

* Senior home in time for prom

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 Kyle's father and superintendent of the Oberlin School District.
 Kyle used a winning attitude and mental toughness learned through sports to speed a recovery that might have taken the average person months or years. He's still not out of the woods, but he and his family hope he'll just continue to improve.
 Kyle said he feels that his muscular development acquired through weight training might have been a key to his recovery.
 "I am glad that I was in good physical shape," he said. "I am sure it made a difference in my recovery time. Right now, I feel pretty weak because the doctor said I am not supposed to do any lifting or exercise for three months."
 "I have made up my mind that I will have a 100 per cent recovery. I initially planned on walking across the floor to receive my high school diploma at graduation May 20. Now I have set a new goal: I want to be able to walk down Penn Avenue during the Prom Parade May 12."
 Taking a 10-foot jump on a snowboard during spring break, Kyle, 19, suffered a fracture of the fifth cervical vertebra in his neck along with a severe spinal cord contusion, or bruise....
 "March 20 turned our world upside down," said his father. "By the time I hiked up the mountain to where the ski patrol was treating Kyle, I was out of breath. I turned to Kyle and said: Do you feel anything? He replied, "I'm numb."
 After a trip down the mountain on a ski-patrol sled, while he was waiting for an ambulance trip to the Granby hospital, medics asked Kyle how much control he had.
 "The emergency medical technician asked me if I could move my legs," he said, adding that he was able to move both legs, but could not feel it.
 "When Kyle and I arrived at the Granby Hospital," said his mother, now a kindergarten teacher at Hoxie Elementary School, "there were two other skiers from different parts of the country who had suffered injuries on the same slope that same afternoon."
 Kyle was strapped to a stabilization board by the ski patrol to eliminate any movement of his neck, and stayed that way for nine hours prior to his first corrective surgery. That was performed less than 12 hours after the accident.
 Kyle was transferred by ambulance to St. Anthony's Central Hospital in west Denver, where Dr. Thomas Joseph Puschak talked with the family and performed surgery to eliminate the pressure on his spinal cord and reconstruct the fractured vertebra.
 "I had a long discussion, greater than 60 minutes, with both patient

and his parents," said Dr. Puschak. "We discussed the fact that he had an unstable spinal fracture and an incomplete spinal cord injury."
 Between the pain and pain medications, Kyle was pretty much out of it most of the time.
 "I don't remember much about what happened," he said, "but I do remember the pain was intense for quite a few days."
 Dr. Puschak, in his postoperative report, said he went through the left front side of Kyle's throat to install a piece of a donor leg bone to help reconstruct the fractured vertebrae during the first surgery. He used titanium screws to fuse the bone to the spine. The second surgery, performed at the base of his skull, was to stabilize Kyle's spinal cord.
 Dr. Puschak said doctors at the Granby Hospital administered steroids to the injured area when Kyle arrived at the emergency room there, and he felt that was a key to quick neurological recovery.

After 10 days in St. Anthony's neurological intensive care center, Kyle was transferred to Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo., in south suburban Denver, which claims to have treated more spinal cord injury patients than any other facility in the world. He had rehabilitation therapy from March 30 until his release April 19.

"When I arrived at Craig, I had a hand grip of eight pounds," he said. "I was told by doctors a normal man can grip 120 pounds. When I left there, I could grip 45 pounds."

Kyle has to wear a neck brace for three months, until his next visit to Dr. Puschak on June 20. Doctors believe at that point, he will be 80 percent healed, said his mom, former director of the old Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

"We want to thank everybody for all they have done for our son Kyle and our family," said his mother. "So many people came together for us, it is overwhelming at times."

"So many people put Kyle on their prayer list. We are grateful."

The Glodts said they, along with Rhonda and Mick Barth, Diana Castle, and the Rev. Doug and Sarah Hasty supervised 17 students from the United Methodist youth group on a mission trip over school spring break. The students spent part of the week helping feed the homeless in a downtown Denver.

"The ski trip is part of the mission, and a reward for the volunteer work that the students did during their break," said Mrs. Glodt "I am so grateful for the parents and friends that helped supervise the other kids."

Tyson Nicholson of Boulder, Colo., took Kelly and Heather to the Denver hospital. "The hardest part of the whole ordeal was when Kyle asked me for his phone at the hospi-

tal," said his sister Heather, a junior at the high school. "I gave it to him. His fingers were curled up. He used all his strength No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't open the phone."

"I could feel the pain he was going through in my own hands. It was like we had a connection."

Glodt will recuperate at home this summer and plans on enrolling this fall at Fort Hays State University, where he wants to work on a degree in education in Kinesiology and physiology with an emphasis on human movement.

"I would like to be a teacher, coach, then become a principal like my parents," he said. "Some day I hope to be a superintendent like my dad."

Since coming home, he's attending classes about half a day.

"Right know, I am fairly weak, and the doctors only want me to rest," Kyle said. "When I get home

after school each day, I am pretty tuckered out."

He can punch a computer keyboard, he said, but his handwriting has suffered.

"I am having to learn how to write again," he said. "My handwriting looks something like a second grader's, but it is coming along."

"I feel good about myself and want to return with a 100 percent recovery. It is just going to take a little time."

Kyle said hundreds of get well cards and prayers from all over the country, along with the support from family, friends, and community, helped him make a miracle happen.

"Even though my parents will be moving next year to South Dakota ...," he said, "I will always think of Oberlin as my home town. I have so many friends here who really care."

"I just want to thank all of them. I understand what true friendship really means."

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* Power lines being replaced

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 this year are fixed.
 C&H's contract with Prairie L and doesn't have a time for completion, he said. It is based on a unit or pole-by-pole basis, said Mr. Hansen. The company will probably be here around three years.
 Mr. Moore said he isn't exactly sure what the crews have to rebuild. It started with 600 to 800 miles of line and has grown to about 1,200 miles, he said.
 The crews are taking down the old wire and putting in type T2 wire, a stronger, two-strand wire which is twisted. The idea, said Mr. Moore, is that twisting the two wires will keep a lot of the vibration out of the wire and deter ice build up. Since Kansas has a lot of wind and seems to have lots of ice storms, he said, the T2 wire should help.
 Mr. Moore said C&H has grown a lot in the last year and will most likely continue to grow. The company was just awarded a contract in Dodge City to replace lines, he said, working for Victory Electric Cooperative.
 The company has about 41 crew members in Oberlin, he said, and that number will probably grow to 80 and they will most likely have 80

in Dodge City.
 Mr. Moore said he doesn't know how long the power company will be in Oberlin, although it will most likely be around three years.
 Since they knew that the company would be here for several years, he said, and since one of the supervisors plans to stay here, the company bought two to four houses. The availability of motel space in the area isn't the greatest, he said, so the company bought the houses for the crew members. It just made things more affordable, said Mr. Moore.
 The company did buy the Oberlin Inn, said Mr. Moore. He said he isn't sure if there is an office here.
 Although the company is based out of Oklahoma, they hire workers from Mississippi, Missouri and Louisiana as well, he said. In the power line industry, unless you work for a power co-op, the crews plan to travel. Most of the crew members in Oberlin work seven days a week, with 21 days on and then six to seven days off. That way people can go home and see their families, he said.
 So far, said Mr. Moore, things are going well in Oberlin and he's happy with the work.

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