

North Harrison Alumni Game raises over \$2,800 for Relay For Life group at high school

Written by Administrator

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The alumni basketball game held Saturday night at North Harrison raised over \$2,800 in early estimates, with a final tally yet to be determined. The game was sponsored by North Harrison High School's Relay for Life team, which raises money for cancer research. Last year, the game alone raised \$1,762, but bad weather forced the game last year to be postponed from the original scheduled date, and North Harrison High School Relay for Life sponsor Amber (Rothrock) Sater said the weather probably made a difference in the negative last year.

This year the threat of snow didn't deter a large group of fans who normally either watch the boys' and the girls' basketball games, or else play in them.

Sater said that each of the four classes in the high school competed to see who could bring the most fans to the game in their class. The classes compete against each other in various activities all year long, and the class with the most points at the end of the year gets to go to Buffalo Trace Park in Palmyra on a field trip later in the school year.

Relay for Life actually takes only one month off a year from fund raising duties, and that month is July. The actual relay itself is on June 12-13.

"When we come back in August, we start raising money again," said Sater.

The number of fundraisers in a school year can be many and varied, according to Sater. A contest (voted on by the public) to see which girls' basketball player had the best biceps and which boys' basketball player had the best legs was held over the course of several weeks, and the results were announced Saturday between the 3rd and 4th quarters of the game. Jared Richards won the best legs contest, and Kayla Lambert won the best biceps contest. The biceps and legs contest brought in \$395, and a euchre tournament brought in \$50.

"That, with the alumni game, put us over \$3,000," said Sater of this year's fundraising pace.

The Relay for Life group at North Harrison is about 25 members strong, and most students in the group are there because they either have a family member or someone else they know that has succumbed to cancer.

One person who survived cancer is 2008 North Harrison High School grad Ashley Fancher, who spoke before the game was underway.

Fancher was a member of the girls' basketball program at the time, and had played in a tournament in early March of 2004, not aware of the bombshell that was to change her life.

On March 18, 2004 Fancher discovered that she had bone cancer, and said, "I was very shocked and very scared at the time."

She underwent experimental chemotherapy, and now has a titanium rod in her right leg.

Since just four years ago, Fancher pointed out that "the research they have come up with has been amazing."

Fancher closed out her remarks by saying, "I'm sure all of you in this room have been affected by cancer personally. I would like to ask all of you, if you're giving money tonight, to make it personal."

The teams in the game itself were divided into a team with grads from even numbered years, and a team with grads from odd numbered years. Assistant Superintendent of North Harrison Schools, Dr. Ken Oppel, was the coach of the odd year team, and Keith Oppel coached the even year team.

The odd year team won by a score of 95-87, and the game saw several lead changes, and a barrage of three point shots.

Some of the students on the Relay for Life team expressed a variety of positive comments concerning the big turnout for the game.

Amanda Hartley is a member of the North Harrison Lady Cats, and played on the junior

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varsity squad this recently completed season.

She said, "I think it was just that everyone wanted to give, and help us out," she said. "I think a lot of the students were happy to see the former team members. It's fun to see all of their old school moves."

Kayla McKnight was happy with the amount of money raised, especially since she made nearly double last year. "Getting double the money-that's pretty good," she said.

"I think it was a great turnout," said Hannah Raake. "With the (bad) economy, people still dug into their pockets and gave."

The Planet Dance All Stars from Georgetown performed both before the game, and between the halves.