

CANCER DOESN'T DETER WINNING SPIRIT



HUDSON DAVIS, 12, developed into one of the best players on the Little League team as he was fighting a brain tumor.

A true gamer

By Carl Steward • In Our Backyard

THE DEGREE to which a boy can love the game of baseball is incalculable. But in the emotionally sear-

ing story of Hudson Davis, we gain some idea. The 12-year-old from Lafayette is nearing the completion of a Little League season in which he helped pitch and hit his team



PHILLIPS SHORTSTOP Jimmy Phillips was touched by Hudson Davis' fight with cancer; he wanted to meet the 12-year-old.

son is that he did all that while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments for a malignant brain tumor discovered long before his season started.

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No divide in math, tests show

Research disproves stereotype that boys are more adept than girls in grasping math, science concepts

By Kimberly S. Wetzel

Here's a word problem with an answer that might surprise you: Does better in math, boys or girls?

A boys' C. On average, they perform the same as girls. D. On average, they perform the same as girls. The answer, according to researchers at UC Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is C. Girls, who historically lagged in math, do just as well as their male counterparts in solving math problems. "The word problems," mostly because they now have the same opportunities to take advanced courses such as calculus, say the researchers, whose results appear in a new issue of the journal *Science*.

They didn't take as many math courses before, so they didn't learn as much math," said Maria Lynn, UC Berkeley educational psychologist.

Many scholars, parents and teachers long have believed that girls aren't as adept as boys in grasping math and science. "For former women's science olympians, it's a real bummer," says Lynn.

The researchers noted that 48 percent of all bachelor's degree holders in math are awarded to women, and their work shows there is no evidence that girls lack mathematical ability. Lynn says the study was funded by the National Science Foundation and others from Wisconsin.

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'Ich bin ein Berliner' — next generation

In Berlin, more than 200,000 turn out to hear Obama deliver foreign policy speech, stress unity

By Margaret Talev

BERLIN In a highly unusual move for an American presidential candidate, Barack Obama staged a foreign policy speech Thursday before a huge, diverse crowd of supporters. He stressed trans-Atlantic cooperation to trim in Iraq, fight religious extremism and terrorism, and address global warming and poverty.

The "people of the world, this is our time," the Democratic hopeful told an enthusiastic outdoor crowd, which local authorities estimated at more than 200,000.

Obama said, "I know my country, the United States and implicit in the name of this country is the victory Column in Berlin on Thursday."



AT A WELCOME-TO-BERLIN event, Obama said, "I know my country, the United States and implicit in the name of this country is the victory Column in Berlin on Thursday."

EXCLUSIVE ONLINE CONTENT: The psychology department at Children's Hospital Oakland is desperately seeking some help.

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Nothing was going to stop Hudson from playing baseball. His persistence inspired his parents, coaches, friends, teammates and even Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins.

For Hudson, the motivation was simple. He wanted to play baseball.

"The only time you saw a smile on the kid's face was when he was on the baseball field," said Greg Davis, Hudson's father. "It was the only time he could really escape all the things that were happening to him. He's been through hell and back with all the stuff he's been through. But playing baseball definitely helped him get through it."

The best news is that the tumor is gone, and that Hudson had his final radiation treatment on Wednesday. He will continue chemotherapy care for the foreseeable future, but the worst appears to be over and his prognosis for survival is excellent.

It may be a stretch to say baseball saved Hudson's life, it helped him survive his ordeal. He was so passionate about playing baseball, on one occasion during his treatment he received a red blood-cell transfusion in Oakland and played in a game 45 minutes later in Lafayette.

"All the nurses went, 'What do you have a game today? Right now?'" recalled Ellen Davis, Hudson's mother. "And he said, 'Yes, can you please hurry this up?' They went into fast speed and got that transfusion finished for him because I think everyone recognized that here's a kid who wants to be on the field so much, we're going to do everything in our power to get him there."

Hudson — Huddy to his friends — has pushed the envelope of believability since January, when he was diagnosed with a rare and tricky-to-treat tumor. A case of diabetes inspires that led to the tumor's detection complicated treatment to the point that after three of his six chemo sessions, he had to spend a week in a windowless intensive care unit at Children's Hospital Oakland.

"I think it's very easy for people to underestimate the effort it took for him to do what he did," said Dr. Joseph Fordison, Hudson's oncologist at Children's Hospital. "This was not mild chemotherapy. But I often tell parents I learn as much from their children as they do from me, because I'm always amazed at how so many of them do incredible things while we're doing what we're doing to them. And I'm amazed by Hudson."

"I regard Hudson as an athlete because he came to us with an athlete's attitude," said Philippa Doyle, director of neuro-oncology at Children's. "He's a healthy young boy who happened to come to us with a brain tumor. But he came in strong. This is not a kid who sits around all day eating naps and watching TV. He's a kid who adores playing with a competitive spirit. I think he recognizes that in himself."

Hudson trained every day in the hospital, but he made use of the time by planning with his dad what practices and games he could make and those he would miss because he would be too sick. The hospital staff made every effort to coordinate Hudson's treatment to accommodate his baseball schedule.

Officials and parents in the Lafayette Little League were determined to make it work for Hudson. In late April, he was scheduled for chemo on the same day league games were scheduled. Six teams involving 72 families unanimously agreed to change the schedule



HUDSON DAVIS stands with teammates after they shaved their heads in solidarity at Amplify Barber Shop in Walnut Creek before the start of the Little League season.

Hudson could play, so Hudson could play. Baseball was the furthest thing from the Davis minds four months earlier, when they learned Hudson had a brain tumor.

"When you're sitting there and someone tells you your child has a brain tumor, it's like someone shot a cannon through your stomach," Ellen Davis said.

As it does with so many families hearing such news Children's Hospital Oakland spiritually embraced the Davys family and rehabilitated them psychologically while Hudson was treated physically. Hudson was a bit scared but also optimistic about continuing to play sports.

"Baseball's No. 1 to me, and I wanted to play," Hudson said Saturday, after pitching two innings in an All-Star tournament in San Ramon. "My dad thought it was a good idea, too. My doctors kind of doubted that I could do it or that I'd have the motivation. But I showed them wrong," Guess Hudson wound up playing all but a handful of games. He said he had to make some adjustments because of his weakened state. He shortened his swing, used a lighter bat and worked harder at bending over on the mound to keep his pitches low.

"Best hitting year he's ever had," said Greg Davis. "He did a great job. And I'll tell you what, the team won when he was there, and they didn't win too much when he wasn't."

Hudson's coach, Peter Zolnitski, never expected him to show up much after chemotherapy began, let alone play and contribute so much.

More were times he would almost look like a newly born horse, that's how Zolnitski said. "But he still went out and did it, and his teammates always wanted him to pitch, even if he could only throw four of the pitches, because they knew how much it meant to him."

Hudson has had the admiration and support of his friends and teammates since the beginning of his difficult process. Perhaps most difficult for Hudson was knowing that he was going to lose all of his hair during chemotherapy. His friends sympathized. Before the season started, 10 of his closest pals at Stanley Woodward School had their heads shaved at Amplify Barber Shop in Walnut Creek. The barbers refused to charge for the haircuts. Other kids wore T-shirts that read "Hud's My Dad."

More recently, during an All-Star tournament, when an unwitting official asked Hudson to remove his cap during the national anthem, his teammates jumped in and said, "Uh-uh, he's not taking off his hat. Leave him alone."

If ... for Hudson's bare



DOUG SPENCER/STAFF

DAVIS, 12, of Lafayette was named to his league's All-Star squad after helping get his team to first place.

scap, you wouldn't suspect he had endured such an ordeal. To be sure, the East Bay all-star teams he pitched against last weekend didn't have a clue. That's exactly how Hudson special. He does not crave special attention, which is why he initially resisted an attempt by Rollins, the reigning National League MVP from Atlanta, to offer encouragement.

Rollins was the subject of a story for Stack magazine, whose publisher, Carl Melchior, is Ellen's brother-in-law. When Mahlope told Rollins about Hudson's ordeal, the Phillies' shortstop was so touched that he asked if he could use the magazine's video equipment to film a personal message to Hudson. Later, Greg discovered that his next-door neighbor knew his father, and an on-field meeting was arranged when the Phillies played at ATEL Park in May.

"Jimmy is a tremendous guy for what he did. Hudson finally watched that video and really took to it," said Greg. "But there have been times that have come his way — special treats and special events — that he has shied away from because he says, 'So-and-so wouldn't do that for me if I wasn't the kid with cancer.' I don't want to say."

Hudson agreed to tell his story only because he hopes it will help kids and adults who are confronted by the same challenges he has endured. Otherwise, he just wants to be known as a young baseball player who caught a tough break.

How would he advise other kids facing a similar challenge?

"Try to keep everything as normal as possible, like going out and playing sports and stuff," Hudson said. "Just do as much as you can outside."

From the beginning, Hudson's parents thought baseball might be a key to Hudson's recovery, particularly after he was forced to withdraw from school in January and

title counts of second-degree robbery.

"You have really taken no responsibility for your actions," Lasater's widow, Jo Ann Luster, told Moffitt at his sentencing hearing in Judge Laurel Richmond courtroom. "You may not have shot Larry, but your actions that day led to his death."

"Larry was a wonderful person — funny, smart and a devoted family man," said the widow, who gave birth to the couple's son, Cody, three months after the killing. "Because of you and the other case, Larry was robbed of being a father and being a father was what he wanted most."

Moffitt was 17 when he and Hamilton robbed a supermarket cashier and bank branch tellers inside a Raley's supermarket and then fled in a stolen car that subsequently crashed. Moffitt had run far from Hamilton, when Lasater was shot by Hamilton, who lay hidden in the grass of the De Anza Trail. Prosecutors said Moffitt took a leadership role in planning the robbery and procured the gun Hamilton used. They charged him with Lasater's murder, under the felony murder rule, which holds accomplices liable when a killing occurs in the commission of certain felonies.

Moffitt has made numerous attempts to get a new trial. He fired his first lawyer, alleging incompetence, and he tried to fire his current attorney Thursday as his sentence was being read. That attorney, G. Wright Morton, has argued Moffitt should not have been tried

Obama

FROM PAGE 1

try has not perfected itself" and "we've made our share of mistakes and there are times when our actions around the world have not lived up to our best intentions."

The Europeans roared with approval.

Speaking before sunset at the Victory Column in Berlin's Tiergarten, to a crowd that stretched close to a mile back to the Brandenburg Gate, the 46-year-old first-term senator, who is extremely popular in Western Europe, recalled the celebration after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

He warned that today, "the greatest danger of all is to allow new walls to divide us from one another."

Obama employed European leaders to send more military troops to fight al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan alongside the United States.

"America cannot do this alone. The Afghan people need our troops and our troops," he said.

"In Europe, the view that America is part of what has gone wrong in our world, rather than a force to help make it right, has become all too common," he said. "In America, there are voices that denude and deny the importance of Europe's role in our security and our future. Both views miss the truth."

Obama and his campaign have sought to downplay the campaigner aspects of the Berlin appearance and his entire foreign trip this week.

"I speak to you not as a candidate for president, but as a citizen," he said. "I'm proud citizen of the United States and a fellow citizen of the world."

The line itself, echoed President John F. Kennedy's famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech here in 1963, when JFK said that "all free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin."

Obama arrived in Germany on Thursday morning to much

mad, three several, doctors to assess Moffitt's mental health.

One said he was impaired.

Deputy District Attorney Harold Jewett has said that Moffitt understands the felony murder rule, he just won't accept it.

Addressing the court Thursday, Moffitt questioned the law. "I doesn't matter that I was blocks away from the murder, nowhere in sight of each of the shots. The DA said it doesn't matter. What does he mean it doesn't matter?" he asked.

He turned to look at Lasater's family when the apology read to Lasater's widow, mother, brother and "little Cody." He told his mother and grade school-aged sister, who cried during most of the proceeding, that he loved them.

"He deserves a second chance," Felicia Bossiere, Moffitt's mother, told the court. "It's wrong to send my son to prison for the rest of his life for a murder he did not commit. It's immoral and it's unconstitutional."

Brady said she had the option of giving Moffitt a term of 25 years to life in prison but felt the maximum sentence was appropriate given the violent nature of the crime and his role in it. Brady said she was particularly influenced by trial testimony from the Raley's cashier who said the memory of Moffitt holding a gun to her head has turned her into a fearful refugee.

"It has changed her life profoundly," Brady said. "She was never the same."

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Josephine Wagner-Quist of Heidelberg was among them.

"We hope that everything goes better in the United States," she said. "Maybe we'll have a little peace."

Inge Erierson, of Sweden, vacationing in Berlin, said he likes the idea of Obama as president because it would represent "a new era. America is still the most important country and the president has much to decide."

Before delivering his speech, Obama told reporters it wouldn't be comparable to famous ones in Berlin by Presidents Kennedy and Reagan because they were obviously Berlin is representative of the extraordinary success of the post-World War II effort to bring the continent together and to bring the West together and then later to bring the East and the West together. So I think it's a natural place."

He demurred when asked whether this was meant as a preview of what sort of president the might be if he were to defeat Republican John McCain in November. "No," he said. "I'm just giving a speech."

CORRECTIONS

The Times corrects all significant factual errors that come to the editors' attention. Telephone numbers for the editors responsible for news content are listed on Page A2.

A story on the front page July 7 about a \$5 billion scholarship plan for Chilian students incorrectly reported Jorge Rojas' participation in a Chile-California partnership. Rojas helped foster the exchange that led to the agreement but did not help draft it.