

Summers Scrapbook

2013

With the weather getting cooler (well cooler as far as Arizona is concerned) and the days getting shorter it can mean only one thing; winter is coming and with that we will shortly be into the holiday season. So as I sit down at the computer with a cup of hot chocolate and a blank document I find myself looking back over 2013 and I am amazed at everything that has occurred in the past 12 months. I invite you to read along as we recount the events of our family from 2013.

January

Whitney was home for Christmas break after completing her first semester at BYU-Idaho in Rexburg Idaho. She is thoroughly enjoying the college life but was very grateful to escape the cold winter weather for a couple of weeks to bask in the warm Arizona weather. Whitney celebrated her 19th birthday on January 2nd then boarded a plane back to Rexburg for her second semester of school. Dakota is once again playing soccer for Corona del Sol High School. This season he is dual-rostered playing both Junior Varsity and also Varsity. The varsity team did very well getting in to the state tournament where they lost in the quarterfinals. Dakota only had a week of rest before beginning track season. Tiffany is once again coaching jumpers for Corona del Sol working with the high jumpers and also the triple and long jumpers. She is doing very well.

February

While February is the shortest month of the year it was one of the busiest for the family. Track meets started for Dakota and Tiffany and they are busy with a meet nearly every week. Dakota is again playing spring club soccer and has tournaments nearly every weekend. Jeff and Lily are extremely excited because Spring Training has started. It should come as little surprise that Jeff has turned Lily into a huge baseball fan. They are at the ballpark nearly every day watching the players get ready for the season. Trina and Ashley throw Mallorie a baby-shower giving Jeff and Lily yet another excuse to go to the ballpark. The month ended with Jeff having to undergo his fourth shoulder surgery. He has been in pain for some time and the doctor this time found his bicep tendon had been reattached incorrectly during the last surgery six years ago meaning the operation was more serious than they had first imagined. This would keep Jeff out for a month and by December he is still unable to resume throwing.

March

Lily celebrated her third birthday on March 2nd and Jeff celebrated his birthday a week later. Trina and the kids gave Jeff tickets to the World Baseball Classic being held at Chase Field. With his arm still in a sling he was back at the ballpark, which seemed to lessen the pain just a little. Spring Training in the Cactus League was in full swing meaning Jeff and Trina (or one of the kids) were at the park watching baseball. March ended with the family celebrating Easter with their traditional Easter egg hunt around the house. Lily may be the smallest one but she somehow ended up with the most eggs.

April

When April arrived so did the start of the baseball regular season and Jeff was back at Chase Field watching the Arizona Diamondbacks. Trina found it interesting that Jeff was cleared to be out of his shoulder brace just in time for Opening Day. Jeff continued to milk his injury though making Trina drive him around. April also saw the arrival of Syrell Lindsay Kelly, Jeff & Trina's second grandchild. She is perfect and everyone is enjoying spoiling her every chance they can get. From the day she was born Jeff was bugging Mallorie and James to get her to a Diamondbacks game. As the month ended Whitney returned home from her second semester of college. Dakota completed his club soccer season with the team winning several tournaments. He is doing extremely well in track triple jumping and is the number

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one jumper for Corona. Jeff's month ended with another surgical procedure, this one an endoscopy as the doctors attempted to identify a mass they found. Everyone was nervous (including Jeff) but things seemed normal.

May

May is always a busy month and this year was no exception. Besides Mother's Day, Ashley's birthday, Mallorie's birthday, and James birthday we also were able to attend Syrell's blessing day. Jeff's parents were here to witness the event and it was wonderful having them there. As the month ended so did the school year. Dakota successfully completed his sophomore year of high school. Normally the end of the school year is a time of celebration but for Trina it was bitter sweet as she ended her job with Kyrene School District after being an Instructional Assistant there for seven years. Jeff tried to cheer her up offering to take her to the Diamondbacks double header but somehow nine hours of baseball didn't seem like a reward. Instead Jeff and Whitney spent the day and most of the night at the ballpark.

June

The month began with Jeff traveling to Newport Beach California where he was speaking at the Wells Fargo Architecture Summit. This is becoming an annual event where he goes and speaks to IT professionals. At the time no one would have guessed this week in California would lead to a much larger audience in the coming months. Upon his return Jeff was once again undergoing another battery of tests and another procedure as doctors attempted to identify a mass in his abdomen. This procedure didn't keep Jeff down long and by June 18th he was taking Trina to the most romantic spot he knew, Chase Field. There is nothing quite like dinner and a ball game to show how much you love someone. This month also saw Trina, Mallorie, and Syrell fly to Idaho to visit family. This was the first time Trina's family had seen Syrell. It was also an introduction to Great-great Grandma Olsen something very special to everyone.

July

The month of July is one that Jeff will never forget. Earlier in the baseball season James entered a social media contest called D-backs Crashers where he entered a photo of crashing an event wearing Diamondbacks gear. James used a photo from their wedding where Jeff made Mallorie wear a Diamondbacks hat and dance to D-backs Swing. At the time of the reception everyone was devastated but that photo won James a trip to New York City. He took Jeff along and the two of them flew from Arizona to the Big Apple where they visited the MLB Fan Cave, toured New York, and were the guests of Major League Baseball at a Diamondbacks versus New York Mets game. It was an incredible experience that neither of them will ever forget. At home Tiffany, Whitney, and Dakota were settling into their summer jobs. Tiffany and Dakota are both working as lifeguards for the City of Chandler. Tiffany is also a lifeguard at Chase Field when the Diamondbacks are in town. Whitney is working at Sites USA and having a great time.

August

August again means back to school. Ashley continues teaching second grade in the Kyrene School District. Dakota started his junior year at Corona del Sol. Trina did not go back to work instead staying home to take care of Lily and now Syrell. This month Jeff met with another specialist, this one an organ transplant doctor. The medical staff decided the mass in Jeff's abdomen had to be removed. It had grown to twice the size from when first identified and there were fears it was cancerous. Jeff was in the hospital for a week with Trina by his side. The kids all came up to visit him and all chipped in to get him a Diamondbacks Patrick Corbin All-Star jersey. When he was released from the hospital the

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Diamondbacks invited Jeff to come down onto the field before a game to meet Patrick Corbin who autographed the jersey and gave Jeff a bat. It was an emotional time for everyone involved.

September

While still recovering from his stomach surgery Jeff flew to Idaho with Whitney to take her back to BYU Idaho where she started her sophomore year. She was sad to leave the family but excited to go back to college to see her friends. While in Idaho, Jeff was able to visit his Grandma Olsen who was now 95. It was a wonderful visit for both of them. In Arizona Tiffany was also back in school continuing her education studying to be a deaf studies interpreter. She should receive her Associates Degree in December then will apply for admission in the extended interpreting program.

October

October was a month defined by the number of trips to the airport the family made. Early in the month Jeff was once again traveling this time to Lake Tahoe for a conference. That was followed two weeks later with a trip to India. Yes, you read that right Jeff went to India. It was not a trip he was looking forward to but because of the presentations he made in June Wells Fargo sent him to India to introduce the Architecture program there. He would be there for 2 ½ weeks. While Jeff was overseas, Trina, Dakota, Tiffany, Mallorie, and Syrell flew to Idaho to attend Jeff Petersen's farewell for his mission. They were also able to visit Grandma Olsen whose health was not doing well. It was a wonderful trip for them and everyone was excited. The month ended with Halloween. Lily was once again a princess; this time she was Snow White while Syrell was dressed as Ariel from the Little Mermaid.

November

Jeff started the month still in India arriving home the first week. He was never so glad to be home in his life. It was an experience of a lifetime but one he is hoping to never have to go through again. If they want him to travel internationally again he is hoping they send him to Epcot in Walt Disney World. Jeff was home a week when he was once more at the airport for another week of meetings in southern California. He arrived home just a couple of days before Whitney flew from Idaho for Thanksgiving. It is always great when all of the family is able to be together. The day before Thanksgiving Jeff received word that his Grandma Olsen passed away. Thanksgiving was more somber this year with the loss and as the month ended the family was preparing for a trip to Idaho.

December

As the month began the family was in a car headed to Idaho to attend a funeral. Grandma Olsen was the last of Jeff's grandparents to pass away and it has been especially hard not only on him but also on Trina who was very close to her. The family feels blessed to be able to be at her funeral and to have so many wonderful memories of her in their lives. In an interesting twist, the family had to leave before Whitney went back to school so she was still in Arizona while the rest of the family was in Idaho. She then flew back to school and the family picked her up at the airport in Idaho. After the funeral James, Mallorie, Tiffany, and Syrell drove back to Arizona but were caught in a severe winter storm having to spend the night in Cedar City Utah. The rest of the family left the following day but the storm found them without power in sub-zero weather. Fortunately everyone returned home safely. Dakota returned home and began soccer games for Corona del Sol High School. He is on the varsity team this season and is looking forward to having a good season. Perhaps the most exciting news is that Ashley is engaged! Aaron Oplinger surprised her with a ring while they were looking at the temple Christmas lights. It is great

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seeing her so happy. Around the house Lily is reminding everyone how many days until Christmas and more importantly how many days until Whitney comes home from college for the holidays.

Looking back of 2013 it has been a year filled with challenges. We have been on an emotional rollercoaster dealing with Jeff's health issues and the passing of loved ones. Despite of the struggles we are extremely grateful for all of the experiences we have had. Each trial has brought our family closer together and that is something none of us would trade for anything.

This year has given us a lot of time to stop and ponder how quickly things can change and how precious each moment on this earth can be. We pray that this holiday season finds you in good spirits and good health. May your lives be filled with happiness and joy in 2014 and beyond and may each moment be a memory you can share with those you love.

Jeff, Trina, Tiffany, Whitney, Dakota, Ashley & Lily

