leukemia, it's a rare form of cancer in his blood cells. Joey Schwartz 14, Joey has been diagnosed with an even rarer form of Cancer called Midline Carcinoma, Logan Olivero 12, Logan has just undergone a bone marrow transplant, he has been home only four short days after being in the hospital since May 08. Last but certainly not least, is Isaiah Mulder 5, Isaiah as well is just recovering from a bone marrow transplant.

These four courageous young men are in a real battle, they along with their very loving

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SITEMAP

NHLOA FEATURES

Question of the Week



NHLOA Merchandise



and supportive parents are in a battle to live, a battle to survive, a battle for their lives.

We met these special children along with their parents thru our National Hockey League Officials Program called Zebra's care, we were joined by a non profit group called HopeKids. They set up programs for children with critical health issues. They allow them go to different events throughout the Minneapolis St.Paul area.

The Minnesota Wild as well are strong supporters of events such as this and they are represented today by their Coordinator of Community Giving, Rachel Schuldt, the Wild along with approximately 15 other NHL teams are on board with us as we try to add a couple of hours of sunshine for these children, in otherwise, very long and tough days.

Our visit lasts for about 35 minutes, all of us moving around visiting with the different children and trying to get to know as much as we can about them in such a very short time. They are so polite, and enjoyable, besides the masks they wear to prevent them from inhaling germs, and the toques to cover their hairless little heads, you could not tell they were sick. They are excited to be there but we are more excited to have them.

The game ends, Scott and Tommy still have a couple of more days on the road, they will be staying overnight, Paul and I are fortunate enough to catch flights home this evening.

I arrive home at 9:25 PM , I walk up the stairs to the bedrooms of my children to check on each of them, both are sleeping peacefully, not a thought in mind for what we have seen today, and as I bend down to kiss their little warm cheeks, to say hello and good night, I think to myself, Don't worry about eating all your veggies O, and B, if you want to stay up a little later tomorrow night, it's OK with Dad.

Thanks Coy, Joey, Logan and Isaiah, for teaching us adults the difference between frivolous battles and real ones, and Thanks for taking time out of your day to spend it with us.

Vaughan Rody

NHL Linesman



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