

Shut Out Cancer fundraiser exceeds Seltzer's expectations

By TODD SLISS

Sam Seltzer knew something was up. His dad, Cliff, walked into the Hommocks ice hockey rink late. He's never late, especially when it comes to a Scarsdale-Mamaroneck game. He "knew it was a bad sign."

"After the game, [Coach Jim] Mancuso pulled me out of the locker room and told me my dad was going to take me home from that game," Seltzer said. "I knew why right away."

On Jan. 6, 2016, Seltzer's Aunt Lauren died after a three-year battle with metastatic triple negative breast cancer. They had been neighbors until her job took her to California, but he remained close to the woman he called "like a second mom to me" despite the miles between them.

The next day, the Seltzers flew out West to be with Uncle Brad and cousins Aliey and Kylie, missing a couple of games.

The family founded the Desserts by Lauren Fund, a subsidiary of the Tower Cancer Research Foundation and this winter Seltzer, now a senior who has been playing goalie since he was 6 years old, started the Shut Out Cancer fundraiser.

Area goalies could sign up to get a helmet sticker for \$10 and \$25 would be donated to Tower Cancer Research for each shutout participating goalies had this season. It wasn't long before the idea spread on social media and donations were pouring in, which regardless of the number of shutouts, would benefit innovative cancer research.

The helmet decals feature a goalie with the initials LJM (Lauren Jill Melnick) across the jersey in front of a pink ribbon with "Section 1" written across the bottom.

"Involvement from the community and the outreach everyone has given me has been huge," Seltzer said. "Lo-hud helped, Henrik Lundqvist posted something on his Instagram. We've gotten money from people we don't know saying they were personally affected by something like this. It just brings the whole hockey community closer together."

There were 22 shutouts in the regular season alone — Seltzer and the



SCARSDALE INQUIRER/JIM MACLEAN

Sam Seltzer hoped to save pucks and lives this winter.

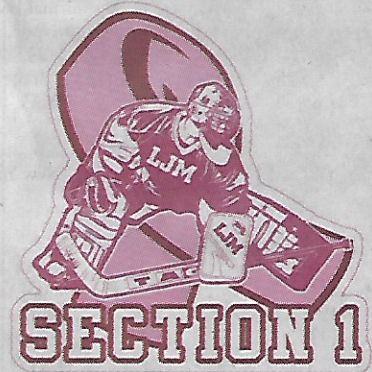
SHUT OUT CANCER

Participating Players

Grace Ludner, Byram Hills; Willow Barnes, Carmel; Taylor Isom, John Jay; Will Brunner, Fox Lane; Liam Ronan, Pelham; Mike Halper, Suffern; Justin Shultz, White Plains; Peter Patouhas, Rye; Angelo Zodda, North Rockland; Christian Sciarretta, Craig Kunz, Clarkstown; Eddie Abrams, Rye Country Day; Ryan Goodlife, Harvey; Alex Herman, Nate Kirschenbaum, New Rochelle; New Rochelle Team; Logan MacDougal, Mahopac; Ethan Abraham, Phillips Exeter Academy; Tommy Spero, Tahoe Icemen (WSHL); Matthew Lambros, Clarkstown; Sam Smith, Rye Town/Harrison; Ryan Fueg, Suffern; Sean Gordon, Suffern; Ricky Selwa, Iona Prep; Jack Fried, Mamaroneck; Baily McGrady, Sean Gogally, North Rockland.

Raiders were shut out twice this winter — led by Suffern's Mike Halper with eight. Over \$1,500 was raised.

"I want to raise awareness for breast cancer, of course, but it's just the power of what Section 1 and the sports



community can do," Seltzer said. "Other people can step up for years to come. Raising awareness, raising money and finding the cure are the goals. It shows how one movement can ignite everything else and that's pretty powerful."

Visit dessertsbylauren.org/copy-of-shut-out-cancer.