

Keeping the name alive



Photo By Chris Hunn

Nick Drenchen of Milford, swings for a good cause at the fourth annual Britton John Broatch Wiffle Tournament Saturday at Joseph A. Foran High School.

By Chris Hunn
Editor

Over the last four years, The Britton John Broatch Wiffle Tournament has had its share of improvements. It's been more organized, less stressful and has run smoother. One thing, however, that has remained the same since day one, is the goal of keeping Britton Broatch's name alive.

After Broatch died of a massive stroke in 2003 at the age of 25, his family started a Wiffle ball tournament in his memory. Wiffle ball has been the sport of choice for him and the entire Broatch household.

The tournament raises money for a pair of \$1000 scholarships for Foran High School students (Broatch graduated from Foran in 1996) attending Connecticut colleges as well as funds for other charities.

Saturday, the tournament kicked off its fourth year at Foran High, with 56 teams. Some were made up of players who picked up a bat for the first time in a while, and others travel just for Wiffle ball tournaments. There was a variety of ages and a good mix of female and male players.

Despite the differences all were there to recognize Broatch, including the numerous Broatch family members who visit from around the country for the tournament.

"Everyone's here for the same reason, to honor my brother and have a good time," said 20-year-old Kierran Broatch, one of Britton's three brothers. "It's really important because it keeps my brother's name around." Kierran's team, A Few Good Men, finished in second place behind Krusty's Kids, a team from Massachusetts.

Britton's father Jim Broatch added: "It keeps Britton alive."

People describe Britton as an amazing friend, a great person and just enjoyable to be around. On the Wiffle ball field, he is remembered as a solid contact hitter with an effective slider on the mound and someone who was competitive, yet didn't take the game too serious.

In the backyard of the Broatch's Milford home is a patch of dirt. Kierran said the grass will never grow there, and that serves as a pitcher's mound during family Wiffle ball games.

That spot seems to be a symbol of Britton, because like that patch of dirt his name will never go away.