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Two Schools Shoot Thru Hoops To Cheer For First Grader Fighting Cancer



By Henry M. Holden

Dubbed the "Game on for Gavin – Whiteout Cancer," the Pequannock Township High School (PTHS) basketball teams scheduled a special game on Mon., Feb. 13, with Montville High School.

Proceeds of the game were to benefit the Brady family, and their son Gavin Brady, a seven-year-old boy battling Leukemia. Gavin is the youngest of four brothers, and the son of John and Kerrie Brady.

The oldest brother, Owen, is on the freshman basketball team.

Gavin was diagnosed with leukemia last year, and while he returned to his first-grade class in the fall, he suffered a setback in December that hospitalized him.

The Pequannock High School Girls' Basketball Team, with a major assist from the boys' varsity team, held a contest where no matter what happens one seven-year-old boy came out a winner.

In reference to the event's name, Whiteout Cancer, white are the cancer fighting cells in the body's immune system. White is also the color of all cancer awareness ribbons combined, representing the potential of an immunotherapy cure for all cancer. And white is to support all the people wearing white lab coats searching for new immunotherapies.

"The boys handed out the pledge sheet before the game to their friends and family," said Morgan Benc-

sko, a junior at Pequannock High School. "During half-time of the boy's game against Montville High School, the girls' team held a half-court shot contest. We had a 50-50 raffle, we passed out pledge sheets for the "Game on Gavin fund," and ran the snack stand.

"The gym and foyer were adorned with orange and white balloons, Gavin posters, and a gym full of people wearing white and orange in support of Gavin," said Bencsko.

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First Grader Fighting Cancer...

continued from front page
"The Montville team and their parents also generously donated to Gavin's fund as well, and supported us all night. We so appreciate their efforts.

"The whole gym was filled to capacity with people. Most of the kids wore white and orange in support of Gavin," said Bencsko.

"Our entire student section was filled so we were doing chants such as 'Game on Gavin,'" said Bencsko. "We were having so much fun. Even though Pequannock High School didn't win, it was exciting for everyone."

The game ended 78-76 in overtime with Montville High School, the winner.

"We were doing pledges by points so our team

scored 76 points, a person would contribute \$76. While the totals are not yet in because we are still getting donations, I would say we earned about four to five thousand dollars.

"This game would not have been possible without the complete support of our community," said Bencsko. "Everyone really came together because we are a living and supportive community. It makes me feel so proud to live in this town."

Bencsko, Peggy Bionde, the PTHS girls' and boys' basketball teams, coaches, staff and the many volunteers and spectators who worked together made this event possible.

The Brady family has medical insurance coverage, but their out-of-pocket

et medical expenses have been soaring. All donations can be sent to Box 301 Pompton Plains NJ 07444, checks can be made out to "Gavin Game On;" or to <https://www.youcaring.com/gavin-brady-515083>. All monies donated will be used for medical expenses, medications and items needed for Gavin's overall care.

For more information, contact Bencsko at mbencsko@gmail.com.

As of Feb. 16, Gavin is still at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia fighting complications from his leukemia; he is a true warrior! Please continue to pray and know how much it means to the Brady family that everyone is cheering Gavin on.