



# FOREVER WITH flash

PHOTO BY PEYTON BRADY

ON APRIL 28, 2015, National Superhero Day, West lost a student, a friend, an athlete and a young man to stage three T-cell lymphoma. His name was Austin "Flash" Schroeder, and little did anyone know the impact he would leave on the student body. His name, baseball number and story are a powerful reminder to "Win the Day."

"Win the Day meant giving the best effort every single play, pitch, basketball game, football, baseball, whatever sport you're playing," Craig Schroeder said. "Every single minute, give your best effort that you possibly can."

This mantra was repeated during Flash's sports career and again during his treatments. "Win the Day" is the heart of the Flash Foundation, which works to help kids like Flash.

"[The Foundation] is really his wish. It's his legacy," Craig Schroeder said. "The Foundation itself isn't just about raising money, cancer awareness and helping families that go through it. That's really the cancer piece of it. But it's still about Win The Day. It's still about spreading that message as much as we can."

Flash's relationship with Patrick McCaffery '19 strengthened when each got news of his cancer.

"We both got cancer around the same time, so it took our relationship to another level ... we had such a good understanding of what the other was going through," McCaffery said.

When she got the call Flash had passed away, Belle Parker '18 went to the hospital.

"It was hard, because that was the first time that I got to tell him that I loved him, and I think I wish I would have told him sooner."

Flash would have graduated in May, but his name and his story have kept his memory alive.

"He was one of us, so understanding what he went through and how he handled it truly speaks to who he was," Carter Johnson '18 said.

Austin Geasland '18 added, "That's what makes his story so special to the people close to him."

—By Sidney Kout

## 38 REMEMBERING AUSTIN SCHROEDER

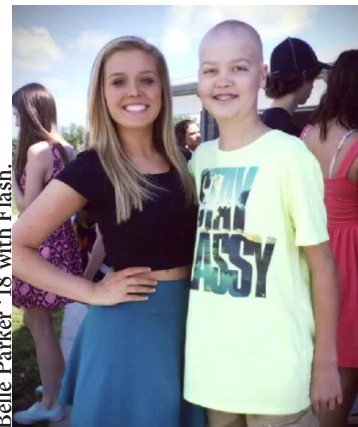
**"I wish every single day that he was here with me, but I know that he is doing everything he loves and that he is watching over every single person."**

—Belle Parker '18

Seniors Jake Anderson, Carter Johnson and Austin West with Flash on the baseball field.



Belle Parker '18 with Flash.

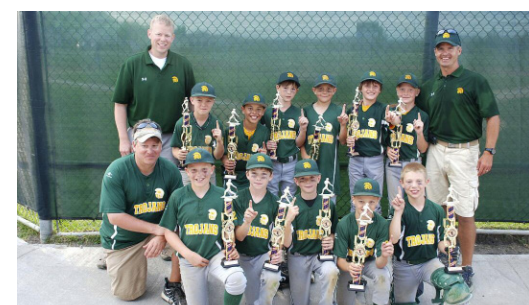


**"People ask why cancer had to take such a great kid. To me, the answer is obvious: He was so unique and so great. God said it was his time so that he could affect the community in such a positive way. I'm not mad at God in the slightest. Flash has no more pain, I get to see that kid again someday!"**

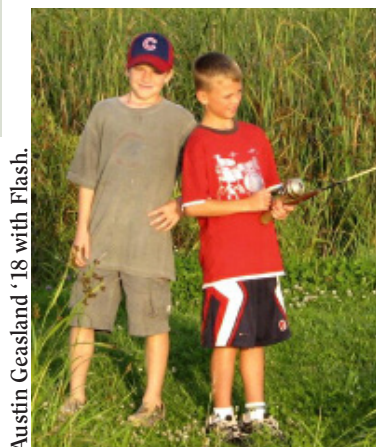
—Jake Anderson '18

**"I'll always remember Austin as the best teammate and friend. He was selfless and always supported his friends in everything. The number 22 will always have a special place in my heart and with the class of 2018."**

—Carter Johnson '18



May of 2010 Trojan Baseball team.



Austin Geasland '18 with Flash.

**"He was always hopeful, and always knew that everybody was doing their best. He never really lost faith in that. His attitude and the way he held himself is a test to who he is."**

—Austin Geasland '18



Grace Miler '19, Katie Severt '19, Colby Greene '18



**"Austin, he was just kind and really caring and funny. He loved life. I would just be somewhere in the house, and he would yell out, 'Mom, I love you so much' and as a mom, your heart just bursts whenever you hear your child say those words. And I would immediately reply back with, 'I love you too.' He just was a lover and such a great kid. We were truly blessed for the 15 years we got to have with him."**

—Stacy Schroeder



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