

Amity soccer players on offense against cancer

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Reading Eagle

When a group of Amity Township girls ages 11 to 13 heard that a fellow soccer player had died of cancer, they were inspired to raise money to fight the disease.

Although players on the Amity Blue Lightning U14 team never met Sarah Parvin, a 12-year-old from Quakertown, Bucks County, who died of ovarian cancer four years ago, the girls have become close with her mother, Sandy, and dedicate time to fundraising every year.

The fact that Sarah was a soccer player from the region was enough for the local girls to get on board to help, said their coach, David Braunsberg.

The girls have raised nearly \$5,000 for cancer research, participating in Daniel Boone's Relay for Life the last two years and the Sarah Parvin 24-hour SoccerFest in Quakertown for four years.

At Relay for Life, they were the youngest group to participate and raised \$2,000, Braunsberg said.

"These kids have really worked hard and done it on their own," he said. "At the Sarah Parvin 24-hour SoccerFest, they called them up on stage to give them a spirit award, and they didn't even know what that was."

Team member Kelsey Cubero, 13, of Douglassville said the first time she and her teammates participated in the soccer tournament, Sarah's family treated them like part of the family.

"When we came to the tournament and heard her mom talk about how Sarah was, it really sank in, how much cancer affects people," Kelsey said.

After raising money for that event, the girls became even more interested in aiding cancer research, so they started to participate in Relay for Life.

Putting on bakery sales and car washes, the girls have a good time as they raise money for the cause.

"It's fun, and just to know it's helping raise money for cancer makes it even more fun," Kelsey said.

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Reading Eagle: Jeremy Drey
Members of the Amity Blue Lightning U14 team are, seated from left, Rhiannon Ditmar, Kasey Sheahan and Paige Minner; kneeling from left, Taylor Landis, Meghan Horan and Kelsey Cubero; and standing from left, Alyssa Cuesta, Glenna Oram, Jill Braunsberg and Gabriella Megni. The team has raised nearly \$5,000 for cancer research.