

Rays' Fuld shows heart as his legend grows



Rays outfielder Sam Fuld showed children with Type 1 diabetes that the disease doesn't have to stop them from achieving their dreams. (Chris O'Meara/Associated Press)

DAVE SCHEIBER



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Dave Scheiber is a general assignment columnist for FOXSports and FOX Sports Florida, bringing fans an inside look at major stories around the state, focusing on the Rays, Bucs, Lightning, USF and human interest profiles across the sports spectrum.

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February 6, 2012

TAMPA, Fla. — They came by the carload — parents and children toting sports gear, small bags with ever-present needles and glucose meters, and big dreams.

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On this weekend, it was all about Super Sam and the kids.

Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Sam Fuld earned his nickname last season with one sensational diving and leaping catch after the next, even spawning a team promotion with a blue "Super Sam" cape giveaway.



Courtesy of Dave Scheiber

Sam Fuld speaks to families on the first night of the Sam Fuld Diabetes Sports Camp on Friday at the University of South Florida

To anyone attending his inaugural Sam Fuld Diabetes Sports Camp on Friday and Saturday —

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where more than 100 Tampa Bay-area youngsters refined skills in baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer, tennis and cheerleading — he earned it all over again. But this time, for a different reason.

Just like his high-flying defensive exploits, Fuld went above and beyond in an effort to empower children with Type 1 diabetes, to give parents much-needed insight for helping their youngsters cope with the disease — and provide hope for an athletic future with no barriers.

Nobody knows about that better than the 30-year-old from New Hampshire who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 10 but never let it hold him back. He excelled in all manner of competitive sports, became a baseball standout (not to mention a math wiz) at Stanford University and came to the Rays last year as part of a trade with the Chicago Cubs.

For most Tampa Bay fans, his name went largely unnoticed in the deal that sent pitching star Matt Garza to Chicago for five players. But all that quickly changed when Fuld made the Rays' roster with an excellent spring training, then he turned heads in April with his spectacular defense and a hot bat that had him approaching .400 midway through the first month of the season — spawning a playful catchphrase: "The Legend of Sam Fuld."

I profiled Fuld for FOX Sports Florida during that first month and remember being struck by his candor in talking about diabetes — how his parents did all they could to help him face the life-changing condition head on, how he never let it derail him from competitive sports and quickly embraced the major changes in his daily routines, doing his own blood pokes to test sugar levels and insulin injections soon after his diagnosis.



Larry Goren/Associated Press

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He also spoke of wanting to get involved more deeply in the Tampa Bay area offering help on Type 1 diabetes: It's the primarily genetic form and differs from Type 2, which is frequently in the news with its connection to diet and obesity.

It was impossible to talk with Fuld without coming away fully impressed with his intelligence, compassion and commitment to making a difference.

As fate would have it, he was about to make a difference in my own family.

In early June, barely six weeks after my story, I had just returned from Los Angeles. I was there to cover the Rays' trip against the Anaheim Angels and to visit the oldest of my six children.

The Thursday I got back to town, I took my wife, Janie, and our other children to dinner, making nothing of the fact that our youngest — son, Davey, then 9 — couldn't seem to drink enough soda and asked me to take him to the bathroom three times during the course of the meal.

That Sunday, he got sick to his stomach. After raising Davey's five older sisters (ranging in age from 27 to 13), Janie and I have seen just about all kinds of viruses and flu strains. This looked like your garden variety stomach bug, and we treated it overnight accordingly: no food and sporadic sips of soda. We noticed he couldn't seem to get enough to drink yet remained extremely dehydrated.

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Once Davey was in the emergency room, hooked to a maze of tubes and monitors, the doctor on duty confirmed my son's blood sugar was 1,062 — well beyond the 70-120 range. Davey indeed has Type 1 Diabetes and spent the next full day in intensive care drifting in and out of sleep. He was

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"I don't want to have diabetes," he said.

I remembered my interview with Fuld from barely six weeks earlier and left word with the Rays' public relations staff to let him know about Davey.

One day later, an hour before we checked out of the hospital, the phone rang in Davey's room.

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"Mom, Dad, it was Sam Fuld!" he reported excitedly when the call ended. "He said, 'Hang in there' "

I spoke briefly with Fuld before he hung up to thank him, and he extended an offer to bring Davey to a Rays game at Tropicana Field when he was feeling up to it. Three weeks later, Janie and I did just that. To see the way Fuld connected with a child — one about the age Fuld was when he was diagnosed — was remarkable. And the insight he shared with Janie and I was equally valuable.

In the months that followed, Davey donned his No. 5 Fuld T-shirt more than any other in his collection and even adopted Fuld's batting stance. What we could see as parents was the enormous power of a child in Davey's situation having a role model, someone who proves that anything is possible no matter what challenges lie ahead.

Fuld had such a player in former Boston pitcher Bill Gullickson, who had not let Type 1 diabetes hold him back from a successful major league career. At age 12, Fuld's father — with the help of a mutual acquaintance — had taken him to meet Gullickson before a game, and their short talk had a lasting impact on the child.

Gullickson's complete willingness to offer some helpful advice inspired Fuld and made him determined to help others when he was in a position to do so.

Davey was the fortunate beneficiary of Fuld's mission to make a difference in the lives of children and families touched by diabetes.

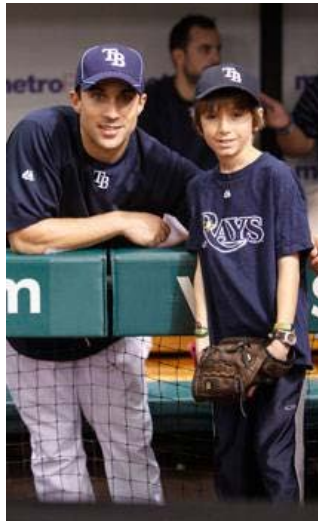
This past weekend, his mission moved to a whole new level.

Late Friday afternoon, dozens upon dozens of parents



Courtesy of Dave Schei

Rays mascot Raymond mingles with campers on "Rays Street."



Courtesy of Dave Schei

Davey Scheiber visits with Rays outfielder Sam Fuld at Tropicana Field just weeks after being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Fuld, who also has Type 1 Diabetes himself, has become a role model for diabetic children all over the country.

and children arrived at Fuld's charter sports camp, conducted in conjunction with Dr. Henry Rodriguez, medical director of the renowned USF Diabetes Center and with the support of USF Athletics and Florida Diabetes Camps run by Gary Cornwell.

Children of all ages showed up eagerly to the non-sleepover camp to check in at USF's Muma Center, receive an official T-shirt and get set for introductions by Fuld and Rodriguez — before heading off for a night of bowling and pizza.

Campers with diabetes were invited to bring along a pal or sibling without diabetes to calm their initial nerves about taking part. The move by the camp paid instant dividends — keeping the atmosphere fun and stress-free from the outset as children raced up and down the basketball court waiting for the event to start.

The children let out a huge cheer when Fuld was introduced, and they sat so quietly you could hear a pin drop while he addressed them.

"Guys, thank you so much for coming out here. I can't tell you how excited I am to see all the faces here," he began. "The first time through, I had no idea if we'd have 10 kids or 100. And I'm so excited to be able to participate in this."

Also participating were an array of athletes who have coped with Type 1 diabetes in their own lives — a roll call that included former tennis pros Genevieve King and Mike Findling, former Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Stacey Simmons, ex-Nova Southeastern University basketball player Chad Bobik, current Florida International University softball catcher Jenny Welch and USF kicker and soccer goalie Renato Proia. Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler, also a Type 1 diabetic, couldn't attend, but he sent a box of autographed items.

In addition, the support staff included Tampa Bay-area nurses and an arsenal of counselors from Florida Diabetes Camps to facilitate activities and provide immediate assistance — blood draws, shots or sugar-boosting snacks — any camper might need.

This was especially reassuring to my wife and I, because Davey had yet to administer his own blood draws to check his readings with a glucose meter. We've been encouraging him to take the big step, but he's been reluctant to press the spring-loaded needle into his own fingers. So we've been doing it for him four and five times each day. We knew he'd be in great hands — many of them — at the camp.



Kim Klement-US PRESSWI

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— Sam Fuld to the audience at his sports camp

Meanwhile, Rodriguez, of the USF Diabetes Center, marveled at the turnout Friday night.

"When we first sat down, Sam came to visit the center and said, 'I'd really like to do something with you guys,'" Rodriguez recounted. "We talked about different things and the idea of a camp, and I honestly told him, 'Sam, if you just want to promote it, and put your name on it, we'd appreciate it if you want to become more involved, that would be terrific.' And, boy, he took it and he ran with it."

"He called anybody he could think of who was an athlete with Type 1 diabetes — or knew somebody. And he's said he wants to continue to do this even if, God forbid, he ever gets traded to a different team. He's going to continue to work with us."

One of the highlights was when Fuld introduced the arrival of a familiar athlete — Rays 2011 All-Star right fielder Matt Joyce. The crowd erupted in loud cheers and applause for the Tampa native who'd come to lend his support to his friend.

"Matt is not diabetic, but don't hold that against him," Fuld quipped to a wave of laughter.

A brief awards ceremony followed, and autographed items from Fuld, Cutler, Rays star Ben Zobr and others were given away.

After Fuld offered heart-felt thank-yous, Joyce grabbed the mic and asked for a round of applause for his Rays teammate.

"I didn't know much about diabetes until you joined the team, but I got a little snippet of what you go through on a daily basis," Joyce said to Fuld. "It's been inspirational to us, the guys who see what

you're able to accomplish and everything you have to deal with on and off the field. So, we're really proud of you. This camp is a great cause, and keep it up. We love you."

Another spirited ovation followed.

As families departed, Fuld finally had a chance to catch his breath.

"It's really gratifying," he said. "I didn't know what to expect, any time you do something like this the first time around. I knew that whatever the numbers were, they'd have a good time. This weekend was the fun part — the hard part was the coordination and setup. This part was the icing on the cake. It's been great to see the reaction from the kids and the parents."

Fuld said he was particularly glad for the opportunity to connect with parents because "they're sort of the lost part of the equation sometimes. I know my parents were probably more nervous about my diagnosis than I was. I don't lose sight of that, and I try to make sure I can help out not just the kids but anybody associated with them."

His most memorable moments?

"I'll tell you, I was close to tearing up during that cheer," he said, referencing a special cheerlead demonstration on the field by a dozen or so young girls who devised their own "Thank you, Sar chant. "It was pretty cool.

"But the whole day is what I'll remember — just interacting on a one-on-one basis and seeing this whole bleacher section filled up with everybody. This is the first time I've ever been around this many diabetics, and it's a little overwhelming. Just to have everybody together who can share the common bond is amazing."

Off to the side, a group of coaches — Finnegan, Ochotorena and Simmons — took it all in, reflecting on how they learned from each other over the weekend, just as the kids were learning and absorbing.

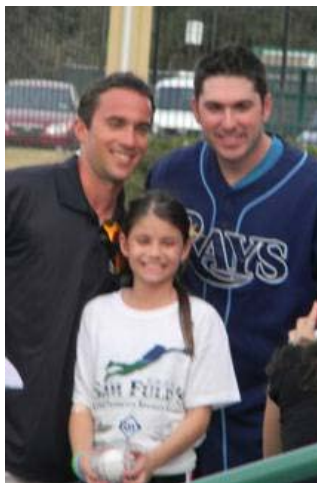
"The most important thing is the kids get to be around each other," Ochotorena said. "They learn from each other, spent time around other athletes who have to go through the same things and learn that it can be done. It can be managed. If you stay on top of it, you can do whatever you want."

In fact, Davey did something he'd never done before.

With the encouragement of a counselor, he gave himself his own blood poke and tested his glucose readings — the first time ever — and proudly informed us of the feat when we caught up with him at the end of camp.

He repeated the achievement Sunday night at home while we watched the Giants beat the Patriots. In our book, it was the play of the game from a Super weekend, indeed.

Tags: [mlb](#), [Tampa Bay Rays](#), [Matt Joyce](#), [Sam Fuld](#)



Courtesy of Dave Schei

Fuld's Tampa Bay teammate Matt Joyce (right) was one of several athletes who showed up to Fuld's camp.



Kim Klement-US PRESSWI

Despite his small stature, diminutive outfielder [Sam Fuld played a huge role](#) for the Rays last season. [READ MORE >](#)

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pjc2763

Great Article

8:47 pm Feb 08, 2018

My daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was 12. She was a cheerleader, softball player and dancer. Fortunately, when she was diagnosed she was sent to Children's Hospital of Alabama. Her endocrinologist there told her life did not have to change. She was in the hospital for three days and it should have taken a week for her to learn the ropes. By the time left, she was pricking her own finger and giving her own shots. When she was admitted, her BS was 989. We returned home on a Friday, and she cheered her first ballgame, after diagnosis, on Tuesday night. She had her first dance class on Wednesday. She never slowed down. I was so proud of her when she pulled out her meter at the first game and checked her BS levels in front of everyone. It was not something she was ashamed of. I hope this will give all you parents of Type 1 diabetics hope. She is now 28 years old. She has now been diabetic for 16 years. She recently had her annual checkup with the endocrinologist. She has no signs of retinopathy, neuropathy or kidney issues. She has always managed her blood sugar herself with oversight from me. I am so thankful for Dr. Joycelyn Atchinson at Children's Hospital of Alabama. She convinced her that she was not sick. She told her nothing was impossible. Dr. Atchinson is diabetic herself, and this made her words really stick with my daughter. If any of you have any questions or would like to speak to someone experienced with juvenile diabetes, feel free to contact me at pjc2763@gmail.com or my daughter would be glad to speak with you.

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nicet4

Great article part 2

7:24 pm Feb 08, 2018

I don't know what happened to the rest of my post. - they 3rd was diagnosed at 13 (he's driving now scary). We try to keep things normal for them. It's nice to have stories like this to read with them. Thank you.

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lingo

type1 not type 2

7:23 pm Feb 08, 2018

As a sports nut or used to be sports nut, this story gives me great hope for me maybe getting open the idea of wanting to put my kids into sport. This would be a no-brainer to allow them to play sports. It wasn't for the fact that at 18 months my daughter got diagnosed with type 1 diabetes what a life-changer that was to say the least. Every hour, every 2 hours at night and trying to stay awake at work, living in fear is what it was. When she turned 3 I tried soccer she dropped 17 points in 20 minutes. The parents and other kids watching as I was checking her finger not a comfortable feeling. Now wanting to have at least two kids we had a boy and thinking all those thoughts about watching my 1-year-old playing sports suddenly came back to me when we had Nate. About 6 months ago we get a call in the car from the doctor after he just got blood work telling us to get back here your son has it also. Thinking that is it no sports for them. Then running upon this story and Justin McCowan and Marrow the blue jays it made me think about it and me and my wife decided we would ask Faith if she wanted to play basketball. She said yes and after a few calls she starts Saturday. THANK-YOU SAM.

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nicet4

Great article

7:18 pm Feb 08, 2018

We have 3 kids, unbelievably all 3 are type 1 diabetics. Two were diagnosed when they were 8

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sheep

I love being able to look up to famous people

6:55 pm Feb 08, 2018

I was diagnosed with T1D at 4 I love how I know I'm not alone especially when there are famous people that I can look up to.

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macattack

Very Close to Home

6:51 pm Feb 08, 2018

I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in a very similar way 60 years ago. I was a very aggressive ballplayer until I was about 45

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outdog86

Great story!

5:52 pm Feb 08, 2018

GOD bless the Scheiber family

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part 2 its real

5:48 pm Feb 08, 2018

said hes gonna be ok, we stayed 10 long days, my boy said he ruined my bday, I said no, god gave u



zman

back to me,your my best bday gift ever,hes 18 ,girlfriend plays ball,its not easy, but u all can do it, it real,but not realer than your love of family!! stay strong all of u..

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Jester095

What a Good Article/Story

5:48 pm Feb 08, 2014

That was a really great and inspiring story. It was really warming to see an athlete in the beginning stages of something he supports outside of baseball to raise awareness. I don't have diabetes, but do have a boy and one on the way, and I feel like i learned what to watch out for god forbid someth like that happens in my family. Again great article, nice to read something heart warming in sports.

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hgem2009

For My Son

5:44 pm Feb 08, 2014

This story hits very close to home for me. My 13 year old son Hayden was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes to years ago. Our story is similar to the young boy that was written about in this aritcle. Wr thought was a sore thoart sent us to the er where his blood sugar was tested. His bs was 1,360. Lif changed in with that one little bit of blood. Just last night he suffered his second seizure in 3 weeks due to low blood sugar during his sleep. I love hearing stories of people that even though they face the same problems as Hayden they have made the goals the set for themselves happen. The ones that play sports are the one I really love to read because my son worried that he would not be able play baseball after his life changed. Thank you Mr. Fuld for being a great role model for my son an many others.

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zman

its real

5:38 pm Feb 08, 2014

This happened about 7 years ago, on my birthday, went to my sons school for a parent teachers conference, teacher sais my son was not the same "kid" that started the school year c/d instead of l c's,, not there look in his eyes, I had taken him for his reg checkup 1 week earlier, as we were leav my cell rang, it was his peds Dr. he said something that stays in ys brain,," get your boy in your truc and haul a_s to the hospital" Drs. dont say those words,the teacher heard,she helped me get my s up ,he was like a zombie, she said take my truck if u need to,she said Ill drive ,we went about 80 m on the freeway,got to the hospital ,gurney in parking lot waitin for us,Dr.

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Sparky69

Awesome

4:42 pm Feb 08, 2014

I wish my boys would have had an oppotunity to have meet someone like Sam when they were young. My family has kidney disease and I have had a transplant and they will need one also. Spo has always been a part of my boys lives. They learned to adapt so that they could continue to play, having someone in the pros show you it can be done would certainly make a hugh impact. Sam Fu you are one amazing man to share your experiance with these children. Your a great ball player, b think your an even better role model for type 1 diabetes.

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jreed

Great for Type 1 diabetics

3:35 am Feb 07, 2014

Good for Sam! This is exactly what Type 1 diabetics need -- a successful, healthy role model that shows the disease is manageable. As a type 1 diabetic, I hope the camp runs for a long time and reaches many, many young kids.

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Week 12's Top 10 CFB games



Once homeless, now a star QB



Jerry Buss had final say for Lake

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Larry Goren/Associated Press

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"Mom, Dad, it was Sam Fuld!" he reported excitedly when the call ended. "He said, 'Hang in there!'"

I spoke briefly with Fuld before he hung up to thank him, and he extended an offer to bring Davey to a Rays game at Tropicana Field when he was feeling up to it. Three weeks later, Janie and I did just that. To see the way Fuld connected with a child — one about the age Fuld was when he was diagnosed — was remarkable. And the insight he shared with Janie and I was equally valuable.

In the months that followed, Davey donned his No. 5 Fuld T-shirt more than any other in his collection and even adopted Fuld's batting stance. What we could see as parents was the enormous power of a child in Davey's situation having a role model, someone who proves that anything is possible no matter what challenges lie ahead.

Fuld had such a player in former Boston pitcher Bill Gullickson, who had not let Type 1 diabetes hold him back from a successful major league career. At age 12, Fuld's father — with the help of a mutual acquaintance — had taken him to meet Gullickson before a game, and their short talk had a lasting impact on the child.



Courtesy of Dave Scheiber

Rays mascot Raymond mingles with campers on "Rays Street."



Courtesy of Dave Scheiber

Gullickson's complete willingness to offer some helpful advice inspired Fuld and made him determined to help others when he was in a position to do so.

Davey was the fortunate beneficiary of Fuld's mission to make a difference in the lives of children and families touched by diabetes.

This past weekend, his mission moved to a whole new level.

Late Friday afternoon, dozens upon dozens of parents and children arrived at Fuld's charter sports camp, conducted in conjunction with Dr. Henry Rodriguez, medical director of the renowned USF Diabetes Center and with the support of USF Athletics and Florida Diabetes Camps run by Gary Cornwell.

Children of all ages showed up eagerly to the non-sleepover camp to check in at USF's Muma Center, receive an official T-shirt and get set for introductions by Fuld and Rodriguez — before heading off for a night of bowling and pizza.

Campers with diabetes were invited to bring along a pal or sibling without diabetes to calm their initial nerves about taking part. The move by the camp paid instant dividends — keeping the atmosphere fun and stress-free from the outset as children raced up and down the basketball court waiting for the event to start.

The children let out a huge cheer when Fuld was introduced, and they sat so quietly you could hear a pin drop while he addressed them.

"Guys, thank you so much for coming out here. I can't tell you how excited I am to see all the faces here," he began. "The first time through, I had no idea if we'd have 10 kids or 100. And I'm so excited to be able to participate in this."

Also participating were an array of athletes who have coped with Type 1 diabetes in their own lives — a roll call that included former tennis pros Genevieve King and Mike Findling, former Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Stacey Simmons, ex-Nova Southeastern University basketball player Chad Bobik, current Florida International University softball catcher Jenny Welch and USF kicker and soccer goalie Renato Proia. Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler, also a Type 1 diabetic, couldn't attend, but he sent a box of autographed items.

In addition, the support staff included Tampa Bay-areas nurses and an arsenal of counselors from Florida Diabetes Camps to facilitate activities and provide immediate assistance — blood draws, shots or sugar-boosting snacks — any camper might need.

This was especially reassuring to my wife and I, because Davey had yet to administer his own blood draws to check his readings with a glucose meter. We've been encouraging him to take the big step, but he's been reluctant to press the spring-loaded needle into his own fingers. So we've been doing it for him four and five times each day. We knew he'd be in great hands — many of them — at the camp.

Meanwhile, Rodriguez, of the USF Diabetes Center, marveled at the turnout Friday night.

"When we first sat down, Sam came to visit the center and said, 'I'd really like to do something with you guys,'" Rodriguez recounted. "We talked about different things and the idea of a camp, and I honestly told him, 'Sam, if you just want to promote it, and put your name on it, we'd appreciate it. If you want to become more involved, that would be terrific.' And, boy, he took it and he ran with it.

"He called anybody he could think of who was an athlete with Type 1 diabetes — or knew somebody. And he's said he wants to continue to do this even if, God forbid, he ever gets traded to a different team. He's going to continue to work with us."

One of the highlights was when Fuld introduced the arrival of a familiar athlete — Rays 2011 All-Star right fielder Matt Joyce. The crowd erupted in loud cheers and applause for the Tampa native,

Davey Scheiber visits with Rays outfielder Sam Fuld at Tropicana Field just weeks after being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Fuld, who also has Type 1 Diabetes himself, has become a role model for diabetic children all over the country.



Kim Klement-US PRESSWIRE

"The first time through, I had no idea if we'd have 10 kids or 100. And I'm so excited to be able to participate in this."

— Sam Fuld to the audience at his sports camp

who'd come to lend his support to his friend.

"Matt is not diabetic, but don't hold that against him," Fuld quipped to a wave of laughter.

A brief awards ceremony followed, and autographed items from Fuld, Cutler, Rays star Ben Zobrist and others were given away.

After Fuld offered heart-felt thank-yous, Joyce grabbed the mic and asked for a round of applause for his Rays teammate.

"I didn't know much about diabetes until you joined the team, but I got a little snippet of what you go through on a daily basis," Joyce said to Fuld. "It's been inspirational to us, the guys who see what you're able to accomplish and everything you have to deal with on and off the field. So, we're really proud of you. This camp is a great cause, and keep it up. We love you."

Another spirited ovation followed.

As families departed, Fuld finally had a chance to catch his breath.

"It's really gratifying," he said. "I didn't know what to expect, any time you do something like this the first time around. I knew that whatever the numbers were, they'd have a good time. This weekend was the fun part — the hard part was the coordination and setup. This part was the icing on the cake. It's been great to see the reaction from the kids and the parents."

Fuld said he was particularly glad for the opportunity to connect with parents because "they're sort of the lost part of the equation sometimes. I know my parents were probably more nervous about my diagnosis than I was. I don't lose sight of that, and I try to make sure I can help out not just the kids but anybody associated with them."

His most memorable moments?

"I'll tell you, I was close to tearing up during that cheer," he said, referencing a special cheerleading demonstration on the field by a dozen or so young girls who devised their own "Thank you, Sam!" chant. "It was pretty cool."

"But the whole day is what I'll remember — just interacting on a one-on-one basis and seeing this whole bleacher section filled up with everybody. This is the first time I've ever been around this many diabetics, and it's a little overwhelming. Just to have everybody together who can share that common bond is amazing."

Off to the side, a group of coaches — Finnegan, Ochotorena and Simmons — took it all in, reflecting on how they learned from each other over the weekend, just as the kids were learning and absorbing.

"The most important thing is the kids get to be around each other," Ochotorena said. "They learn from each other, spent time around other athletes who have to go through the same things and learn that it can be done. It can be managed. If you stay on top of it, you can do whatever you want."

In fact, Davey did something he'd never done before.

With the encouragement of a counselor, he gave himself his own blood poke and tested his glucose readings — the first time ever — and proudly informed us of the feat when we caught up with him at the end of camp.

He repeated the achievement Sunday night at home while we watched the Giants beat the Patriots. In our book, it was the play of the game from a Super weekend, indeed.

Tags: mlb, Tampa Bay Rays, Matt Joyce , Sam Fuld



Courtesy of Dave Scheiber

Fuld's Tampa Bay teammate Matt Joyce (right) was one of several athletes who showed up to Fuld's camp.



Kim Klement-US PRESSWIRE

Despite his small stature, diminutive outfielder [Sam Fuld played a huge role](#) for the Rays last season. [READ MORE »](#)

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pjc2763

Great Article

8:47 pm Feb 08, 2012

My daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was 12. She was a cheerleader, softball player and dancer. Fortunately, when she was diagnosed she was sent to Children's Hospital of Alabama. Her endocrinologist there told her life did not have to change. She was in the hospital for three days and it should have taken a week for her to learn the ropes. By the time left, she was pricking her own finger and giving her own shots. When she was admitted, her BS was 989. We returned home on a Friday, and she cheered her first ballgame, after diagnosis, on Tuesday night. She had her first dance class on Wednesday. She never slowed down. I was so proud of her when she pulled out her meter at the first game and checked her BS levels in front of everyone. It was never something she was ashamed of. I hope this will give all you parents of Type 1 diabetics hope. She is now 28 years old. She has now been diabetic for 16 years. She recently had her annual checkup with the endocrinologist. She has no signs of retinopathy, neuropathy or kidney issues. She has always managed her blood sugar herself with oversight from me. I am so thankful for Dr. Joycelyn Atchinson at Children's Hospital of Alabama. She convinced her that she was not sick. She told her nothing was impossible. Dr. Atchinson is diabetic herself, and this made her words really stick with my daughter. If any of you have any questions or would like to speak to someone experienced with juvenile diabetes, feel free to contact me at pjc2763@gmail.com I or my daughter would be glad to speak with you.

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nicet4

Great article part 2

7:24 pm Feb 08, 2012

I don't know what happened to the rest of my post. - they 3rd was diagnosed at 13 (he's driving now - scary). We try to keep things normal for them. It's nice to have stories like this to read with them. Thank you.

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lingo

type1 not type 2

7:23 pm Feb 08, 2012

As a sports nut or used to be sports nut, this story gives me great hope for me maybe getting open to the idea of wanting to put my kids into sport .This would be a no brain-er to allow them to play sports if it wasn't for the fact that at 18 months my daughter got diagnosed with type1 diabetes what a life changer that was to say the least.Every hour ,every 2hours at night and trying to stay awake at work,living in fear is what it was.When she turned 3 i tried soccer she dropped 17 points in 20 min. all the parents and other kids watching as i was checking her finger not a comfortable feeling .Now wanting to have at least two kids we had a boy and thinking all those thoughts about watching my kids playing sports suddenly came back to me when we had Nate .About 6 months ago we get a call in the car from the doctor after he just got blood work telling us to get back hear your son has it also .Thinking that is it no sports for them. Then running upon this story and Justin mccowan and marrow of the blue jays it made me think about it and me and my wife decided we would ask faith if she wanted to play basketball .She said yes and after a few calls she starts Saturday.THANK-YOU SAM.

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nicet4

Great article

7:18 pm Feb 08, 2012

We have 3 kids, unbelievably all 3 are type 1 diabetics. Two were diagnosed when they were 8

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sheep

I love being able to look up to famous people

6:55 pm Feb 08, 2012

i was diagnosed with t1d at 4 i love how i know im not alone especially when there are famous people that i can look up to.

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macattack

Very Close to Home

6:51 pm Feb 08, 2012

I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in a very similar way 60 years ago. I was a very aggressive ballplayer until I was about 45

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Great story!

5:52 pm Feb 08, 2012



cutdog86

GOD bless the Scheiber family

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zman

part 2 its real

5:48 pm Feb 08, 2012

said hes gonna be ok,we stayed 10 long days,my boy said he ruined my bday,I said no,god gave u back to me,your my best bday gift ever,hes 18 ,girlfriend plays ball,its not easy, but u all can do it, its real,but not realer than your love of family!! stay strong all of u..

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Jester095

What a Good Article/Story

5:48 pm Feb 08, 2012

That was a really great and inspiring story. It was really warming to see an athlete in the beginning stages of something he supports outside of baseball to raise awareness. I don't have diabetes, but I do have a boy and one on the way, and I feel like i learned what to watch out for god forbid something like that happens in my family. Again great article, nice to read something heart warming in sports.

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hgem2009

For My Son

5:44 pm Feb 08, 2012

This story hits very close to home for me. My 13 year old son Hayden was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes to years ago. Our story is similar to the young boy that was written about in this aritcle. What I thought was a sore thoart sent us to the er where his blood sugar was tested. His bs was 1,360. Life changed in with that one little bit of blood. Just last night he suffered his second seizure in 3 weeks due to low blood sugar during his sleep. I love hearing stories of people that even though they face the same problems as Hayden they have made the goals the set for themselves happen. The ones that play sports are the one I really love to read because my son worried that he would not be able to play baseball after his life changed. Thank you Mr. Fuld for being a great role model for my son and many others.

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zman

its real

5:38 pm Feb 08, 2012

This happened about 7 years ago, on my birthday, went to my sons school for a parent teachers conference, teacher sais my son was not the same "kid" that started the school year c/d instead of b-c's., not there look in his eyes, I had taken him for his reg checkup 1 week earlier, as we were leaving my cell rang, it was his peds Dr. he said something that stays in ys brain,," get your boy in your truck and haul a_s to the hospital" Drs. dont say those words,the teacher heard,she helped me get my son up ,he was like a zombie, she said take my truck if u need to,she said Ill drive ,we went about 80 mph on the freeway,got to the hospital ,gurney in parking lot waitin for us,Dr.

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Sparky69

Awesome

4:42 pm Feb 08, 2012

I wish my boys would have had an opportunity to have meet someone like Sam when they were young. My family has kidney disease and I have had a transplant and they will need one also. Sports has always been a part of my boys lives. They learned to adapt so that they could continue to play, but having someone in the pros show you it can be done would certainly make a hugh impact. Sam Fuld you are one amazing man to share your experiance with these children. Your a great ball player, but I think your an even better role model for type 1 diabetes.

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jreed

Great for Type 1 diabetics

3:35 am Feb 07, 2012

Good for Sam! This is exactly what Type 1 diabetics need -- a successful, healthy role model that shows the disease is manageable. As a type 1 diabetic, I hope the camp runs for a long time and reaches many, many young kids.

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Week 12's Top 10 CFB games



Once homeless, now a star QB



Jerry Buss had final say for Lakers

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