

MIKES UPDATE:

Hi everyone, Derek is having a great week , he is having more trace movements in his legs (quadriceps and hamstrings)and small movement in his feet. Derek used the lat machine in physical therapy and worked out using 30lb weights. Some trace movements in his fingers and feeling on the top of his hands. He has also been working on caething himself with lots of success. Robin and I have been here this week training to take care of him .We have been working on transfer to and from his bed and chair and he is getting stronger and making progress. Derek has been mentally very strong and the therapist say he is in a athlete ZONE, very determined and and focused. Derek has been fitted with a manual wheelchair with power assist (every time Derek pushes the wheelchair it will go about 5-10 times farther electronically assisted than a regular wheelchair, which will save his rotator cuffs (shoulder) over time. Derek is excited about coming home April 8th, he is looking forward to seeing all his friends.

Yesterday we got some good news, the hospital informed us that an anonymous donor donated a voice accessible cell phone, laptop computer with joy stick and trackball, and and voice activated software. There are some great people out there, the unfortunate thing being anonymous is you can't thank them, so I hope they read this and we want to thank them and know how grateful we are ! Thank You ! The PICU unit brought Derek a MOTT'S HOCKEY jersey and said they are going to autograph it. A special thanks to all the Doctors, Nurses, and Therapist in the PICU who worked so hard to get Derek where he is today, and thanks for their continued support and compassion, these people are the best at what they do and we were very fortunate to be at University of Michigan when this tragedy struck. Derek and his family will never forget what you did for him !!! Thank You !

I would like to thank Dick Miller for bringing an autographed picture of Bobby Orr ,it says "To my friend Derek #1, Sincere best wishes Bobby Orr #4". Thanks to Bobby Orr for taking the time to touch a boys heart! Also best wishes to Tim Miller #18 UM hockey player for being drafted to the Columbus Blue Jackets and playing for the Syracuse Crunch. Thanks to the Indianapolis Ice organization for having a fund raiser at the hockey game last Saturday night .It had some special meaning to it with both the Indy and Chicago teams playing each other (both teams banged their sticks and had a huge applause when they announced Derek's name. Thanks to Jana Strain and Juliana Kohne and their families for organizing the silent auction and all their hard work. Thanks to Phillip Wilson for putting together a great article in the Indy Star and helping support the fund raiser event. Thanks to Sam's teachers for helping to paint Derek's bedroom and bathroom and coming to the hockey game , I think we have some new hockey fans . The house is coming along, all the painting is finished thanks to Kari Hoekzema, Kevin Johnson, Adam, Steve Kohne, and my Mom. The plumbing should be finished tomorrow and the french doors should be installed soon. Thanks to Pat June, Joe Logan, Lindel Smith, Chip Hadden, John Schwarz, and Scott Hoekzema for all their help on the house transformation. You guys all are truly a blessing to us ! thank you ! Thanks to these restaurants for being so generous with great food (the Brown Jug, Connor O'Neils, Blue Leprechaun, McDonalds, Creekside, Angelo's, Pizza House ) all of Ann Arbor. MTV will be going home with us and documenting Derek's progress, maybe everyone could greet Derek

when he gets home on the 8th, we will let you all know his time of arrival. All for now, Mike

Hi everyone, Derek has been busy of late he has been perfecting his driving skills in his new power chair and enjoying his independence. The therapists were elated yesterday when he started using his tricep muscles. Derek has practiced laying on his stomach and raising his head to strengthen his neck muscles and using momentum rolling side to side. He seems to be eating more now and we can't keep enough peanut butter in stock. Derek practiced holding a cup today which was difficult but he just kept at it. His arms were tired today from his intense workout yesterday and he struggled to get through his therapy session ..Grandma said he was a little grumpy today, ha!

Robin has been researching rehab places in Indy this week and gathering information to see where Derek can go once he gets home. Robin's ribs are feeling better and her arm is still tender. I tried to sign her cast last night when she was sleeping but she busted me. She went to her salon today to have her hair done , she thoroughly enjoyed this since it has been taking her two plus hours just to wash and dry it. All the girls at the salon have been doing her clients hair and donating the money to Derek's fund ! Thanks to all of you !

I have been working and it is so hard to focus with everything going on. The neighbors came over last and helped move furniture from the living room and den to make room for the new bath and bedroom. A good friend of ours (Joe Logan) is leading a team of craftsman to do the remodeling. Our friend Todd Kohne has been hear the past two days helping get our computer going .This has been overwhelming trying to work and oversee the house transformation. Sometimes I feel like I'm walking through this valley all alone and carrying this an unbelievable load which I cannot even begin to explain. I have never asked for anything from anybody my entire life, but now I'm asking you to pray for me and my family to give us strength to get through this.

Derek wanted me to add that Mike Babcock of the Detroit Red Wings visited today and brought an autographed jersey and told him of he wanted to go to the Wings game just give him a call. What a class act ! Also a father of two Team Illinois players (Morbeck) came by yesterday and brought autographed jersey's from the Milwaukee Admirals and Manitoba Moose. On a closing note Derek was excited when he heard that there was a new episode of (The Office) on tonight.

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up and helped during this difficult time.

Mike