



THE 2018 SURVIVOR GAME



It started on the ice... doesn't it always! Two fierce competitors, a tight game, and a few penalties... and an unlikely friendship was forged. With Danny wrongly "screening" Steve, the goalie, as the clock ticked down, the tension mounted. To say Steve wasn't happy would be putting it mildly. A strong "nudge" from one of Steve's teammates that sent Danny flying into the boards got the kid's attention, even if he wasn't clear as to why. After the game, the Dawgs team captain, Martin Richardson, also the Dawg Father to all of Dawg Nation, including the foundation, set Danny straight on the code of conduct and suggested Danny call Steve to set things right.

After an explanation and apology, the two players got to talking, really talking, and discovered they had something besides hockey in common, they were both cancer survivors! Sharing their journeys through the illness forged a bond, and formed an idea, to bring together those hockey players who, like them, had beaten the odds, and create a roster of survivors to play the game they all loved.

MEET THE 2018 SURVIVOR GAME PLAYERS



Jacob Bailey

I have been playing hockey since I was 10. I was diagnosed in June 2009 at the age of 23 with Multiple Sclerosis. The disease became progressive and left me sidelined from hockey for 6 years. In 2013, the doctors at the University of Colorado Hospital put me on a trial that has given me the mobility to keep going for eight months of the year. I am truly grateful for my family because they have all supported me through times in a wheelchair, a cane, eye sight lost and much more. Never giving up, I have always found new ways to continue the activities that I love. I am now working towards my Addiction Counseling Certification and Equine Animal Assisted Therapy. Thank you Dawg Nation for allowing me to be a part of this inspiring cause!!!



Timothy Bennett

Tim was diagnosed with testicular cancer in December 2010 and underwent surgery the same. The first question Tim asked the doctors after his surgery was how soon he could play hockey again. Shortly thereafter, Tim was back at it and enjoying life again, which of course included hockey. Unfortunately, since then he has had three recurrences, most recently in December 2016. Throughout these years, Tim has undergone numerous surgeries and chemotherapy. Tim is still an active duty officer in the Army and is grateful for everyday he continues to serve his country. As with any team, Tim continues to win with a great team of doctors, surgeons, and most importantly his wife Ashley, who has gotten Tim back in hockey-shape after each procedure. Tim is excited to participate in the Dawg Nation Survivor Game and is grateful for the opportunity. **Motto/Advice:** When nothing goes right, go left.



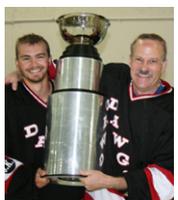
Dan Bitondo

Dan is a 10 year survivor of Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He went through six months of Chemo and has been cancer free ever since! The FIRST thing he did when the doctor cleared him was to get back on the ice. Says he was 40 lbs overweight and out of shape after his treatment. "Hockey got me back into shape and I continue to skate every week!" **Motto/Advice:** If you are diagnosed with cancer, try to keep a positive outlook, have faith in your doctors and modern medicine and you can win!



Greg Bronson

I have been playing hockey since I was four. Can't tell by the way I skate, but I sure enjoy it. I am very lucky to have recovered from prostate cancer that I had seven years ago. I look forward to playing in this game and tournament each year but mostly to play with a bunch of great people. I am playing in Albuquerque in Joe Hanson's NM Hockey League once a week, but look forward to it every week.



David Chamberlin

David was diagnosed with prostate cancer in January 2008 and underwent radical prostatectomy in March of that year. With the support and encouragement of the Dawg Nation, he recovered in time to climb a 18,600-foot mountain in Russia four months later in July 2008. Cancer scans since surgery have all been clean! **Motto/Advice:** Always think positively. If you think you can't, you won't; if you think you can, you will.



Tristan Close

Tristan is a survivor of a germinoma brain tumor at the age of 15/16 and is now 10 years clear from surgery and treatment. He has graduated from Colorado Mesa University where he was able to play for the club hockey team. He has since been working with doctors to manage the lack of a pituitary gland from the tumor and has enjoyed being able to play hockey all these years post cancer.



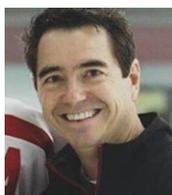
Don Coombes

Don's been playing since high school, through college and all his adult life. Diagnosed with cancer of the tongue in 2003, his battle has been long, with the disease returning in 2007 and despite strenuous radiation and chemo, again in 2010, when he underwent a major 11-hour long surgery... and he's been cancer free ever since. Through it all, he's played and coached the game he loves. **Motto/Advice:** NEVER GIVE UP! If you want something bad enough, like having more time with your family, you NEVER QUIT FIGHTING!



Mark Daugherty

Mark was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in May of 2013. He underwent 6 months of chemo and radiation and has been in remission since October 2013. Mark says he's lucky. Lucky to have been diagnosed early, lucky to have an amazing family and lucky to have the all-in support of his fellow firefighters at North Metro Fire Rescue. Hockey has been a big part of Mark's life for as long as he can remember and he says he will never forget the day the doctor cleared him to play after treatment. Mark would like to thank Dawg Nation for the unbelievable amount of support given every year to so many and for creating this amazing Survivor's Game.



Taylor Erickson

This time last year I enjoyed playing in the Dawg Nation tournament, old guys division. Then, in December I experienced a fall which fractured my skull and caused a sub-dermal hematoma traumatic brain injury. First memories, days later, I could not speak or move my right leg. So began the healing process and learning a new normal. Thanks to prayers, love, and the continuing support & inspiration of the hockey community I have been recovering quicker than expected. This year I look forward to making my return to hockey in the survivor game. Thank you all and God Bless.



Richard Forman

Richard has been a youth hockey coach for over 25 years at Arvada Hockey Association. He is a survivor of Prostate cancer. Following external beam radiation therapy, visits to his acupuncturist, and redesigning his diet, he remains cancer free today. He says that he couldn't have done it without the help of his wonderful wife. Since then, he has become a spokesperson for The Urology Center of Colorado(TUCC), has done a Television commercial and been in magazines. **Motto/Advice:** Battling cancer or adversity in life is by no means a death sentence. With a positive attitude and a good support system, anyone can beat it.



Andy Gerrie

Diagnosed with colon cancer in April of 2007, Andy had surgery and six months of chemotherapy to fight it. Despite this he had a recurrence in his lung in December of 2010. He had surgery to remove the tumor and six more months of chemotherapy. His family and teammates are celebrating that he's had no visible signs of recurrence since then, though still checking every six months. **Motto/Advice:** Happiness is a choice. We all get to make that choice every day, every hour, every minute.



Dennis Heaton

Dennis played youth hockey in Arvada and then was lucky enough to coach his boys in Arvada 30 years later. While playing in an Adult league Dennis shattered his ankle and tibia. Six months after surgery an infection was discovered and the real battle had begun. The infection resulted in Dennis losing his ankle joint and over 4 inches of his tibia. He had to make the decision to either cut off his leg or go through a bone transport process to try and save the leg. It took 8 surgeries in which his remaining tibia was cut in two places and pulled down through his leg while new bone grew behind. Although painful he is happy to still have his leg. Dennis is proud to support Dawg Nation and their mission to help fellow hockey players. Never give Up! (Dennis is not skating out this year but will be a bench coach.)



Duane Helderlein

Duane was diagnosed with a rare cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma, in December, 2010. Since obtaining clean margins from surgical removal, all follow-up tests to-date have been negative for recurrence. Two months after surgery, he was back playing the sport that he's passionate about and hasn't looked back. **Motto/Advice:** When life throws unexpected challenges your direction, believe in conquering those challenges and stay on course in what drives your passion in life. Never give up!



Dan Hohenstein

In addition to five surgeries for skin cancer, in 2011 Dan was hit and crushed by an SUV while standing beside his mail truck. The collision snapped his femur in half, shattered his lower leg, and crushed his knee, in addition to major internal injuries. Still, he says it was the luckiest day of his life in that he is grateful to have a second chance. **Motto/Advice:** Just remember that there is always somebody that is in a worse situation than you. Never give up! Whenever you have a chance to help somebody else less fortunate, make sure you help them.



Scott Jones

Scott went through prostate cancer surgery in the summer of 2006 after being informed of his condition following a routine physical. Upon a full recovery he was able to return to all his normal activities which includes hockey which still plays every week. As a rusty veteran of Denver adult hockey for over 30 years he treasures the great friendships that have formed over all those years, not only as a player but a coach and hockey dad as well.



Steve Jouflas

19 years out from his initial treatment for Leukemia, Steve says it's been an interesting experience, including a couple of reoccurrence scares. But he comes from a family of survivors, including his wife who has beat breast cancer and his father who also has been treated for Leukemia. The good news . . . they're all beating it! Steve considers himself blessed from it all and aware of the gift that life truly is. **Motto/advice:** This quoted from Victor Frankl sums it up beautifully "Everything can be taken from a man or woman but one thing, the last of human freedoms, to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."



Chris Kearns

Chris was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer a few weeks before his 32nd birthday and rushed into surgery. Dawg Bowl V was his first time back on the ice since surgery. In 2016 he completed chemo and has been cleared of cancer. Chris attributes his quick recovery to his family, doctors, and his commitment to never missing an opportunity to play hockey. A big thanks to Dawg Nation for reminding me why I love this sport, and for always paying it forward.



Guy Kennedy

Guy grew up in Michigan, playing youth and adult league hockey. He has played hockey with the Dawgs and other teams in the Denver area over the years. He has coached his 3 sons in youth hockey for the past 14 years. Guy was diagnosed with stage IV tonsillar cancer just before Christmas 2014. He underwent aggressive chemo/radiation treatment and continues to be cancer free. Guy and his family are very grateful for the generous financial assistance and support from DNHF. Without the support of my hockey family/friends and amazing wife, I am not sure how I would have managed to achieve "survival status". The 2016 Survivor Game was Guy's first time to suit up since his cancer diagnosis. Although I do believe that cancer changes people, I like to think I lived my life before cancer, the same way I do after cancer.



Aiden Kirby

I grew up on Arizona ice. I moved to CO in 2010 and continued to play competitive hockey. After sustaining a back injury playing hockey, MRIs and CTs led doctors to find 3 fractured vertebrae and to everyone's surprise a tumor. I couldn't have gotten through it all without the unconditional love and support from hockey friends and family!



J.T. Kohl

I was diagnosed with having bladder cancer in March 2014 and had surgery on April 7, 2014. I am still undergoing treatments. I have an incredible group of family and friends that have made this journey far more tolerable than it might otherwise be. I have always loved the game of hockey so, inspired by my Uncle Mike Sullivan (73 years young), an Old Dawg himself, I am privileged to be playing hockey with some of my fellow survivors at the Dawg Bowl VI Survivor's Game. I appreciate this opportunity and all that Dawg Nation does and – God willing – I look forward to being a part of it for a long time to come.



Ed Maj

Ed has been playing hockey since he was 15, it's one sport that a shorter person can actually be successful and take to the taller players...just kidding. In 2008 I was diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer and after a successful surgery Ed has been cancer free. Playing in the Survivor game is an honor and a tribute to all that are fighting hard and looks forward to be with them on the ice as well as playing in Tourney for the Beer Guys wearing GREEN in honor of our friend Kim McLeod... **Motto/advice:** I share my story on prostate cancer to all in hopes that they too will understand the importance of check ups and screenings in hopes that my experience might save others... what more can I ask for! (Ed is not skating out this year but will be a bench coach.)



Alan Manning

New Year's Eve 2001 Alan was diagnosed with stage 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma. With a newborn and a wife he did whatever he had to do to get better for them. After rounds of chemo and radiation, we are happy to say that he is still cancer free. Unfortunately, in the wake of all this, his wife was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. She fought hard, but lost her battle in 2004. He continues with support any way he can, including volunteering for the 3 day walk and race for the cure. **Motto/Advice:** Life is short, don't forget the little things in life. You never know who will be affected by you.



Jim Maroney

In 2009 Jim was diagnosed with three forms of cancer... a softball size lymphoma next to his heart, some "anomalies" in his spinal fluid and some opportunistic basil cell skin cancers. In the hospital for three months plus going through two different chemo treatments at the same time left him weak and only a fraction of his normal weight. Beating the odds, he did survive and the treatment worked well. **Motto/Advice:** Hang in there and just try to make it through one day at a time. It is easy to be impatient with a recovery process. Obviously it helps to have a strong support system in place. Friends and family were critical to my recovery.



Ray Martin

In late 2015 I discovered a small lump in my lymph node in my neck. I luckily saw that it should not be there and had it checked as soon as I could. I was diagnosed with Squamous cell carcinoma in my right tonsil area and lymph node in the right neck area. I have been blessed to have a great medical crew to take care of me. I decided to have the areas operated on instead of radiation/chemo. I had a right radical tonsillectomy and right neck dissection. My ENT surgeon was able to eradicate all of the cancer so I did not have to undergo either radiation/chemo. (Ray is not skating out this year but will be a bench coach.)



Richard McAllister

Richard played competitively in the Eastern Ontario (Canada) Junior B Hockey League. Since then, he has played adult recreational hockey in many Canadian and U.S. cities. Richard is a survivor of thyroid cancer, detected while he was in graduate school. One of Richard's professors, Dr. Arnie Moses, directed clinical research center studies at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. Richard often volunteered as a guinea pig in those studies because they were paying gigs (and he was a starving graduate student!). During the physical exam prior to one of those studies, Dr. Moses detected a thyroid nodule. Richard had a thyroidectomy in July, 1987, and has been cancer-free for nearly 30 years. **Inspirational quote:** "Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind . . . To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble." Good words for all, not just cancer patients (and survivors).



Dustin McGuinness

In February 2009, at the age of 15, Dustin sustained a Severe Traumatic Brain Injury while playing in a Midget playoff hockey game in Durango. He was transported by life-flight to St. Mary's hospital with a subdural hematoma, midline shift and diffuse brain swelling. Dustin underwent an emergency craniotomy and spent the next four months slowly waking up from a deep coma. He re-learned how to swallow, walk, talk, read...

in essence, everything. Now, in true survivor form, Dustin continues to recover. With the gift of a service dog from DNHF, Dustin is working to achieve his goals of independent living and becoming an elementary art teacher.



Bill Miller

Bill was diagnosed with prostate cancer in July, 2014 and elected to have a radical prostatectomy the following September. All of his post-surgery PSA tests have since come back zero and after almost 4 years he remains cancer free. After years as a Dawg Nation supporter Bill found himself going from being a spectator to a participant in the Survivor game which is special to him as his wife is also a cancer survivor. Bill is currently a board member of

Dawg Nation. **Motto/Advice:** Keep up with physicals and annual tests, and pay attention to any changes no matter how small they may seem.



Christina Montoya

Christina was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 27 and from treatments developed skin cancer. During her treatments for these cancers, she also discovered she had stage 4 endometriosis as well as cervical cancer which forced her to have a partial hysterectomy in 2010 and a cervicectomy in 2011. During 2013 she was diagnosed with Hashimoto's and in the spring of 2014, she was diagnosed with liver tumors and had to have two more

surgeries. 2016 brought two additional surgeries, and in March of 2017, she was diagnosed with liver tumors for the second time in three years, as well as a metabolic syndrome that is affecting her ability to break down and use fats correctly, causing fat infiltration of her liver. Early in 2017 she also added 2 more notches to her surgery belt for a grand total of 19. But the rough news of 2017 came late in October when she was diagnosed with Stage 3 Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH), a morbid liver disease. **Motto/Advice:** Don't ever think you are defeated or have become less of who you are because of something that's happened to you. Take your experiences as lessons and see what you were learning during both your struggles and times of joy. Remember to do things in your life that come from your heart, for you will be overwhelmed with what comes back to you. And always be kinder than necessary to others... for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.



Danny Packard

After graduating from CSU, Danny was diagnosed with advance stage thyroid cancer. Four surgeries and multiple rounds of radiation did little to diminish his drive to be back in the game through, as he continued to show up as often as possible to cheer on his teammates, or on good days, play a bit on his line. He's quick to say that he's had amazing support all the way and that along with his wife and family, Dawg Nation has played a huge role in his recovery. Almost five years later now, and his cancer markers are the lowest over!

Motto/Advice: It's all about the people you surround yourself with. There's no better people that those you'll find in Dawg Nation!



Evan Palan

In 2016 I Evan was diagnosed with MS and advanced degenerative disc disease. Currently Evan is receiving monthly infusions to slow down the MS and is seeing 8 doctors/specialists, though his health continues to decline. Ignoring the advice of his wife to quit hockey, Evan continues to ref and play, but at a lesser capacity. Thirty years of playing and 12 years of refereeing make it hard to walk away and Evan never calls in sick to ref, even though he is in terrible pain 75% of the time. His physical therapist and neurologist credit hockey for Evan not being in worse shape. He notices his balance and weakness, but is still in a normal range because of his passion for hockey. As an old friend told Evan, "hockey is life." It's now a literal statement for him. Evan is looking forward to having the opportunity to play in the Survivor Game with his friends and fellow survivors Jim Maroney, Dan Hohenstein, and Dave Topping.



Torin Perret

Torin is a student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He has been playing hockey since he was four. In December of 2015 it was discovered that Torin had a brain tumor on the top of his brainstem in his midbrain. It turned out to be an inoperable grade three Anaplastic Astrocytoma. He was forced to take time off from school but is back now finishing up his degree in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources.



Andrew "Cookie" Pfankuch

Andrew was excited as he began his freshman year of college, but his goals were interrupted when diagnosed with Leukemia. His normally active lifestyle, which included snow-boarding, camping, fishing, working on cars and of course, hockey, was brought to a halt with the reality of his diagnosis on Christmas Day. After a long road and many rounds of chemo, as of 4/1/12 he is no longer undergoing treatments and is enjoying being back on the ice. **Motto/Advice:** Stay strong and fight.



Johnny Plover

In 2008 I was badly wounded in a suicide car bomb attack in Mosul, Iraq. As a result I suffered a broken neck, dislocated shoulder, and head trauma. Fast forward 10 yrs. and I am still standing, sometimes barely it feels like. During those years were some dark times, HOCKEY, this game of ours kept me in its embrace and constantly showed me that I had much more to do. Numerous surgeries and countless hours of rehab helped keep me where I belong, on the ice. During my 2 tours to Iraq, I received 2 Purple Heart Medals, for wounded in combat, and 2 Army Commendation Medals with Valor device, for actions while wounded in combat. Thank you for taking the time to read me.



Skip Scarlett

Skip has been an official for youth and adult hockey in the Denver metro area for over thirty years. In October of 2013, Skip underwent triple bypass heart surgery after several months of “just not feeling right”. Thanks to the skilled surgeons and terrific staff at Presbyterian St. Luke’s, a loving wife (Rhonda) and prayers and support, Skip was back on his feet in no time. Incredibly, Skip was back on the ice two months later and hasn’t looked back

since! **Motto/Advice:** Don’t take your health for granted, work at maintaining good healthy habits for yourself. Set the example for your loved ones. Give back to those who have given to you and once again, set the example.



Sid Souleret

I was diagnosed with melanoma on my back which then progressed to my lymph nodes. I went on an aggressive bio-chemotherapy treatment – every day for a week followed by three weeks recoup time for the next six months. This was in addition to surgery to remove the lymph nodes in my right arm. With the help and support of my wife Katie and my two daughters, I’m getting better every day. It has been five years since my last

treatment. I’ve had CT scans every three months since and the last one was clean.



Thompson Smith

Thompson was diagnosed in 2013 with a rare autoimmune disease that attacks the body’s organs and caused his lungs to bleed and paralyzed the left side of his diaphragm. He spent 85 days in the hospital the following year and the next 2 ½ years on 24/7 oxygen supply and a vast assortment of medications and treatments including chemotherapy. A change to a holistic approach of a difficult diet plan and fitness regimen resulted in his condition

improving, but in 2017 he suffered 2 strokes. He has fought back hard to the point where he is skating again and he is looking forward to playing in the Survivor Game at this year’s Dawg Bowl.



Brad Strosahl

At age 44, during a routine annual physical, my PSA (prostate-specific antigen) count was elevated over the previous year. Tests found that I had stage 4 aggressive prostate cancer. My doctor told me that even though someone my age usually doesn’t get prostate cancer, and it was an aggressive cancer, it was not a death sentence and he felt that since we caught it fairly early, I would have a high chance of full recovery. During this

time I certainly had some level of fear, but with the doctor’s confidence, prayer and faith in God, I felt that I was going to come through this cancer free. After a monthly check-up for a year, and then quarterly for the next year, I am happy to say that over five years later I am officially cancer free. I share this story to encourage everyone, particularly men, to make sure you have regularly scheduled physicals to hopefully catch any issues early on.



Opie Wassberg

Opie has played goalie since 1973 at multiple levels, LHA, Arapahoe High School, Total Travel Junior, Men's Adult Check League, Organized Invitational Drop Ins, and CEO and Edge Over 40 League (since inception). His youngest son was getting married in 2009 and he noticed this large bean-shaped lump on his calf. "You should get that checked Dad!" Our primary physician thought it was a sebaceous cyst, she took a biopsy of it, and that is when our journey really began. In order to have surgery to remove the leiomyosarcoma, other tests were needed. The doctors found an irregular heart beat, trigeminy, coronary artery blocked, requiring a stent, type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol. This was all followed up with double knee replacement, due to arthritis, with the finale of the flu, type 1 ketoacidosis without coma, pleural effusion, and necrotizing pneumonia. Opie says when you are really sick, you find out how good your support system is! He truly thanks his wife, Lori, Dawg Nation, EDOHL, and the rest of his Hockey family for all their support to make it to the "new normal" and allow him to continue to play the game he loves!



Dori Webb

At 36, Dori learned she carried the BRCA gene mutation which is linked to an extremely high risk of breast and ovarian cancer. At 37, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Following surgery, she quickly got back to all the sports she loved and even added some new ones like kayaking and surfing. She is now a survivor for over 6 years. **Motto/Advice:** A fortune cookie summed it up best for me... "When life gives you waves, learn to surf." (so I did!)



Phil Zietlow

Phil is a seven year survivor of Lymphoma. He plays hockey 2-3 times per week in MN, as well as several tournaments around the country, usually in the 60-70+ bracket. He has three kids playing hockey, including two right here in Colorado. **Motto/Advice:** Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery, today is a gift, so make the most of it!

Thank you 2018 Survivor Game participants!



Thank you to K1 Sportswear for the custom jersey design work and being the Survivor Game jersey sponsor!