

Prince George Citizen, Page 4, 20-Jun-2008 Support for son immense By Tom Smith

As I write this letter, our son Scott has just been discharged after four days in hospital, recovering from a serious head injury suffered on Sunday during a soccer game against Kamloops. The injury was a result of what can only be termed as a violent act by the goalie, but that is not the point of this letter.

I want to try and express our thanks to the many people who have made a family's worst nightmare somehow bearable and our son's recovery less traumatic. There are too many names to mention, but I sincerely hope that anyone involved will recognize their contribution and accept our most heartfelt appreciation.

From the moment Scott hit the turf unconscious, there has been nothing but class, compassion, professionalism, and love from all involved. On the field we had a paramedic and nurses (parents) who gave Scott essential initial care. We also had the parents and coaches, who defused what was a very volatile situation, turning it into a proud moment for Prince George sports by demonstrating class and restraint. This is especially true of the many Kodiak players, who were on the sidelines and were able to hold their emotions in check. Tells you something about the discipline our teams have learned!

We have received awesome care. To watch your son stop breathing is crushing, but the ambulance paramedics were supportive and reassuring. All the way through, doctors and nurses handled Scott so well. They took every precaution, double checked every move, followed his progress, and were there for us, too. Words cannot convey our fear seeing him in that state, but from the ER to ICU, where Scott spent the night sedated and intubated and then pediatrics, where the nurses were fantastic with him and us.

Our biggest THANKS go out to all of the teammates, parents, friends, colleagues, and especially coaches/managers. You know who you are. Your visits, calls, hugs, tears, food, and kind words are appreciated beyond measure.

I write this on behalf of my wife, Anne, and myself, but there is another who has been so strong, never leaving Scott's side: his older sister Caitlin. She slept by Scott's side in ICU, she understood him when he desperately tried to communicate around the tubes, she gave him hugs.

We continue to be concerned for our son, proud of our daughter, and grateful to all who helped out.

-- Tom Smith

Prince George