



In Memory of
Sarah Louise Nelson

Class of 2004
12 November 1985 - 9 March 2003

Sarah Louise Nelson, 17, of Eleva died Sunday, March 9, 2003, in the town of Pleasant Valley, Eau Claire Co., from injuries received in an automobile accident.

Sarah was born on November 12, 1985, in Eau Claire to Paul and Wilma (Olson) Nelson.

She was baptized and confirmed at Eleva Lutheran Church. Sarah was a junior at Memorial High School and was active in band, National Honor Society, Partner's Club and was the manager of the boys' soccer team.

Sarah was also a member of Pleasant Valley 4-H, Eau Claire County Older Youth Council, and enjoyed taking part in the MS Walk, Relay For Life, Habitat For Humanity and enjoyed spending time with her friends, especially her close friend Justin Yarrington.

Sarah is survived by her parents, Paul and Wilma of Eleva; one sister, Katelyn Nelson at home; paternal grandparents, Marshall and Luella Nelson of Strum; maternal grandparents, Wallace and Lucille Olson of Eleva; her godparents, Jim and Sally Olson, Roger and Dawn Lokken; aunts and uncles, Bev and Dennis Weiss, Linda and Mike Wenaas, Ron and Lori Olson, Diane and Bjorn Rusten and Steve Nelson; cousins, Jodi (Graham) Barnes, Staci (Brian) Kothbauer, Carrie (Brad Gullicksrud) Wenaas, Jayme (Bob Ellis) Lokken, Lynnsi Lokken, Marta Rusten, Jacob, Daniel and Sam Nelson, Dion and Barry Weiss, Brian (Holly) Weiss, Debbie (Mark) Whelan, Josie, Allison and Mitchell Olson; "special grandparents", Mike and Lavonne Brott.

Sarah Nelson always was upbeat and smiling. "Smiling Sarah -- that's how I remember her," said Barb Cizek, Nelson's counselor at Memorial. "She was just a real strong student with lots of abilities."

Nelson was a popular student and was involved in many extracurricular activities, Cizek said. She had a large group of friends.

"She balanced a lot of things equally well," she said.

Her activities included band, 4-H, co-manager of the boy's varsity soccer team and the school's marketing program. Nelson had good grades, and was enrolled in some accelerated classes.

She attended Cleghorn School and South Middle School before attending Memorial.

"She was just so upbeat and when she needed to talk to me it was about academic stuff," Cizek said.

"She just always wanted to make sure she was on the right path."

One teacher called Nelson a "gentle spirit."

George Oien, a physical education teacher and the boy's varsity soccer coach, said Nelson was dependable and organized as a volunteer team managers. Last fall was her first time serving as team manager. "She was just very responsible with helping me with statistics and tryouts and making sure that we had everything we needed for games," Oien said.