

Writer: Elizabeth Long

Subhead: Junior stayed strong while battling cancer

Pullout Quote: “I would rather face all the hardships that might be waiting for me than having to go up to heaven and watch. I am ready to do whatever it takes to keep living.”

After dropping off her brother, freshman Garrett Lowrey, at school, junior Logan Lowrey and her mom, Gina Lowrey, drove thirty minutes to Children Mercy’s Adele Hall Campus Hospital for the second week of her latest protocol of chemotherapy. She wasn’t looking forward to waiting for what seemed like hours to get her lab results back. But she pushed through. She couldn’t wait until Friday when she would be back in school and surrounded by friends.

“What’s up babe?” Chris, Lowrey’s nurse, said to her as she walked into the second floor.

Instead of having a plan for the day like she did at school, Lowrey read *The Shadow and Bone* trilogy, did homework and slept for two and a half hours while chemo was pumped into her.

Three years before, in February of 2017, Lowrey went to Children’s Mercy because she felt a pain that radiated through her leg. She had no idea her X-ray and MRI would diagnose her with Osteosarcoma cancer. When she was admitted for treatment, she didn’t expect to see 31 rooms on floor Four Henson waiting to be occupied with children getting treatments. She didn’t expect for this to become her new normal.

But it did.

“It was shocking,” Lowrey said. “It took awhile to set in, but I was ready to tackle it.”

That was her mindset from the day she was diagnosed in eighth grade to her junior year of high school — keep fighting.

At first, Lowrey’s oncologist told her she had to get her right leg amputated, but she didn’t give up. After seeing her sarcoma surgeon, she was told he could save her leg.

Even though Lowrey never knew if she would stay in the hospital for three or more days for her weekly chemotherapy appointments, it was the little things that made her trips better. Like catching up with Chris about her Newfoundland dog, which Lowrey always talked about visiting, or having nice rolls of Charmin Ultra Soft toilet paper and boxes of Kleenex that they brought from home.

“I would rather face all the hardships that might be waiting for me than having to go up to heaven and watch,” Lowrey said. “I am ready to do whatever it takes to keep living.”

After a year of battling with chemotherapy, a knee and partial femur replacement for the removal of her 12 centimeter tumor and two lung surgeries, Lowrey finally heard the news she wished to hear.

She was in remission.

Her hair and eyelashes grew back, which meant she could stop joking to her friends about being jealous of their bad hair days. She was able to play “25 or Six to Four” on her clarinet at football and basketball games without feeling tired and out-of-breath.

But when she felt pain in the top of her left humerus in July of 2018, six months into remission, she knew what it was. Her cancer was back. She was determined to fight it one more time. Even if it meant six-day overnight stays in the hospital for chemotherapy, neuropathy and the feeling of someone scratching her bones with a needle.

“I never think it is impossible to beat cancer,” Lowrey said. “There are so many people that have been told they are going to die in the next six months, and have persevered and made it through. I keep hoping that will be the case for me, and I will be a miracle.”

Even on days when she felt tired and full of mucus, Lowrey looked at the positives in life. She chose not to follow the newest trend or hear about the latest gossip around the school. Instead, she focused on the things that mattered, like her desire to move onto the next chapter of her life.

And Lowrey already had that chapter figured out. Her future plans consisted of going to the University of Kansas to get a few science credits before heading to The Oregon College of Oriental Medicine to study Eastern medicine. Then, she would open up her own chiropractic and acupuncture practice, something that was the most effective during her treatment. She would train a dog to comfort kids when they came in for appointments, just like Hunter the Golden Retriever did for her during her hospital trips.

Now, with these plans in mind, Lowrey wouldn't let her cancer stop her from doing what she wanted with her life. On the weekends, she spent most of her time with her friends, from making lasagna for dinner to watching “Return of the Jedi.” And she loved going to her friends houses to see their dogs.

“I worry about my friends getting mad at me because I love their pets so much,” Lowrey said. “But the best part is talking to my friends, so many of them are hilarious. If I start thinking about them I'll start smiling.”

It was her family, her friends and the hundreds of dogs she met in her life that she didn't want to leave. So, Lowrey never stopped hoping. Never stopped pushing.

Never stopped fighting.