

To Parents, Coaches, Players, Family, and Friends:

Thank you for your interest and hopefully your participation in the 10th Annual Brian Krueger Memorial Baseball Tournament. This wonderful baseball tournament originated in 2006 as a memorial to my son Brian, who played in the Lake in the Hills Youth Athletic Association (YAA) in house baseball league from 2002 thru 2005. After battling brain cancer for many years, Brian left us at the age of 11, just before Christmas in 2005.

**Please read some of the other documents about Brian and the tournament.**

Over the past nine years this event has raised many thousands of dollars to support the services of the Midwest Children's Brain Tumor Center (MCBTC) at Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. This is where Brian was treated for the seven years that he battled cancer. This tournament would not have been possible if it were not for the efforts of several people from the Lake in the Hills YAA. The following are a list of people I would like to thank.

- Kevin Tarpey (the man who really started this tournament)
- Mark Lonigro (a major participant - especially in the early years, still advises and umpires)
- Tom Johnson (Past Tournament Director)
- Scott Model (Past Tournament Director)
- Steve Goodrich (Past Tournament Director) & his wife
- Tim Beese (Field Operations - helping make sure those fields look great)
- Eric Coss (Assisting Tournament Director)
- Michelle Sulek (a major participate that first Year)
- Liz Wakeman (former village trustee), who helped get Field One named in Brian's memory

Bryan Reed - This year's Tournament Director, and all of the spouses, and parents who volunteer their time to work concessions and take care of the fields before and after the games.

Also the umpires, some who have participated in each of the past nine years.

***Forgive me if I don't remember names or have forgotten someone. I know so many have helped.***

Brian's Coaches and many assistant coaches - Thank you all

Al Kaab - Diamondbacks (2002)  
Kerry Richardson - Cubs (2003)  
Jeff Yelton - Blue Jays (2004)  
Joe Eisenbeis - Cubs (2005)

As I have said and documented in the past, these were Brian's field of dreams. To me it was a miracle every time I saw Brian play baseball at Sunset and Ryder Park. When Brian played baseball he could forget about the cancer and just try to be like the rest of his teammates. The memorial plaque located between Sunset 1 and Sunset 2 reads "Courage, Hope, and Inspiration", and that exemplifies how Brian lived his short life.

Consequently, these fields mean a lot to me. And in 2006, several months after Brian had passed, the meaning of it all really hit me. Therefore, the following article is written from my heart. It is a true experience that gave me new hope, and I will never forget it.

Thank You and God Bless,  
Ken Krueger (Brian's Dad)

My wife, Laurie, and my daughter, Mariah, also thank you.