

is fed into her through a line that has been inserted in her chest.

While her classmates ate dinner at the prom, she drank water.

While her classmates danced, she did, too, but a few minutes at a time.

"I'd have to take breaks every five minutes," she said. "I'd dance and then I'd sit down and have a glass of water."

Sarah is a competitor, with full speed the only marking on her dial. If you call her fiery, make it a conflagration, not just a spark. When she has a goal, don't get in her way because you can't stop a Sarah at full throttle. As expected, the prom couldn't wear down her exuberance, and Sarah had a great time, which lasted until 3 a.m. That's when she arrived home and hooked herself up to her nourishment, which she couldn't disconnect for 12 hours.

"Maybe it's the spunk, the tough side of her in sports, that has helped her in her coping," her mother, Dolly, said.

WAITING FOR THE BEEP

The family is governed by a beeper—when it goes off, they know they have to head to the airport. After a small-bowel donor is found, Sarah and her family will have six hours to get her into transplant surgery at a hospital at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. An air ambulance is available, 24 hours a day.

"Despite it being a nightmare, she manages to cope with it better than anyone else," her mother said. "It's her feisty spirit," she said and laughed. "Which sometimes drives me crazy."

Sarah immediately recalled her mother getting angry in Sara's pre-illness days when a soccer referee would card her, meaning the ref was warning her or throwing her out of a game for a 90-mph infraction.

Sarah also recalled a technical foul she received in a basketball game after she absolutely, no question about it, cleanly and superbly blocked a shot that a conference star was trying to make. The ref, obviously biased in favor of the star, called a hacking foul on Sarah, and Sarah slightly questioned his brain power, or maybe it was his ability to find his whistle without help.

"He gave me the technical right away," Sarah said, "because I'd been talking to him earlier" about calls so highly questionable that even the ref's mother would have objected.

So this last year has not been easy for Sarah, as she missed school and sat on the bench while her teammates handle the referees. Her illness has stopped her from doing anything but cheer.

"It's been frustrating," Sarah said.

Asked about the transplant, she said, "I can't wait."

"We're anxiously awaiting Omaha," her mother said.

They have been told that a transplant may not be found for 6 to 9 months. Meanwhile, Sarah keeps doing what she can, as long as she doesn't stray far from beeper and nourishment.

"I'm connected 12 hours a night . . . and sometimes, if I'm thirsty, I'll go on it during the day," she said. "I carry around a backpack and I keep it in there," she said, indicating the equipment she needs to connect to the line into her chest.

Prior to the prom, when friends told Sarah that she had been elected to the prom court, "I started laughing," she said. "I thought they were joking."

The announcement of queen is not made until prom night, so she and her date, Kevin Tante, 16, a student at Marquette University High School, were startled. There were tears and cheers and one bop: Sarah's best friend, Mary Friar, shouted, "Yes, yes, yes,"

pumped her fist in the air and accidentally bopped the person standing next to her.

When someone becomes as ill as Sarah has been, it tilts the world within touch: Her illness has become a battle for everyone close to her, including friends, teachers, four sisters and a brother, and, of course, her parents, Dolly and Jerry. Sarah has been unlucky in what happened, but lucky that a crowd showed up to help her.

"Literally hundreds of people visited her in the hospital," Mrs. Hegarty said.

Sarah has spent a total of six months in hospitals, and she's looking forward to her next stay. She wants the transplant now. This minute. Blow the whistle, ref, and let's get going.

This teenager and prom queen and hard-driving athlete who hasn't eaten in more than a year has already made a list. She has marked the name of every restaurant she's going to charge into when she gets home from Omaha.

IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICAN'S MONTH

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the month of May has been designated Older American's Month. The 335 senior centers in New York City will join with over 10,000 senior centers nationally and the Council on Senior Centers and Services in coordinating the Older American's Month celebration in New York City.

Senior centers and programs are vital in meeting the educational and social needs of our Nation's seniors. Centers provide a sense of community and fellowship necessary for seniors often living alone. Senior programs add immeasurably to the quality of life as well as emotional and physical well-being. I also know the value of senior centers from personal experience—they were a great benefit to my grandparents.

By naming this month Older American's Month, we are acknowledging the vital work that goes on every day to create safe havens and nurturing environments for seniors. I know all my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in applauding their efforts and wishing all our seniors centers many more years of success.

COMMENDING MRS. CLEO CHANDLER

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, when Jan and Dean wrote their 1963 classic hit song "Little Old Lady From Pasadena," little did they know that nearly three decades later, Cleo Chandler would bring the familiar lyrics to life—racing not a "Super Stock Dodge" but a 1965 Chevy Chevelle in the International Hot Rod Association's stock eliminator class.

Cleo began her drag racing career in 1983, at age 68, when her son gave her the car as a Christmas gift. Apparently, after receiving

the car, Cleo was so determined to become a drag racer that she would practice starts in her driveway. However, rumor has it that because her driveway was so short, Cleo would have to immediately hit the car's brakes to bring it to a stop before speeding into oncoming traffic. Sure enough, when Cleo finally made it to her first race, she got to the starting line, hit the accelerator, took off—and, true to her conditioned response, immediately hit the brakes.

Since then though, the 81-year-old great-grandmother has managed to score an impressive racing record. In 1992, at age 76, she won her first national event and has appeared in four more IHRA national event finals. Cleo has set three IHRA world records in stock eliminator class and was chosen Stock Car Driver of the Year in 1993 by Car Craft magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Cleo for all of her accomplishments. She is truly an inspiration and proof to us all that you never get old if you are young at heart.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY THRESHER AND ALLEN WINCHESTER—TWO MISSOURI SCHOOL TEACHERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to pay tribute to two very special teachers from the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

First, there's Mrs. Cindy Thresher. Mrs. Thresher is Missouri's 1997 Teacher of the Year recipient. She has taught for 29 years—the past 16 years at Lucy Wortham James Elementary School in Saint James School District.

Mrs. Thresher is known for her hands-on approach to teaching and learning, a style that sometimes requires students to create unique learning environments. For example she has transformed her classroom into a rain forest, a desert, and the surface of the moon. In these projects she involves other faculty members, visitors from the community, and most importantly, parents.

For the past 3 years, Mrs. Thresher has led several statewide school improvement initiatives. She's a member of the original group of teachers and educators who helped write the "Show-me Standards"—Missouri's statewide academic standards.

Today I also want to pay tribute to Mr. Allen Winchester, a government teacher at Gideon High School. Mr. Winchester has inspired and pushed students to play an active role in taking pride in and attracting new business to their community.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper even highlighted his achievements in Gideon. Mr. Winchester has always stressed to his students, "We have all the potential in the world. We just have to think big. If you think you can succeed you will. You just can't quit. If you can't climb over a brick wall, keep hitting it until it falls. Change the way people think." With this tenacity he is finding success by bringing the real world into the classroom.

Mr. Winchester refers to his teaching style as "authentic learning," which he says trains