

# Community Tribute to Young Umpire

By Tom Conroy

An estimated 1,500 people arrived at Real Life Church in Valencia, Calif., July 15, 2017, to pay their respects to Collin Gore. Classmates, family members and friends reminisced about Collin's passion and drive in life, whether it was as a swimmer, a community volunteer or as an umpire. Gore was also remembered for his love



The William S. Hart Baseball Umpires Association dedicated this plaque to Collin Gore at the local field in Santa Clarita.

of music, whether it was playing trumpet and tuba, or singing songs from "Beauty and the Beast" while riding in the car.

Gore was coming home from work on the evening of July 4 when he was killed in a car accident. Gore's death shocked the community, which mourned the loss of the young man who just graduated high school weeks before and was set to attend San Diego State University in the fall.

Classmates remembered Gore

for his extensive involvement in school activities at Hart High School in Santa Clarita. He was co-captain of the swim team on top of playing soccer, basketball and baseball. He held a 4.0 GPA and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Beginning in 2015, Gore started working as a youth umpire for the William S. Hart Baseball Umpires Association. League assigner Buck Van Patten spoke highly of Gore's skills as an official despite only having three years of experience.

"Collin was a great kid who was extremely confident on the field," said Van Patten. "He had a great understanding of rules and mechanics, handled situations on the field with skill and care, and always remained calm, cool and collected."

Van Patten and other umpires in the association honored Gore with a plaque at the local field in Santa Clarita. The home-plate-shaped plaque features Gore's favorite motivational phrase: "Do Better."

"Any time that he would run into a problem or wanted to help someone out, his advice was always to strive to do better," said Van Patten. "It was a simple phrase that he lived by."

The impact of Gore's death reverberated through the entire Valencia community to which he had given so much of his time and energy. He volunteered at Valencia United Methodist Church and drove for Safe Rides, a program that provides transportation for local youth. He even found time for two part-time jobs at McDonald's and as a lifeguard at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor.

"It's amazing what he packed into 18 short years," said Collin's sister, Genelle. "Collin is truly missed by so many and we'll never forget the memories we made with him."

Tom Conroy is Referee's assistant editor. □

## MLB Umpire Conducts Clinic in Canada

Stu Scheurwater, the only Canadian umpire in Major League Baseball, held a three-day training camp this past February for burgeoning umpires in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The camp was organized by the P.E.I. Baseball Umpires Association and featured both Scheurwater and Trevor Grieve, who umpired the gold medal game in the last two World Baseball Classics.

"The amount of preparation Stu and Trevor did was amazing," said Kent Walker, the supervisor of umpires for P.E.I. "And the amount we got covered in three days was also astounding. Everyone who talked to me after the clinic said how much they were impressed by the quality of the clinic."

"For me, it's all about giving something back," said Scheurwater. "I'm very fortunate to be where I am, so I try not to forget that and whenever I can, I try to help someone else."

SOURCE: THEGUARDIAN.PE.CA

## Referee, Cancer Survivor Reflects on Battle

For college women's basketball referee Rachelle Jones, the annual Play4Kay initiative for breast cancer research means more to her than just honoring former North Carolina State coach Kay Yow, who died of breast cancer in 2009. For Jones, it serves as a reminder of her own two bouts with the disease. She had her first bout with breast cancer in 2012 and her second last year.

"It reminds me of the fight," said Jones, who appeared in her first Final Four last spring. "I'm tickled (to be a part of it) because if people only knew what I've been through. I hope people understand the significance of wearing those pink whistles, those pink uniforms and shoes. Cancer is a horrible disease and we need to continue to fight to find a cure."

SOURCE: HERALDCOURIER.COM

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