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## 7-year-old signs Letter of Intent with Saint Mary's Soccer

By Jon Kingdon



Photo provided

Prior to Quentin's third birthday, he was diagnosed with a juvenile pilocytic astrocytomas brain tumor, undergoing 87 weeks of chemotherapy and soon after, 60 more weeks of chemotherapy. Quentin has chosen to wear number 87, signifying his completing the 87 weeks of treatment. Things have improved, says Quentin's mother, Mary: "This past year has been one of stability. The team has been phenomenal in welcoming him from day one to be a teammate."

Team IMPACT is a national nonprofit, whose purpose has been to connect children facing serious or chronic illnesses with college athletic teams. Since its inception in 2011, Team IMPACT has matched over 1,400 children with more than 500 colleges and universities.

Cooper was very enthusiastic about the latest addition to his team: "Quentin has a vibrant personality and a great smile. He is the epitome of charisma. He has strength and courage. We learn a lot from him. Several weeks ago, a few of the players and I drove out to Quentin's house and we were greeted with such warm smiles and enthusiasm. Not long after, our guys and Quentin were having this big nerf gun fight, were just hanging out."

As an official member of the team, Quentin will attend Gaels practices, games, team dinners, events and more surrounding the program.

Steve Dougherty, a midfielder on the Gaels soccer team, shares Cooper's feelings: "We can tell how strong Quentin is. We can learn so much from him on how he deals with adversity and pushes through things."

In 2017, Team IMPACT opened a Northern California Regional office overseeing a number of Western states. Regional Director Kathleen Pedrosa says that the connection with the team helps young people like Quentin: "Their affiliation provides a motivation for them to push through their issues. They learn that 'My teammate has my back.' The children and the athletes form life-long bonds and life-changing outcomes."

Camile Triebcsh, the regional program coordinator and a Campolindo graduate, has the responsibility of connecting the team with the children: "We reach out to the athletic departments and will go with whichever coach is most interested. Though Quentin lives in Oakley, he undergoes his treatments in Oakland which is much closer to Saint Mary's, so that is how we were able to connect Quentin with Saint Mary's."

Standing at the front of the room with Coach Cooper and his mother, Quentin was asked if he would like to say anything. He summed it all up very simply with two words: "Go Gaels!"

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