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1650 **Houses For Sale**



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Walter

From Page 1

this affect his baseball? according to his mother, Marcia, a board member with the Yankton Baseball Association

"He was upset, as any 16year-old would be," Marcia said. "You think this was behind you, and now you're battling it again."

The only thing Adam could do was fight. Again.

Since his surgery, Walter has traveled to Sioux Falls for radiation treatments five times a week, usually early in the morning. The team of doctors at the Sanford Children's Hospital pinpoint the procedures at Walter's neck and chest.

The uncomfortable examinations leave Walter feeling tired and with a persistent sore throat, his mother said.

"He's never once complained about going up for radiation," Marcia said. "He gets himself up and it's in the car.' Treating the disease early

and often, as research has pointed out, is usually the best way to overcome it. According to research from

the National Cancer Institute, persons with Stage 2 Hodgkin's disease have a survival rate of about 90 percent. A report from the University of Maryland Medical Center claims Hodgkin's disease "is considered one of the most curable forms of cancer, especially if it is diagnosed and treated early."

As his friends say, it's not necessarily an "if" with Walter's second battle, but a when.

"It doesn't really seem to affect him. He's good at not showing it," said Allie Thiesse, a friend and classmate at YHS. "He's very motivated to kick cancer's butt again.

LOVE OF BASEBALL

If there are two passions in Walter's life, they are baseball and hunting, his mother said. When baseball season is over, Walter and his father, Mark, can often be found across the area with their bows and rifles. They have even traveled south to hunt warthogs.

Baseball, however, heads the list, Marcia said.

That's his goal. He'll play ball and he'll prove that this won't keep him done, and it shouldn't keep anyone down,' she said. "He's not going to let cancer stop him. There's no debate, he will play baseball

Krajewski

From Page 1

we'll go to the football field and measure out his throws. Whatever it is, we'll do it. ... We even put up a badminton net in our backyard."

Miles has participated in the National Games each of the last three years, but this will be his first year competing in team sports, where he will play with athletes from the U.S.. Canada and the UK.

It will also be his first time at the international event. "It'll be good, fun opportu-

nity for him," mother Erica said. "I would guess he would try again, depending on where the next one would The Games, hosted by the

Dwarf Athletic Association of America, are open to any athlete who meets the definition of dwarfism. Far from a stranger to

sports, Miles is active in the Yankton scene — with youth soccer, Sertoma baseball and ice hockey, among others. The difference there, though, is that his size puts him behind his peers, Mike said.

"One of the things that I tell people is that this is his chance to compete on a level playing field," Mike said. "He plays other sports across town, but he'll always be at a disadvantage.

Miles will be joined in Michigan by his father and older sister. Mike said he plans to coach some of the team sports, such as basketball and volleyball.

there will be an athletes' village and an opening ceremonies at the World Dwarf Games. Put together, the whole

"My biggest hope is to

in an athletic event." You can follow Jeremy and he will hunt."

Walter's doctors, in fact. have actually encouraged him to maintain his normal baseball schedule, Marcia added.

"If that's what will help you fight it, keep going with it,

An absence of baseball in his life would not provide him with an outlet from his battle, Walter said.

"It's what I look forward to every day," he said. "If I wouldn't have baseball when I got home, I wouldn't have anything to get excited about. It keeps me more normal: still going to games, still playing." Along with regular

chemotherapy treatments, Walter also had to deal with a blood clot in his arm during the spring of 2012. He played for the Yankton High School club team that spring with a pick line in his arm, as he did during a Mount Marty College hitting camp.

In the weeks leading up to that camp, Marcia emailed MMC head coach Andy Bernatow to say Adam still wanted to attend — and that his doctors suggested he keep playing.

We've been able to see that passion at our camps, and with me being part of the YBA, you can tell he definitely loves the game," Bernatow said. "What he's going through is definitely challenging for him, but having something like baseball, that he has so much passion for, is a great outlet.'

Also during the spring of 2012, Walter was invited to throw out the first pitch at Mount Marty's home baseball opener at Riverside Field. The Lancers are looking to have a similar ceremony next spring, Bernatow said.

Just don't expect Walter to lob the ceremonial first pitch to home plate. That's not his style, the coach said.

In terms of that mindset, it's been there from day one,' Bernatow said. "Baseball has been a great outlet for him."

SUPPORT SYSTEM

While Walter has continued his appointments in Sioux Falls (he has passed the halfway mark of his radiation since the surgery), others across Yankton have built an ever-growing support system.

The Facebook group "Walter's Warriors," maintained by Thiesse and Pauline Rhoades, among others, is nearing 1,000 likes — the ultimate goal. Along with photos and wellwishes, the page also includes CaringBridge updates from the Walter family.

Baseball, as one would ex-

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24Within one's powers 26 Skirt edge 29 Whodunit find 30 Church part

31 Friend of Harry and Hermione 32 Lulu 34 Not napping 37 Piece of land 38Traveler's

stop

39 Small pies

EKMIMEI

Just like in the Olympics,

experience will serve to showcase athletes with dwarfism, to give them a chance to educate others, Mike said.

raise awareness of his condition," Mike said. "A lot of people know him and know what he has, but you still get the occasional look. "This is Miles competing

Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

pect, figures prominently on the page, Thiesse said. When he's on the diamond, nothing else affects him. It's good for him, I think," she said. "Last year with all

PAGE 11

in 90 days. That's a lot of time to distract you." Because Walter is primarily a catcher, the initial thought was to include that theme on a T-shirt. As Thiesse said, the phrase 'catch cancer' doesn't really work. So 'strikeout can-

his teams, he played 70 games

cer' was chosen. Rhoades has also been instrumental in the Facebook group and helping with shirt orders. Such orders have come in from various towns and baseball teams across the state, Thiesse said, as well as from a former Yankton baseball player at a military base in Texas.

YHS also plans to sell Tshirts at the first home Bucks football game at Crane-Youngworth Field in August.

The first shirts came off the line last Monday at JJ Benji-Screen Printing & Embroidery in Yankton. Rhoades purchased 150 shirts by that afternoon, according to Jaci Benjamin.

'It's amazing, because you get to hear a lot of peoples' stories," said Benjamin, who is a part-owner with her husband, Jeff. "The man with the Aberdeen baseball association lost his son to cancer at age 21, and he wanted to help out."

As did various other people across Yankton. YHS principal Jennifer Johnke sent a mass email to fellow principals across the state, as did activities director Ryan Mors to his contacts in the state.

The collective result has been an outpouring of support for Walter.

"It's like brushing our teeth for you and me, but he's gets up to go to radiation. It's his routine," Benjamin said. More than simply trying to

draw attention to their son, the Walter family has consistently used Adam's plight as a way to turn the focus back to ongoing cancer research — in the hope that one day, others will not have to follow his "We just want other people to know that cancer affects

everyone. It's not someone you don't know, it's someone you know right here locally," Marcia said. "We need to find a cure for cancer. "Cancer sucks; there's no other way to put it."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

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AXYDLBAAXR

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7-15 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

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