

# Our Community



## Memories for Megan

Liz Reinecker's daughter experiences football and fun with Big 33

(Aug. 28, 2002) Megan has a special way of letting you know how she feels. She's nonverbal, so the smiles, the laughter and the tears are cues to her emotions.

This year was Megan's first experience as a Big 33 buddy. During the Big 33 Football Classic in Hershey from July 17-20, she got to participate in the Pennsylvania Blue Shield-sponsored Big 33 buddy program, which pairs Big 33 football players with mentally and physically challenged individuals.

Liz Reinecker, Corporate Procurement, was happy her daughter could participate in this year's buddy program. "Megan got to experience football — up close and personal, along with all the other events for the buddies," Liz said.

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#### Bonding with Brandon

Although Megan's special needs exceed those of most of the other buddies, Big 33 player Brandon Darlington, defensive linebacker for the Pennsylvania team, bonded with her easily.

After learning that Megan likes being in motion, Brandon and Megan's father Greg took turns giving her really fast rides in her wheelchair on the practice field.

Megan loved it. Her face lit up and she laughed the whole time.

When it was over, Megan cried a little. "It's her way of showing that she doesn't want it to end," Liz said.

#### Making an impact

Megan's parents know how important it is for their daughter to be out in the world, showing people that she can do the things everyone else does.

"People don't understand why she's in a wheelchair and they don't know how to react to her. Events like this show people that Megan's special needs don't exclude her from normal activities," Liz said.

Everyone involved in the Big 33 game and buddy program had an impact on Megan.

"We received a poster of all the players, signed by all the players that I'm going to get framed for Megan," Liz said. "And every time we show her pictures from the events, she just lights up and grins from ear-to-ear. We know she remembers those special days."

For more information contact [Jill Snyder](#), Community Relations, (717) 975-3048.



Megan Reinecker enjoyed the Big 33 football game with the help of defensive linebacker Brandon Darlington. Brandon and Megan's father Greg gave Megan rides at the practice field.

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