

May 6th, 2014

The Cure Tay-Sachs Classic (CTSC), now in its 4th year, started as a small 4 team high school baseball tournament at Olmsted Falls HS to raise awareness for this little-known, yet always fatal, neurological disease that a young Olmsted Falls girl named Dakota Bihn had been diagnosed with. Coach Largent, also a 7th grade history teacher, had Dakota's sister in his class the year before. He was very touched by Dakota's story, and having two young daughters of his own, Brooke, now 6, and Grace, now 4, Coach Largent decided that he wanted to help get the word out about the fight against Tay-Sachs.

1 in 250 people carry the gene, yet little is known about this disease. The Bihn Family, through tireless efforts, has helped change that by raising money (see link below for amounts) and creating awareness through the Cure Tay-Sachs Foundation (CTSFF).

That first CTSC, back in 2011, consisted of 4 teams, including Olmsted Falls, Midview, and North Royalton who have all played in the Classic every year since. Jenn Harcher, a locally-born meteorologist from 19 Action News, also has been a part of the tournament since 2011. In 2012, Coach Largent's alma mater, Berea High became an additional site host. In 2013, 19 schools participated across NE Ohio.

Olmsted Falls won the 1st CTSC title, but the next year Coach Largent decided he'd rather see the Classic expand to multiple sites and get more schools involved, rather than play a "tournament" format.

That 4 team tournament in 2011 has grown to a **24 school** event at sites throughout Northeastern Ohio showcasing some of the best HS baseball teams in the state. Last year, 2 of the D1 State final four teams participated in the CTSC.

Through sponsorships, donations, and more, the Cure Tay-Sachs Classic has raised nearly \$20,000 so far, and we hope to double that number in the next couple years.

Dakota Bihn lost her valiant battle with Tay-Sachs on April 21, 2014. She was 14 years old, and is survived by her parents, Ken and Julie, and sister Bailey.

"Dakota was an angel on earth, and during her time here she raised so much awareness about a disease that so little is still known about. Her fight against Tay-Sachs taught so many of us the meaning of the word STRENGTH. Her parents, Ken and Julie, and her sister Bailey are, simply put, the strongest people I have ever met. They have made it their life's mission to raise awareness and to help find a cure for this disease. Dakota will always be a part of our community, and we have all been blessed to have known her." **-Dan Largent, Head Coach Olmsted Falls HS Baseball and CTSC Founder.**

More information about the Cure Tay-Sachs Foundation, along with a link to donate, can be found at <http://curetay-sachs.org>

Here is the list of teams participating in the 4th Annual Cure Tay-Sachs Classic, and the sites that they will be playing at:

***Host Schools** (Times Subject to Change)

At Olmsted Falls*

Saturday 5/10:

10:00am Olmsted Falls Vs. Bay

12:30pm Newark Licking Valley Vs. Midview

3:00pm Solon Vs. North Royalton

5:30pm Solon Vs. Midview

AT Lakewood HS

10:00am Lakewood Vs. St. Ignatius (Tripleheader 9th-JV-Varsity)

7:00pm Olmsted Falls vs. Newark Licking Valley

At Kenston*

1:00pm Kenston Vs. Chardon

Tri-C* (Turf – No Metal Spikes)

Friday 5/9:

Valley Forge vs Normandy at 5:00 pm

Holy Name vs Parma at 7:00 pm

Saturday 5/10:

Normandy vs HN at 11:00am

Parma vs Forge at 2:00 pm

Beachwood*

vs Conneaut 11:00am

VASJ*

vs Cuyahoga Hts. 11:00am

Shaker*

11:00a. Shaker v Westlake

1:30p. Westlake v West Geauga

4:00p. Shaker v West Geauga

Hudson*

Vs North Olmsted 1:00pm