

I wish to meet Alexander Ovechkin

Ryan, wish granted in 2011
neurofibromatosis



Ryan is an active kid with a great sense of humour and a deep love of the NHL! Ryan was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis, a disease that can lead to rapid and life-threatening tumour growth anywhere in the body. The illness resulted in repeated surgeries to remove tumours in his spine. Despite the success of the operations Ryan will never be able to play contact sports.

In 2011, Ryan was given the trip of his dreams to meet hockey superstar Alexander Ovechkin in Washington, D.C. After hearing his wish would be granted, Ryan said that he was the happiest kid around. He followed Ovechkin since the big left winger was drafted in 2004, and he knew everything about him.

Ryan and his family took a limo to Kettler Capitals Iceplex where they were welcomed with a sign made for Ryan. “We sat and watched the Capitals practice while the boys eagerly waited for the Capitals to come and sign their jerseys and say ‘hi,’” said Ryan’s mom, “Then Alexander skated up. Ryan’s face said it all—he was in heaven.”

The game experience included hanging out in the dressing room before and after the game and announcing when the Capitals took to the ice. Ryan received a Winter Classic jersey signed by all the Washington players and a stick signed by Ovechkin.

Ryan’s mom said, “It was amazing to see him excited about something instead of anxious, nervous or scared. Finally something so good for him!”