

Chino Champion (CA)

Ailing athlete keeps life on course

Marianne Napoles

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Kyle Ginter was working out in April when he felt a lump under his armpit. He hoped **it** would go away.

The 18-year-old Ayala High School student was enjoying life as a varsity baseball player.

But **the** lump didn't disappear, so Kyle shared **the** news with his parents, Pam and Bruce Ginter of Chino Hills.

After visiting a series of specialists for two months without resolution, his parents took him to **the** City of Hope.

He was immediately diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma, an aggressive but curable cancer.

"After **the** doctor called, I went into my room and listened to music," Kyle said. "I didn't know what to think."

His teammates at Ayala supported him with visits and wore orange arm-bands, his favorite color, to every game.

His mother, intending to move into high gear for her son, found herself shut out of his medical decisions due to his age and privacy laws. "Because Kyle was 18, I had no authority over his treatment," she said.

"Having a child with cancer and being told you can't make decisions was really tough."

Kyle believes one of his decisions may have saved his life.

Before he was diagnosed by **the** City of Hope, a doctor recommended surgery to remove **the** tumor.

Kyle refused. "I just didn't have a good feeling about **it**," he said.

His family pleaded with him to have **the** surgery. "Everybody was texting me," he said.

Kyle waited **it** out, and he doesn't regret **it**.

Two months ago, he was diagnosed as cancer free.

But six rounds of chemotherapy took its toll on **the** athlete. He lost his hair, his eyebrows and eyelashes.

Each round required one week in **the** hospital.

The sixth round was **the** hardest. "For an 18-year-old who never sits at home, lying in bed fully sick for a week at a time sucked," he said.

Kyle found himself butting heads with his mom. "Neither one of us knew what to expect, so **it** was tough," he said. "When **it** started to become a daily routine, **it** got easier."

Kyle requested that his family not talk about his illness at home.

Dinners were prepared and delivered to **the** family, a gift card tree was presented, and a Glendora High School fundraiser game was held. AYSO and **The Let It Be Foundation** also supported **the** family.

He admitted that **the** attention was hard to accept.

He asked his two friends, Evan Brock and Drew Thomman, to never allow him to use cancer as an excuse for being tired.

"I just wanted to **be** normal," he said. "I didn't want people to look at me as 'that kid with cancer,'" he said.

He credited his family, friends, and community for sticking with him.

Kyle graduated in cap and gown from Ayala last June, and is attending Citrus College, where he practices with **the** baseball team.

While on winter break, he's keeping his mind off cancer. He already enjoyed a day of snowboarding. "I want to move on," he said.

Mrs. Ginter pointed to Kyle's snow-boarding equipment and golf clubs. "**It** used to bother me that he'd leave his stuff in **the** living room, but now **it** reminds me that he is well enough to enjoy **it**," she said.