

DRIVEN FOR A CURE

Dragonfly and Driven Foundations partner for charity basketball game

Eric Miller | Staff Writer

Mason hosts countless athletic contests each year but on April 11 for the Driven Community Basketball Game, it wasn't about if you won or lost; it was about bringing people together to rally around a great cause.

The Driven Foundation is a Columbus based non-profit founded by former Ohio State football player, Roy Hall. Since 2008, The Driven Foundation has distributed 450,000 pounds of food to families throughout Ohio. Mason's Dragonfly Foundation was founded in 2010 by Christine Neitzke and Ria Davidson to help support cancer patients and their families.

For each game in the Driven Basketball Tour, Driven visits a different Ohio high school and partners with a different local charity. Hall said he started the Tour as way to raise awareness, not money.

"We didn't set out to raise money," Hall said. "We set out to leverage our platform as former Buckeyes to help bring awareness to organizations like the Dragonfly Foundation."

The game wasn't contested by your average weekend warrior. With him, Hall brought 14 former Ohio State Buckeye football players, including Super Bowl champion Jake Ballard. Hall said sports are a great platform to unite people for a common good.

"The love of sports is the ultimate equalizer," Hall said. "It destroys the barriers of culture, religion, academic and financial success, It's all about winning."

Dragonfly Community Relations Manager, Kyle Weldon, said the Driven game helped to showcase the game of basketball as more than a game.

"This game turns basketball into a vehicle for impact," Weldon said. "Most of us only see basketball as a sport, a game—we don't always realize the amount of change we can make through things like this."

Senior Joe Metzger said he wanted to participate in the game, because of the people he's met who have been affected by cancer.

"(I wanted to play) because I met Aidan Glass," Metzger said. "He's just a really

fun and happy kid all the time and he's going through tough stuff with cancer, it's so extreme and so hard. It's the least you can do, is just to be a participant."

Social studies teacher Ken Whitney said he participated in the game to honor the life of his best friend's daughter, who had her life cut short by cancer.

"My story goes back to my best friend (Jeff Snyder) at Oak Hills High School," Whitney said. "(Knowing) the Snyder family and Kortney Snyder, just knowing the experiences of the time they spent at Children's Hospital, it's very important to me because when Jeff lost his daughter Kortney, I never had the words to make him feel better."

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DRAGONFLY COMMUNITY RELATIONS
MANAGER

Metzger said the game also helped him put his own struggles into perspective.

"Another reason this was big to me is because of my diabetes," Metzger said. "Even though I'm pretty good about it I still complain every once in awhile. Sometimes I need to look at how hard it is for people with cancer. It shows me how fortunate a lot of us are."

Weldon said that the Driven game will go a long way towards changing peoples lives.

"The money we raise from this game will without a doubt change someone's life," Weldon said. "The programs we have in place impact people's lives everyday. It's going to allow Roy to keep doing his work with The Driven Foundation which gives away over 150,000 pounds of

