

## **Amanda Post Memorial Tournament Background**

### **In loving memory of Amanda Post**

The Amanda Post Memorial Tournament is a tournament that has a lot of meaning not only to the organizations and participants of this event, but also the community around it. This annual tournament is dedicated to the memory of Amanda Josephine Post, who passed away in 2009 during her freshman year at River Hill High School and in her ninth year as a Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County soccer player, when she developed complications from a bone marrow transplant (BMT) for her relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Amanda was diagnosed with AML as a seventh-grader at Folly Quarter Middle School. She would undergo five rounds of month-long inpatient chemotherapy at the Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore. After the first round of treatment, she was in remission. Amanda never gave up and was able to return to school for 8th grade; she made straight A's, and resumed playing travel soccer with her SAC/HC Lady Diplomats' team.

In the Fall of 2008, Amanda entered River Hill High School as a member of the Class of 2012 and secured a spot as a starting forward on the girls' JV soccer team, as well as beginning her seventh season as a Lady Diplomat, wearing her lucky number "24" (also her birth date in April) on both jerseys. Unfortunately, halfway through the season her AML returned, at which time she had to undergo two relapse rounds of chemotherapy at Sinai, followed by a BMT at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. But Amanda never gave up; she fought this terrible disease every day.

Amanda loved being a member of the SAC/HC Lady Diplomats' soccer team. In Fall 2008, she was one of only three remaining original "Lady Dips" from the team that was started in her first year of eligible travel soccer play when she was eight years old. Prior to that, Amanda played for two years on SAC's "Blue Angels" recreational girls' soccer team. She also loved being a student at River Hill High School and a member of its girls' JV soccer team.

For a month in Fall 2008, Amanda lived with the knowledge that her leukemia may be returning, yet maintained straight A's in her classes, was the second highest scorer on her girls' JV soccer team, and continued as a starting forward on her Lady Dips' team. You would have never guessed what she was going through, she did not show it, she was always happy. Amanda was incredibly proud to be a Lady Diplomat and River Hill "Hawk", wearing both her SAC and Hawk sportswear even while undergoing treatment and decorating her hospital rooms with pictures and posters of her beloved Lady Dips' and River Hill Hawks teams. She was awarded the "Hawk" Award for her JV team, as well as River Hill's 2009 "Hawkie" Courage Award.

Amanda was a lifelong resident of Clarksville; when she was younger, she attended Glenelg Country School from Pre-K through fifth grade. In addition to excelling academically and on the soccer field, she performed in school plays, took dance, guitar, and horseback riding lessons, had been a gymnast and played girls' ice hockey, and was voted freshman Homecoming Princess by her RHHS classmates. She was loved by all.

Amanda was also involved with her family in fundraising for the pediatric expansion project for the Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, speaking about her AML in a fundraising video and presenting a poem about the day of her diagnosis to over 100 candidate donors. Amanda was absolutely passionate about her family, her friends, her classmates, her teammates, and those who cared for her medically. She would live everyday to the fullest.

Amanda's family, friends, classmates and teammates experienced Amanda's vibrancy in their lives; witnessing her passion in the classroom, on the field, and in every other venture in which she participated, people were captivated by her joyful zest for living each moment to the fullest. Together they established the Amanda Post Memorial Fund at the Columbia Foundation when she passed away, and which now annually funds two \$5,000 scholarships – The Amanda Post "AmandaWins" River Hill High School Student-Athlete Scholarship, and The Amanda Post "AmandaWins" Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County Student-Athlete Scholarship – both of which are named after her CarePage which is also named "AmandaWins" (<http://www.carepages.com/carepages/AmandaWins>), to reflect Amanda's winning attitude and lively spirit for everything she did in her life.

Amanda and her beloved SAC Lady Diplomats played in this tournament (at this time, named "March Mania"), each year when they were U9 through U12, and upon her passing, the Soccer Association of Columbia generously offered to rename this tournament in perpetuity in Amanda's memory and to honor her love of the great game of soccer.

To see pictures and videos of the trophy and medal presentations by Amanda's Lady Dips' teammates from previous years' tournaments, as well as pictures of Amanda throughout her SAC years, visit the Facebook community page "Amanda Post Memorial Tournament".