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A Transformational Gift

University of Dayton

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A transformational gift

The University of Dayton Division of Athletics has received one of the largest gifts in the history of the program from Lori Hausfeld and her family, of Springboro, Ohio.
The $1.2 million gift was made in honor of her daughter Kacie, and husband Tom, who both tragically passed away in the spring of 2010 in a plane crash near the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in Springboro, Ohio. Kacie was a star volleyball player for the Flyers.

“The Dayton volleyball program holds a special place in my heart,” said Lori. “It was Kacie’s second family. The program supported and comforted our family during triumph and tragedy. My family and I feel this is the best way to honor Kacie and her memory.”

Kacie, who wore No. 14 and was known for her leadership and influential personality, excelled for three seasons in the volleyball program as a setter, starting in the last two with 7.00 assists per set and 51 aces. She was a childhood education major.

Her impact is still felt by the team. The Flyers present the Kacie Hausfeld Teammate Award annually. The award is given to the player who best exemplifies what a great teammate should be – someone who leads by example, whose effort is never questioned, who encourages and genuinely cares about her teammates, and who has an absolute love for the game.

Tom Hausfeld is remembered as a generous soul with an engaging personality who gave to numerous organizations and charities. A successful businessman, he retired in 2006 after selling the family company, Auto Disposal Systems Inc. of Dayton. Hausfeld served on Alter High School's board of trustees and was a past president of the Alter Booster Club.

“The Hausfeld family are special people and we are honored and appreciative for this gift to our Flyer volleyball program. Kacie was exactly the kind of young woman that you would want to represent your program in her work ethic and the character she demonstrated,” said UD Volleyball Head Coach Tim Horsmon. “Tom was always kind and the kind of dad you wanted supporting your team. They are missed tremendously by our community and UD family.

“In working with Lori and her daughter Ali on this project I became keenly aware of the importance to remember and honor Kacie and Tom through our volleyball program,” he added.

The transformative gift will be used to upgrade the Thomas J. Frericks Athletic and Convocation Center, home of the Flyer volleyball team.

Proposed renovations to the Frericks Center, one of a handful of volleyball-only facilities in Division I college athletics, include: a new team lounge, additional lower level seating for fans, a new sound system, upgraded graphics and technology upgrades.

“This gift will help make Frericks a special place and make our volleyball-only facility one of the best
venues in the country,” Horsmon said. “There are numerous things that we will be able to do with this gift but I’m most excited about a team room for our program and renaming the court after Kacie and her family.

“The next generation of Flyers will get to experience a premier facility that is continuing to evolve into not only one of the best in the country, but one that will hold special meaning to our program and Flyer Family. We want to thank the generous donation of Lori and her family to make this happen.”

UD invested in the volleyball program with a suite in the Cronin Center next to the men’s and women’s basketball offices in 2012. The athletic department also recently upgraded facilities in 2015 with a $1.8 million renovation of the Frericks Center. A new locker room, enhanced game-day and practice environments, an atrium and improved offices are the result of that renovation.


Anyone wanting to contribute and add support to this Hausfeld Family Memorial Project please contact Director of Athletic Development Josh Postorino at 937-229-2845 or jpostorino1@udayton.edu.

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