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## Lyons High sophomore throws out first pitch at Kauffman Stadium

By Mike Courson

A week prior to the Rice County Relay for Life, a bittersweet annual celebration of cancer survivors and reminder of those who lost the battle, Lyons High sophomore Chase Keesling had a celebration of his own. On June 1, Keesling threw out the first pitch at Kauffman Stadium prior to the Royals' 16-0 loss against Oakland.

Keesling was one of five cancer survivors to deliver a first pitch that Friday evening as part of Big Slick

Celebrity Weekend in Kansas City. Keesling threw his pitch to Anchorman's David Koechner, a Missouri native. "I think I threw a strike," Keesling laughed. "I don't really play baseball."

**Getting sick**

Keesling was a second grader at Park Elementary when he was diagnosed with Burkitt lymphoma in 2011. Burkitt is considered the most aggressive form of lymphoma and accounts for just two percent of all lymphoma diagnoses. That

aggressiveness manifested itself in Keesling's original x-rays.

Chase remembers being tired as an eight year old. Still, he could not sleep and spent many late nights reading. "He was having some headaches and we had him checked out by one physician," said Chase's father, Doug Keesling. "Six days later we saw a different physician."

see Keesling, page 3



Lyons High sophomore Chase Keesling (back row, center) was one of five cancer survivors to throw out a first pitch at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City on June 1. (courtesy photo)

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