**History - Colin Coleman Memorial Tournament**

**Colin Coleman**

Our son, Colin, was born in Moncton on July 24th, 1985. At the earliest possible age, we enrolled him in minor hockey and baseball. It was our belief that minor league sports provide an excellent opportunity to meet new people, for both the player and the parents.

Colin's hockey experience began in the Moncton system, where he played forward positions from Mini-Mites to his first year of Atom. He enjoyed excellent coaches and volunteer parents in these early years, and developed skating and game skills that would come back to haunt Moncton in later years. His friendships with the players and ours with the parents made for some great rivalries and fun throughout Colin's years in hockey.

Upon moving to Lewisville in 1993, Colin found his natural position in the net and again was blessed with excellent coaches and volunteer trainers. In Lewisville, Colin played at both recreational and provincial levels and volunteered his time in the canteen, equipment room and as a referee for the beginner levels. As a family, we valued our hockey association and offered our time in any capacity that was required. The fun and friendships that we gained from our rink time repaid our labors many times over.

It was never Colin's dream to play hockey professionally. Hockey was for fun and fun only. Winning felt good, but playing the game was the reward in itself. His teams won and lost their fair share of games. As a goaltender he had the experience of being the hero and of being the goat. Many of our best family memories revolve around the rink. We hope to never forget the thrills, sounds and smells of our son playing this wonderful game. In Colin's name, we ask players and parents to remember at all times that minor league hockey is just a game and its purpose is primarily fun and fitness for all. We ask that players try to enjoy the moment, despite the tensions that competition generates.

We ask that the parents in the stands enjoy the games, but control thier negative energy. Volunteers make it possible for their children to play and these volunteers must be respected, regardless of errors or faults. Both players and parents can only appreciate how wonderful minor hockey can be when it is taken away from you too soon.

Colin was diagnosed with Leukaemia in February 2000. He was able to complete his 1999/2000 season and began his cancer treatments in June of 2000. His prospects were as good as could be hoped for and he was ready to fight and win. The only cure for his cancer was intense chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. He was successful in beating his cancer, but was unable to overcome all the complications of the bone marrow transplant.

Why did Colin develop this cancer? Why did the treatments cause such damage to his body? These are questions that cannot be answered at this time. Cancer treatments are being modified with every case like Colin's, and new treatments that are less devastating to the patient are continually being developed and refined. Your help and support to the Canadian Cancer Society for research and family services will make a difference. I truly believe that had Colin been diagnosed in five years time, the experimental drugs and procedures being studied today would have made his treatment successful. We thank you in Colin's name for your support and hope that the day arrives soon when no child will have to endure the battle that Colin fought.

In closing, we again must thank Lewisville Minor Hockey, the players, and the parents for their continual support and compassion. Without the care and encouragement from the community, our agony would be unbearable.
We wish the best of luck to all teams, and hope that this tournament provides competitive hockey for the fun and enjoyment of every player, coach and spectator.

Rick, Carolle and Jessica Coleman