

# Summers Scrapbook 2009

The Calendar seems to be playing tricks with me. When I sat down at the computer I am positive that it was March or April yet now we are but a few short days away from Christmas. It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. This year has been filled with so many events and activities that it is sometimes hard to imagine that they all occurred in a single year. So while Trina and the kids put the finishing touches on the holiday decorations and wrap presents for under the tree I thought I would take a few moments to recount what we have been doing during the past 12 months. Please pull up a chair and pour yourself a cup of hot chocolate as we take a trip through the last year.

## January

As the year began we saw our family change dramatically. Mallorie would leave for her senior year at BYU-Idaho in Rexburg Idaho. She is majoring in Spanish Education with a minor in English as a Second Language. This year she will not be making the trip to Idaho alone. She has a new roommate, her sister Tiffany. After graduating from high school Tiffany was accepted at BYU-Idaho. She is still trying to decide on a major but presently she wants to study sign language and minor in photography. The girls left on Whitney's birthday but they celebrated her fifteenth birthday before hitting the road.

Dakota is once again playing soccer for the winter-spring season. He is on the AYSO Tournament team which keeps him very busy. He has practice twice a week and tournaments twice a month. This month we were in Deer Valley Arizona where he played in the Shoot for the Stars tournament. He is playing midfield and doing very well.

## February

February was a very busy month. It began with a visit from Trina's sister KayeLynn and her husband Mike. They came from Indiana and we had a lot of fun playing in the sun and laughing at all the people stuck in the frozen tundra at home. Dakota had a very busy month. He is

busy in scouts and went on the winter campout which sounds colder than it really is in Arizona. While he was gone Jeff took Trina and Whitney to the Diamondbacks FanFest where they were able to tour the field, the clubhouse, and the dugouts at Chase Field. Dakota was not very happy that he missed that.

The family spent nearly every weekend at the soccer fields as Dakota had three tournaments during February. The boys are beginning to play well and took fourth place.

Besides soccer Dakota was also involved in school creating a 3-D cell model for the science fair that earned him an award. He also attended a week long science camp for school but came home frozen from the snow.

Whitney is in high school band playing the flute and had her spring concert this month. She is doing very well.

## March

March can mean only one thing, Spring Training began. Jeff was at the ballpark as much as possible watching as many games as he could get in. Jeff's parents were here visiting on his birthday. The whole family went to a Spring Training game to see the Chicago Cubs play the Kansas City Royals. It was a great game made even better by having family around.

Dakota continued his soccer season with three more tournaments throughout the valley. His final tournament of the season was the end of March when he played in the Far West Classic. His team was undefeated going into the final game of the tournament. Dakota scored two goals himself and carried the team to the championship. He was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

## April

As April began, Opening Day was held at Chase Field between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies. Jeff has season tickets again and bought extra



# Summers Scrapbook 2009

tickets so the whole family could be there for the first game. Jeff's parents were also there to see the Diamondbacks win the game. Unfortunately it was one of only a few games they would win this season.

Mallorie and Tiffany came home from college for Easter break bringing almost the whole family back together minus Ashley who is teaching school in Utah.

April was also Dakota's birthday. He is now twelve years old and was ordained to be a Deacon. It is hard to imagine he is now old enough to collect Fast Offerings and pass the Sacrament.

## May

May marked the end of another school year. During the Teacher Appreciation Day Trina won a stereo system that was being raffled off to all the teachers at her school. Given the economy it looked as though Trina would not have a job next school year which dampened the celebration.

Jeff took Dakota to the Diamondbacks game and before the game Dakota was selected to be the Security Kid for the game. In this capacity he would shadow the on-field security guards that protected the field between innings. He was stationed next to the visitor's dugout and was able to talk to the opposing players and coaches. He ended up with several game balls and the experience of a lifetime.

Dakota and Whitney are out for Summer Vacation but Whitney decided she wanted to take Summer School to get ahead for next year. For the first few weeks she went to class while Dakota lounged around the pool. It just did not seem fair.

## June

June began with Trina having a job interview. The principal of her school had pulled some strings and although she did not have the seniority of some of the

other teachers she was able to retain her job for next school year. The district and the administrators all love the work Trina does with the kids.

With Mallorie and Tiffany still at school, the family decided to surprise her with a visit for her birthday. Jeff, Trina, Whitney, and Dakota made the trip to Idaho and arrived on Tiffany's birthday where they met her at a restaurant. She was very surprised and excited.

While at school Tiffany was running Intermural Track and doing quite well. Clearly she still had the desire to compete and based upon her results she had the skill necessary to compete at the collegiate level.

## July

When July arrived; Dakota left for scout camp. This is the first year Dakota has been able to go to camp. He had a lot of fun and came home excited but exhausted. Shortly after he arrived home Trina and Whitney left for girls came. It was Whitney's 4L year and she was looking forward to the adventure camping. Trina was once again in charge of the craft cabin.

Ashley and Eli came to visit in July giving Jeff and Trina time to visit with them. Now that they are in Utah their visits come much less frequently than anyone would like.

Tiffany and Mallorie finished the school year. Mallorie had an extra special month. Not only did she finish all of her classroom work but she also became engaged to James Kelly. Everyone was very excited for her.

As the month ended, Jeff and Trina were invited by the CEO/President of the Arizona Diamondbacks to watch a game from the owner's seats. The president had heard Jeff was looking for a Diamondbacks All-Star cap and had one for him. It was Justin Upton's hat that he gave him at the game. Jeff was floating on cloud nine for most of the month after this.



# Summers Scrapbook 2009

## August

Mallorie and Tiffany were now home from school but both of them were busy. Tiffany went to work at the City of Chandler pool as a lifeguard. Mallorie began her student teaching. She is teaching Spanish at Dobson High School in Mesa Arizona.

Dakota and Whitney return to school. Dakota is now in the seventh grade at Apprende Middle School while Whitney is a sophomore at Corona del Sol. Trina returned to work as well as an instructional assistant in the Kyrene School District.

Tiffany was contacted by the coaching staff at Mesa Community College and was offered a track scholarship. She accepted and began classes at MCC. She also began track practice where she will be competing in the high jump and the triple jump.

## September

Dakota began another soccer season. This year he is playing AYSO Gold which competes with the soccer club teams. He has practice twice a week plus games on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. He also has tournaments twice a month so his life as well as the lives of Jeff and Trina revolve around the soccer field.

Jeff received a call from the Arizona Diamondbacks asking if he would like to "steal second" during the September 11 game. He gladly accepted. During the game he went out on playing field with the Diamondbacks grounds crew and changed the bases. Every three innings all of the bases are replaced. He was able to do it twice during the game. At the end they gave him second base to take home with him. Now Jeff is trying to talk Trina into allowing him to mount the base on the wall of the family room.

Trina went to Indiana to visit KayeLynn and to attend her nephew Chris' wedding. She had a lot of fun visiting family and brought back lots of pictures.

## October

Dakota was busy on the soccer field and scored his first goal of the season. His team would go undefeated during Interleague Play with other AYSO regions. Besides playing soccer he is also involved in band at school playing the trumpet for the second year.

Mallorie continued to student teach at Dobson High. During Fall Break she flew to Idaho to see her fiancé James. While she was there family gave her a bridal shower. Some of James family came in for the shower. She had a wonderful time and talked about her experience all month.

With baseball season over, Jeff renewed his Season Tickets for the 2010 season. During Select-A-Seat he was able to relocate his seats to just beyond the Diamondbacks dugout on the third-base line in Row 9 Seat 9. With that many nines it has to be his lucky seat.

## November

November began with Dakota's soccer team winning the American Youth Soccer Association Division 3 Championship. They beat club teams who have been playing together for years. It was shocking to see an AYSO team do this well. The team followed up their success by taking first place in the Kick for the Cure Tournament. Dakota's coach recognized Dakota as the most valuable player leading the defense to allow only two goals the whole tournament.

Jeff was invited by the Arizona Diamondbacks to cover the groundbreaking ceremony for their new Spring Training facility in Scottsdale. He took Tiffany with him to take pictures. There were only 200 people invited to the event and the two of them had a blast rubbing shoulders with local dignitaries and in general being crazy Diamondbacks fans.

Mallorie finished student teaching this month and is now officially done with school. As if that was not exciting



# Summers Scrapbook 2009

enough James came down to spend Thanksgiving with the family. During the weekend Jeff went with them to take engagement pictures. Who knew you could take 730 pictures in three days?

## December

December began at the soccer field with Dakota's team participating in the San Tan Holiday Classic tournament. The team played well but came up against a team from Yuma who was bigger and stronger. They did well losing just one game and taking second place in the tournament even playing one player down due to injury.

Just a week before Christmas the family made a trip to Idaho for Mallorie's college graduation. Along the way they picked up Ashley in Orem. It was the first time in a very long time that the whole family would go on vacation together.

While in Idaho Trina and Mallorie gave Ashley a baby shower. Ashley is pregnant with her first child and is due the end of February. Trina is extremely excited. Jeff is still trying to talk Ashley into naming the baby "Sedona Red" but so far Ashley is holding her ground.

The family arrived home from Idaho just a couple of days before Christmas. It will be Mallorie's last Christmas at home before she gets married next April. Shortly after Christmas she is flying to Oregon to meet James. The two of them will drive back to Arizona. James has an internship in Chandler AZ while Mallorie will be substitute teaching while trying to get a teaching contract for next year.

It has been an amazing year filled with a lot of life changes. Looking forward to 2010 there seems to be even more incredible experiences. I hope you will be able to join us and share what looks to be a great year. The memories we are able to collect along our journey are treasured

especially when shared with friends and family. May the Lord bless each and every one of you. We pray that your lives will be filled with joy and happiness during the coming year and that you will take time to let us know what you have been doing.

*Jeff, Trina*

*Mallorie, Tiffany, Whitney & Dakota*