



GOOD CAUSE: Marysville goalie Andrew Schunck, 17, has helped organize a hockey fundraiser in honor of his grandmother Leona Schunck, who died from diabetes July 6, 2008. The fundraiser will take place Feb. 19 when Marysville plays St. Clair at McMorrان Pavilion. (By MELISSA WAWZYSKO, Times Herald)



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For Grandma

Marysville goalie to honor loved one, fight disease with fundraiser

By PAUL COSTANZO
Times Herald

Andrew Schunck dedicated a successful summer baseball season to his late grandmother.

Now, the Marysville senior goaltender is doing his part to make sure the disease she was afflicted with one day may be cured.

Schunck has organized a fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association in conjunction with the Vikings' hockey game Thursday against St. Clair at McMorran Pavilion. The faceoff is slated for 8 p.m.

"I'm trying to do something in her memory to get a cure for it," Schunck said. "It kind of started as just a senior project, then it kind of developed into something for her because she always loved to watch me play sports as much as she could get out.

"In her later years, she couldn't get out as much because she couldn't walk as well, and it kind of got to that point."

Jerry "Leona" Schunck died July 6 at the age of 84. She had Type 2 diabetes. After her death, Andrew -- who plans to play baseball next year at Adrian College -- dedicated the remainder of his baseball season to her. He embroidered his hat and wristbands with her name, among other things.

Schunck had a very close relationship with his grandmother, who often would baby-sit him when he was younger. She also was a big supporter on the athletic field.

"She would always fuss because maybe the coach didn't play him enough," Andrew's father, and Jerry's son, Carl Schunck said.

Said Andrew: "When I was younger, and my brother couldn't pick me up from school, I would go to her house. And whatever I didn't want to say to my parents, I could say to her."

As the hockey season was about to begin, he decided to raise money to help combat the disease. The logical choice for a date was the St. Clair game, which is likely to be the Vikings' biggest draw of the season. But Schunck hasn't rested on that.

He has locked up Detroit Red Wings' singer Karen Newman to perform the national anthem at the game and sign autographs for a fee, which will go to the American Diabetes Association. There also will be a raffle for prizes, and Schunck and his teammates have been taking pledges.

Donations also can be made at the game.

"He's driving it, for the most part, but we've all (in the family) been helping out as far as coming up with ideas," Carl Schunck said. "We had hoped (it could be big). Obviously when you have a fundraiser, you want it to be successful. But we won't know until (Feb. 19).

"What we get is appreciated. We're just hoping things will work out."

While Schunck's teammates are helping with the pledge sheets, Marysville Coach Paul Moretz said his goaltender hasn't made it a distraction.

"He hasn't asked for a whole lot (from the team)," Moretz said. "I give Andrew a ton of credit; he's really taken it and run with it."

Schunck said his goal is to raise \$5,000.

"People think it's too much, but why set your goals low?" he said. "I'd rather be short on a high goal than over by a little on a low goal."

Additional Facts

HOW TO HELP

- To make a donation to Andrew Schunck's fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association, call (810) 364-7284. Raffle prizes and money are being accepted. Checks made out to the American Diabetes Association can be mailed to the Schuncks' at 556 South Bartlett Road; St. Clair.
 - The game between the Marysville Vikings and St. Clair Saints is scheduled for 8 p.m. Feb. 19 at McMorran Pavilion.
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