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COACH HEP INDIANA CANCER CHALLENGE

Former IU football coach inspires first annual cancer fundraising event

By Doug Wilson
May 10, 2008

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After months of work by volunteers, the first annual Coach Hep Indiana Cancer Challenge will today draw hundreds of people to fight cancer, including Indiana basketball coach Tom Crean and football coach Bill Lynch.

Crean and Lynch will make pre-event remarks to participants in the 5K run and 2K family walk, as will Jane Hoepfner, wife of Indiana football coach Terry Hoepfner who died last summer after a long battle with a brain tumor.

Jane Hoepfner, her children and grandchildren will lead the 2K walk, which will start a few minutes after the 11 a.m. 5K run.

Hoepfner said that with so many people coming together, including many old friends, to support IU's Simon Cancer Center and the Olcott Center for Cancer Research in her husband's name, she expects it to be something of an emotional morning.

"It's pretty special," she said.

IU radio broadcaster Don Fischer will serve as master of ceremonies and former Hoosier football great Anthony Thompson will deliver an invocation.

IU faculty member and two-time Grammy-winner Sylvia McNair, a cancer survivor, will sing the national anthem.

There will also be IU football players helping to park cars at Armstrong Stadium and women's basketball players will work at aid stations along the course of the 5K run.

The event will also include 40K cycle, 100K cycle and 40K cycle/5K run that are not races. It came about after Bloomington physician Rick Schilling, a cyclist, approached Jane Hoepfner with the idea.

Schilling had treated many patients with cancer, but the disease struck him more personally when it killed his father-in-law, the daughter of a friend and then Hoepfner. He decided to help organize an event to help fight it.

"Cancer is pervasive," Schilling said Friday as he and about 20 volunteers, including Jane Hoepfner, gathered to prepare Bill Armstrong Stadium for today's events.

Hoepfner has been one of the volunteers working for months who garnered the involvement of the IU athletic department, Bloomington Hospital and IU Emergency Medical Service, among others.

"I'm just so glad I jumped on board," she said. "They've been tireless in what they've done with their effort and expertise. It's been amazing."

With 420 pre-registered and sunny weather expected today, organizers are hoping for a large walk-up crowd to register today to push participation to at

least 600 people.

There's no doubt, Jane Hoepfner said, about how very pleased Coach Hep would be with this charity event.

"Anyone who knew us as a couple knew he was always looking for ways to get me to exercise," she said with a laugh. "It's the grand coup."

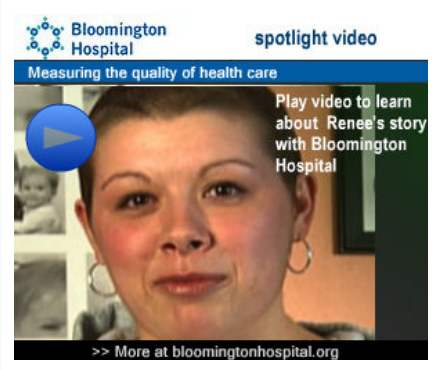
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Coach Hep Indiana Cancer Challenge

WHERE: All events start and finish at Armstrong Stadium, located off Fee Lane, just north of 17th Street

SCHEDULE: 2K Family Walk and 5K Run — registration 8:30-10:30 a.m. and start 11 a.m.; 40K Cycle, 100K Cycle, 40K Cycle/5K Run — registration 7-9:30 a.m. and start 8:30-9:30 a.m.

COST: Minimum pledge is \$35 for adults 16 and up, \$15 for children 6-15, free for children 5 and under, animals are not permitted

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