Hope for Harlie

View from the Hill

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WKU’s volleyball team has had unprecedented success over the past year, ironically since adding a seven year old to it’s roster.

Amy Bingham has more on the team’s secret weapon in this week’s View from the Hill.

How many seven year olds can say they are part of a collegiate sports team? Then again, Harlie Bryant is not your average seven year old. Harlie has been battling a cancerous brain tumor for the past two years. But the little warrior is still providing lots of hope to those around her.

 “She gets her name announced, she gets on the video board.”

 “It’s so cool to see a little girl have so much attention and focus on her.”

Just over a year ago, Harlie Bryant was officially adopted by the WKU Volleyball team through the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation…a program for children with pediatric brain tumors.

 “Friends of Jaclyn is about this kid right now. It’s not about finding the next cure or next, it’s about making this child’s life special right now.”

With her very own locker in the locker room and a spot on the team roster, Harlie is truly considered part of the team.

 “ She’s just such an inspiration. I know she’s only seven years old but I look up to her more than anything. ”

Harlie’s older brother Colby, who’se now a student manager for the team, was planning to attend U of L, but changed his mind when he saw the outpouring of loveat WKU.

 “They were so heartwarming to me and my family and I thought this is the place I need to be.”

It’s been a tough month for the little Lady Topper who recently returned home after four more surgeries and 35 days in the hospital. She made a surprise visit to the team this week.

 “When she walked in the door we just wanted to squeeze her but we couldn’t because of her surgeries.”

 “Certainly it was an emotional time for us to see her as well and really lifted my spirits and our team’s spirits and put things in its place.”

Last year , WKU Volleyball made it’s first appearance in the NCAA tournament. And Harlie Bryant made the trip to California with her team.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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