

The Will To Live Foundation, Inc

For The Kids, Through The Kids, By The Kids



Life Teammates™

A Real-Life story About Life Teammates™ That Took Place in Alpharetta, GA Sunday 3/27/2011

Last night at 5pm we had a baseball game vs a team from Wills Park – Team GA they are called and they are very good, our team, the Northview Jr. Titans (13U age group) played a great game and won – a great win for our boys, but what made it even better was what happened off the field. Before the game, Tommy Trautwein and one of his life teammates, Joey Macrina, went over to the other team’s bench and handed the players “Will to Live” decals to wear on their helmet.



Tommy addressed Team GA saying: “Hey guys, we would really like it if you could wear these stickers on your helmets; it’s in honor of my brother Will who died last year. The Will To Live Foundation is all about becoming great teammates like Will was.” The other team immediately said “Yeah, those are great, of course”.... And Tommy and Joey handed them the stickers...

Then after the game, the opposing coach, Mr. Ed Alba, stopped the “good game- shake hands line” at the pitcher’s mound, and both teams gathered. Coach Alba grabbed one of his player’s helmets and showed the “Will to Live” sticker and said: “Boys, we are so proud to wear this sticker in honor of our friend coach Trautwein and his son Will and their family. We are a baseball brotherhood, and no matter where you guys go, on the field and off, always remember you have this teammate bond, whether you are on the same team or playing against each other, you are teammates in the brotherhood of baseball – John, we are honored to wear this”

I then just chokingly said “on behalf of my son Will who was a wonderful teammate, thanks to all of you guys – I saw two great teams play today, but more importantly I saw great teammates on the field!” Both teams then got together and put their hands in and said “one –two-three – teammates” very loud.

When I got my team together to congratulate them on a well-played game I started to cry and said “boys, what your opponents did was one of the nicest things I’ve seen in a long time. After a tough and frustrating loss, they felt it more important to talk about teammates and my son Will then the game itself. Always remember this boys, that was truly a great thing, better than a homer or a win or a shutout. “If you guys ever get the chance to do something as nice as that, take it... and you will have such a feeling of “goodness” that not even winning a game can match.” I could not go on, and they got together and said the “Titans on 3” cheer.

I then walked away and was crying by myself and my son Tommy came up to me and said “I love you dad” and hugged me very hard for a long time....right in front of all his friends. I liked to thank Ed Alba and Team GA, and the game of baseball for giving me a wonderful moment!

With Love!

Coach Trautwein