

Sports

Honoring a mom and a friend

Stephen Tobey

Wed Oct 10, 2007, 05:21 PM EDT

CONCORD - When Concord-Carlisle assistant boys soccer coach Steve Wells' mother, Lois, died of ovarian cancer in March, most of the team attended the funeral.

Then they thought about doing something else to honor the memory of the person who brought their well-liked and respected assistant coach into the world. They considered taking part in a walk that raised funds for cancer research, but most of those events required participants to be over 18.

Ultimately, they decided to do what they do best: play soccer.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, the defending MIAA Division 2 state champion Patriots will play Boston Latin under the lights at Memorial Field. Several members of Wells' family will be in attendance. Lois Wells' church choir will sing the national anthem.

All proceeds from the gate and concessions will go to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

"I was so taken aback that the team wanted to do this," Wells said. "I was pretty floored. I felt so loved by the team. The program is about being there for each other and not just on the field."

Said C-C co-captain Ryan Miller, "He's an extremely valuable part of the program. He's always supporting and encouraging us. Sometimes, he's kind of soft-spoken, but he can get us fired up, too."

Wells, a 1999 graduate of Concord-Carlisle, was a goalie on the 1998 team that made it to the Division 2 state finals before bowing to David Prouty High School of Spencer. After high school, he played for Connecticut College and has been on the Patriots' coaching staff for five years.

"He talked about [the 1998 team] a little last year," said Miller, whose mother, Patricia McCarthy, was treated for breast cancer three years ago. "He hasn't brought it up much this year."

Though Wells' primary responsibility with the Patriots is to help develop the goalkeepers, his value to the program goes beyond his knowledge of his position and the game in general.

"Steve is one of the most genuine people you'd ever want to meet," said head coach Ray Pavlik. "He leads by example, showing our players how to carry themselves and be role models. It's hard to find somebody like that in terms of being a quality person, as well as from a soccer standpoint."

Wells works for his brother Dan's ecological consulting firm. Dan also played soccer at C-C and will be in attendance Saturday, along with his sister, Kirstin and his aunt, Beverly Whaley (Lois' sister) and his uncle,

Ross Whaley.

Wells’ job is fairly flexible during the soccer season, allowing him the time to stay connected to the game and the program he loves.

“It’s the highlight of my day,” Wells said. “Being able to hang out with them, see them grow and come back after they graduate is great. It’s really neat to be a part of such a successful program.”

Of course, Lois Wells had a lot to do with the man and the coach Wells has become.

“I don’t know if she was a big soccer fan,” he said, “but she was always very supportive of my brother and I.”

Comments (0)

Leave a Comment:

Add Comment

IYP and SEO vendors: [SEO by eLocalListing](#), [Advertiser profiles](#), [Business directory by Planet Discover](#), [Zope Corp.](#)

