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Hearn to begin rehab in Sycamore

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By Jeff Wendland, jwendland@qconline.com

"This is the beginning of Travis' new life."

Injured Rock Island High School football player Travis Hearn is scheduled to be released from Trinity Medical Center West Campus this morning and taken to Kindred Hospitals in Sycamore to begin his rehabilitation. The hope is that he will be weaned off the ventilator.

Travis was injured Sept. 22 when he suffered a burst fracture of his C-4 vertebra in a game against Alleman. He has been in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Trinity ever since.

His mother, Colleen Stovall, calls today's scheduled move a "good sign" and a chance for her son to start the next phase in his recovery.

"I wouldn't exactly say this means he's over the hump," Ms. Stovall said. "He still has bouts with high fever and breathing problems, but he's had two good days in a row and that's a good sign."

"We had hoped to make this move Tuesday, but he had a couple of setbacks with the breathing and fevers. He had to be completely stable before they would consider the transport, and the last two days have been what they were wanting."

Kindred Hospitals specialize in treatment of long-term patients who are unable to care for themselves.

With two of her four daughters by her side Thursday, Ms. Stovall said Travis is quite anxious to make the



Photo: Todd Mizener

Rock Island football player Travis Hearn, pictured with his older sister, Rashanda Gay, at Trinity Medical Center in Rock Island on Friday afternoon, will be released from Trinity Medical Center West Campus today and transferred to Kindred Hospitals in Sycamore to begin his rehabilitation.

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"We're still struggling, and everything with Trav is day-by-day," she said. "We're just hopeful that this next step will be a new beginning for him."

Travis' doctors at Trinity have signed off on the transfer to Kindred, but Ms. Stovall said some of them have told her they will travel to Sycamore to keep up on his recovery. As for the next step, she's still not sure what will happen at Kindred.

"I have only spoken with a representative from Kindred, but we won't meet the doctors until (today)," she said. "(Today) is a brand new day for all of us.

"Not that Travis hasn't gotten great care here, this move will make it all about his recovery and that's what he needs."

Ms. Stovall will be accompanied on the transfer by her four daughters, her mother and a few other relatives and friends. Travis' 18-year-old sister Roneisha plans to join her mother in staying with him throughout his stay at Kindred and beyond.

"I don't mind missing out on being with friends and doing other things," Roneisha said. "I do this because he's my brother. We've always been very close."

The rest of the family will stay for a week or so, then travel back and forth for visits.

Ms. Stovall said Rock Island High School has talked about donating a computer so Travis can stay in touch with his friends in the Quad-Cities. Plus, she said cards, letters and words of prayer are always welcome.

"Travis, I and the entire family can't thank everyone enough for the donations, the cards, the balloons, the flowers and all of the prayers," Ms. Stovall said. "It means so much to all of us."

To send cards or notes to Travis Hearn, the address of Kindred Hospitals is 225 Edward St., Sycamore, IL 60178.

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Comments

25 comments on this article

Posted by **Hoser** from **Moline** at 12:32AM on Friday, 10/13/06

I'm very happy to hear that he will be going to sycamore to start his recovery . I wish him the best of luck and god willing, he will be able to care for himself one day.

Posted by **Dena** from **Rock Island** at 6:42AM on Friday, 10/13/06

I pray that everything goes well in Sycamore. I'm sure that is the best place for Travis. I also pray for his family at this trying time in their lives as well. I pray for a miracle in his situation, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Posted by **Rocky '89 alum** from **Rock Island** at 8:03AM on Friday, 10/13/06

Hearn family, you work on taking care of Travis and getting him back on his feet. We will continue our prayers/thoughts for Travis and your family & continue raising money to help with getting him better. You are a great family and certainly blessed. We love you all! Go get 'em Travis!!!

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Posted by some anonymous person from **Moline** at 8:06AM on Friday, 10/13/06

God Speed Travis. All the best to you and your family on a speedy recovery. Keep the great spirit up.

Posted by **Nemo** from **Deep Blue** at 9:47AM on Friday, 10/13/06

God bless this family and God speed on his recovery. Many are praying for you.

Posted by **FACTS** at 10:30AM on Friday, 10/13/06

I can only imagine how difficult this is for you and your family.

My son played football through college. We had many anxious moments watching him play.

He said he will discourage his future kids from playing, as well as his nephew. At 23, and a second year medical student, he says the pain and injuries were not worth it. There are many things that he cannot do now, or are painful due to football injuries. He had hoped to be an orthopedic surgeon, but is not sure he can stand for long periods of time, or be that physical.

Parents, think of that before you push your kid into Pop Warner. Of all the kids my son played with (Jr high, HS, and Division 1 college level), only one is in the NFL, and that is as a third string QB.

My family will continue to pray not only for your recovery, but for your family as well.

Posted by **Moline Class of 88** at 11:45AM on Friday, 10/13/06

I wish you all the best Travis and my heart just aches when I think of this unfortunate thing that happened to you. I pray that someday my son who is two now will be as strong as you have been if he chooses to play football. Hang in there.

Posted by some anonymous person from **Milan** at 12:50PM on Friday, 10/13/06

I said all my heart and prayers to Travis and his family! I wish Travis the best of luck in his recovery. You have alot of family and friends who are beside you through your recovery! God Bless!

Posted by **Tracey class of 82** from **Baton Rouge, LA** at 1:33PM on Friday, 10/13/06

Good luck Travis on your recovery. Stay strong and don't ever give up. I will pray for you and your family.

Posted by **DC** from **RI** at 2:36PM on Friday, 10/13/06

Awesome the way the players and coaches turned out!

Posted by **1970 Rocky grad** from **Rock Island** at 3:53PM on Friday, 10/13/06

My prayers are with you Travis. How proud I am of the Rocky football coaches and players for their constant support to Travis and his family.

Posted by **Shawntel** from **Rock Island** at 3:54PM on Friday, 10/13/06

Travis I hope you get better soon!!

Posted by **LISAK** from **SILVIS** at 4:59PM on Friday, 10/13/06

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE HEARN FAMILY, AND WE WISH TRAVIS THE VERY BEST WITH HIS REHABILITATION.