

# Mike's fans hit one out of the park



This photo of Mike Reid was taken about two years before his death.

## Charity softball tournament thriving in memory of much loved Mike Reid

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When the late Mike Reid was about 3, his father knew there was something wrong with the boy's physical development – he just didn't know what.

"He had difficulty walking," Frank Reid recalled. "He was slow and he would fall down a lot. He just didn't seem to be normal physically."

Reid was right.

After undergoing a series of tests, it was eventually discovered that Mike had Duchennes muscular dystrophy.

"It's the most serious type of muscular dystrophy," Reid said. "Usually boys don't live past their late teens or early 20s. There's still no cure, even with all the millions of dollars raised from the Jerry Lewis telethon and things like that."

For the next 17 years, Reid watched helplessly as this terrible disease slowly ate away at his son's muscles. First came the leg braces and eventually a wheelchair. But despite his physical handicap, Mike enjoyed his life to the fullest.

"He never complained," Reid said. "He was happy in his limited life."

Mike was just like most other kids growing up in the 1970s. He loved listening to music from the Carpenters and Jim Croce, and his favourite TV shows were M\*A\*S\*H and Carol Bur-

nett. But his passion was sports. Wheelchair hockey was his favourite participation sport, but he loved watching them all, live or on TV.

His father coached a softball team at the Greenfield Park Legion and Mike would attend the games and keep statistics on every player.

"Sports was a very big part of his life," said Wade Wilson, who grew up across the street from Mike in Greenfield Park and was his best friend. "He was a big Boston Bruins fan and loved Bobby Orr."

Mike also loved school. He entered the Mackay Centre for Deaf and Crippled Children on Sept. 1, 1971 and quickly made an impression on his teachers and fellow students with his outgoing personality.

In 1982, he received the Mackay Centre's Prudence Baxter Award for scholastic achievement. It was an honour of which Mike was very proud.

During his time at the Mackay Centre, Mike became the Quebec poster child for Lewis's annual Labour Day muscular-dystrophy telethon and traveled to the WPTZ studios in Plattsburgh, N.Y., to appear on television. It was there, during an interview, that he decided he wanted to become a TV sportscaster after graduating from the Mackay Centre.

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