

The Story of Josh and Zack Ennis.

Josh Ennis- Clarenville Cougar Alumni, Current Memorial Sea~Hawk
Zack Ennis- Current Clarenville Cougar



Before Zach was born Josh had already decided that he was going to have a baby brother and that his name would be **Zach**! Even though Zach was born with Downs Syndrome and had a heart murmur, Josh didn't treat him any different, he was just happy to have his baby brother. There were plenty of hospital visits as the Doctors were monitoring Zach's heart and were expecting to do the repairs around his first birthday, but that's when they learned that Zach had Leukemia. This required Zach to under-go 6 months of Chemo-Therapy which also meant an extended stay in ICU due to his heart condition, thus Josh & Zach were separated from each other a lot during Josh's kindergarten year, luckily we had good Family support to get us through this very scary time and both Zach and Josh did fine.

Then we were faced with Zach finally getting his heart repaired, which 4 months later again separated Josh & Zach as we traveled to Ottawa for Zach's open-heart surgery. Thankfully all went well and 3 weeks later Josh finally had his little brother back home with him in Clarenville.

A few years later, Josh realized his love for sports and became involved with his School in Clarenville. His little brother, Zach, was always there on the bench or close by cheering on Josh & the boys, collecting medals, and getting in on team photo's! Then as Josh went on to university at Memorial, Zach was more than excited that Josh was part of the Seahawks Volleyball Team. Zach loved to wear his Seahawks T-Shirt to show his classmates at Clarenville Middle School and he wore it proudly!!

Given Zach's limitations we never expected Zach to be involved in team sports but after all the years of following Josh we knew he loved volleyball. To our surprise last year, Zach who in Grade 8, was in the gym playing with a volleyball when the Grade 7 boys and Coach invited Zach to join them in their practice scrimmage. Zach is very shy but with the prompting from the boys he jumped in and did great! Later we were blown away, but a little apprehensive when Coach Power asked if Zach could be a part of their team.

Well, this inclusion and acceptance from the boys and becoming a part of this team changed Zach's whole outlook at School and the entire school was excited for him as well! It did wonders for his self confidence and Zach couldn't wait to show Josh his Tigers Jersey, Josh couldn't believe it either!! Even now when we watch Zach play, as parents we can't get over how his teammates accept Zach and make allowances for his limitations, while at the same time are

super supportive. When ever Zach gets a serve in or helps out on a play, not only do his own team fans cheer, but so do the other team fans! That certainly feels awesome, for us as a family and for Zack!

Volleyball has been great for Zach and after following Josh for years on the elite side of the sport, and being proud of his accomplishments, we now see it from a different perspective and are equally proud of Zach's accomplishments. Success depends on how it is measured!

Thanks again Luke for letting Josh showcase his little brother Zach, to the Seahawks and fans. It's something we will always remember and be proud of!

