

# Lady Trojans help cancer patients 'fight like a girl'

**BY MARY SARAVIA BUSBY**  
For the Times-Georgian

It was a good day to fight like a girl. On Sept. 10, both Carrollton High School's (CHS) Lady Trojans and Alexander softball teams were not only trying to strike out each other, but also help strike out cancer.

Though Alexander won the eight-inning contest, the game was about much more than wins and losses on the softball diamond.

"It's more about winning in life as opposed to winning a softball game," said Lisa Phillips, CHS head varsity softball coach. "This game was an opportunity for our girls to support those who are in the fight now, give admiration to those who have survived, and honor those who have been taken by breast cancer."

For the last four years, the second week of September has marked the "Fight Like a Girl" softball game for the Lady Trojans. The Georgia High School Association has designated this week of the softball season as Breast Cancer Awareness week.

"We had a great turnout," said Phillips. "This is becoming one of those events that that the Trojan nation really looks forward to."

Eleven breast cancer survivors were honored and escorted onto the field by the Lady Trojans to take part in a 'Diamond Dash' from second base to home plate.

"We wanted them to steal second base from cancer and score their run at home," said Phillips. "We thought it



The Carrollton High School Lady Trojans honored breast cancer survivors at their "Fight Like a Girl" day and raised \$500 to help women receive mammograms through Tanner Medical Foundation's Mammogram Assistance Fund.

was fitting." Survivors Rose Hollie, Becky Ragsdale and Irene Kendrick were escorted by Savannah Nalley, Jackie Cain and Bailey Anderson.

Two seniors escorted special cancer survivors onto the field - their grandmothers. Amelia Cooper escorted her grandmother, Marilyn Cooper Todd, a 16-year survivor and 12-year cancer survivor, Larrue Hubbard, was joined by her granddaughter, Alli Hubbard.

Several survivors from within the school system were also honored. Kim Hungerford is an eighth grade Georgia Studies teacher at Carrollton Junior High School and 1-year survivor. Carrollton

native, Shanon Melson, is a teacher at Carrollton Middle School and a 12-year survivor; and Anne Potts is a bus driver for Carrollton City Schools and a 4-year survivor. They were brought onto the field for the 'Diamond Dash' by senior Montana Miles, Jaelyn Eaves and assistant coach Terry Jay Phillips.

Venita Steed attended the game both as program director for Tanner Breast Health and also as a breast cancer survivor. She was escorted onto the field by junior Katie Jones.

"What Coach Phillips is accomplishing is amazing," said Steed. "She is teaching our

students the philosophy and values of being part of a team. In a larger sense, she is also teaching them how to be part of the community and to give back. She is an outstanding role model for our young women to look up to."

Faye Phillips, mother and mother-in-law of coaches Terry Jay and Lisa Phillips, continued the game tradition by throwing the first pitch. She was escorted to the pitcher's mound by her grandson and assistant coach Eric Jay Phillips.

In the weeks leading up to the game, the team sold almost 200 pink "Fight Like a Girl" T-shirts and donated \$500 to Tanner Medical Foundation's Mammogram Assistance

Fund. The fund ensures women who could not otherwise afford a mammogram receive this essential screening that is considered the first line of defense in the detection and treatment of breast cancer.

The game also created an opportunity for the coaches to offer the team a valuable insight about not taking their own health for granted.

"We discussed the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and making sure you have regular checkups," said Phillips. "One of the ladies we honored is in her early 30s. You just never know when cancer could happen."

The Lady Trojans softball team feels good about what they accom-

plished with the game, though they are looking forward to their next opportunity to challenge Alexander.

"Obviously, we are there to win ball games," said Phillips. "But at the same time I think the intrinsic value that the team receives from the "Fight Like a Girl" event - that is priceless."

The opportunity for these young women to learn a life lesson from the breast cancer survivors they honor.

"The fight they are fighting is so much more than a softball game," said Phillips. "Not that I like to lose but it teaches our kids that you can't give up just because you have adversity in your life. You have to continue to fight."

## Stephen H. Kahler, M.D.

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Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day

BRA Day

October 16, 2013

The Federal Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

Signed into Law on October 21, 1998

### Required coverage for women who elect to undergo Breast Reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy:

- All stages of Breast Reconstruction on which the mastectomy has been performed.
- Surgery and Reconstruction of the other Breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
- Prosthesis and physical complications of mastectomy including lymphedemas.

### Breast Reconstruction Facts:

- Breast Reconstruction procedures rose from roughly 13% in 2000 to 36% in 2009  
*<Insurance Law Tied to More Breast Reconstruction. Medscape. May 03, 2013>*
- Less than 23% of women know the wide range of Breast Reconstruction options available  
*<bradayusa.org>*
- Fewer than 1 in 4 women with insurance have Breast Reconstruction immediately after having a mastectomy to treat their Breast Cancer.  
*<Charlene Laino, WebMD HealthNews>*

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