

## Will Dicus, You Will Be Missed

Written by Mike Kelly

Tuesday, 02 June 2009 04:10

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I received a disappointing phone call late Monday night, early Tuesday morning from Watauga High Booster Club President Dan Shelton who said that WHS senior Will Dicus had passed away following his five-year battle with cancer.

Disappointing as it was to hear the news, it didn't come as a shock. After all, Will had been in failing health for quite some time. But like the competitive person he was, Will fought it the best way he could.

He had dignity, he had character, he had all the qualities you would expect from a person of his nature. He never said, "why me." Instead, he served as a motivation for all of us. Going to practice, going to games, supporting his teammates, and never asking any favors, or feeling sorry for himself. Will Dicus was a pillar of strength during his battle with cancer. I'm sure in his private moments he probably wondered why God put him in this position; why, at the age of 18 was he subjected to such a terrible fate. But like the man that he was, he stood tall and accepted his destiny. He never complained, and he did all he could to live like a normal teen-ager. Despite those incredible odds, he never lost faith, and his drive to succeed affected us all.

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I had a medical procedure done on Monday. And yes, I was scared. But thinking of Will brought me out of that fear. I thought to myself, "how can I be scared when Will Dicus has gone through procedures like this countless times. He touched all of our lives.

As Doctor Charles Stanley preached during one of his sermons, we all have a purpose in life working for God. Whether we know it or not, we are doing something for God everyday, be it a kind word, a kind gesture, encouraging someone, etc... and Will did all of that on a daily basis. Despite his troubles, he was always there for his teammates. That's the type of person he was. Great example, first day of baseball practice in mid-February, Will is in the hospital recovering from another medical episode, but what's his biggest concern----making it to practice on time, which he did. Now let me ask you, as a fellow teammate, how can you not be moved by someone with that kind of dedication.

It was just Will's nature. Turn a negative into a positive, no matter how difficult things got. My favorite memory of Will occurred his junior year, when he was in better health and was playing for the WHS JV team. He got a rare chance to bat, and when he stepped up to the plate, you could hear a pin drop. Then he belts a single, and I mean he tattooed that ball, into left field to drive in a run and the place simply exploded.

It brings a tear to my eye recalling that moment, but it will stay with me forever. And Will's memory must be part of our history at Watauga High forever.

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Fellow broadcaster and our Promotions Director Ashley Wilson had a brilliant idea on Tuesday morning---a scholarship in Will's name that would be awarded on a yearly basis to a worthy student at the school. And I also recommend that WHS coach Pete Hardee and the baseball team retire Will's No.6 jersey.

It would be our way of giving back to someone who gave us so much in such a short time. Good-bye, my friend; you will be sorely missed; but we all know, you are in a much better place.

(Photo Courtesy of Facebook)