REJESTR DOTYCZY:

GORNIAK Eddie jr

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* Acton Gazette 16.2.8o i foto
* Ealing Gazette 12.2.8o i foto



RECOVERING: Eddie Gorniak.

Sports star to leave hospital

TEENAGE sports star Eddie Gorniak leaves hospital tomorrow for the first time since being hit by a rare disease more than two months ago.

Eddie, 15, is spending the weekend at his home in St Kilda Road, West Ealing, before going back to West Middlesex Hospital for more therapy.

He was hit with the nervous disease Polyneuritis just before Christmas and until last week was being treated at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

His father, Eddie, said: "He has lost about three stone in weight but is making good progress now. He will be coming home for



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His father, Eddie, said: "He has lost about three stone in weight but is making good progress now. He will be coming home for the weekend and has already asked if he can go to see a table tennis match in Wembley, although I will have to see his doctor about that.

Recovered

"It will be a long time before he is fully recovered."

Eddie, a pupil at Drayton Manor High School, Hanwell, is in the national top 20 junior rankings for table tennis and has been tipped as a future England international.

When he caught the disease, which seriously affects only one in every 10,000 people, he was put on a life support machine.

Love all at Eddie's home

HAPPY father Eddie Gorniak welcomed home his young sports star son at the weekend.

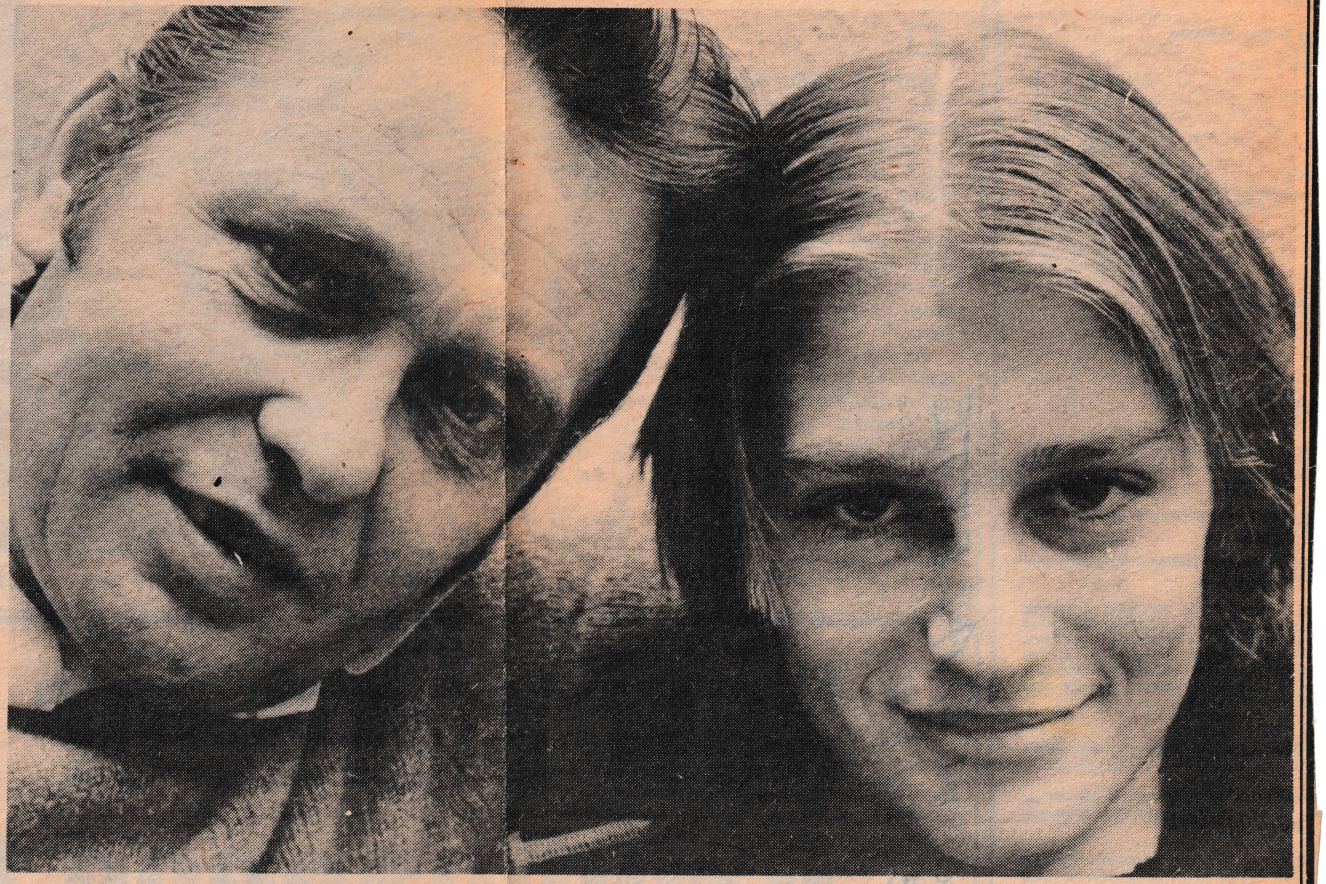
Eddie, junior, 15, was on his first visit home since being admitted to hospital at the start of the year after catching the disease Poly-neuritis.

He had made a good enough recovery from the disease — which attacks the nervous system — to be allowed out of West Middlesex Hospital from Friday evening to Sunday evening.

Mr Gorniak, senior, said: "He was in very good spirits and was inundated with visits from friends."

Eddie, who is a member of the Gunnersbury Triangle Table Tennis Club, Princes Avenue, on the borders of Acton and Chiswick, was well enough to be taken by his father to watch a National League table tennis match in Enfield on Sunday.

Exclusive picture: PETER SMITH



●EDDIE GORNIAK, pictured with his father, EDDIE GORNIAK, senior, after being allowed home for the weekend.

Sport Spotlight 1

MY ORDE IS OVI

WITH months of agony firmly behind him 15-year-old Eddie Gorniak can now afford to smile.

Eddie one of the borough's brightest sporting prospects — in soccer, basketball and particularly table tennis — has now full recovered from the rare killer disease Polyneuritis.

And for the first time he spoke of the 66 days, 1,437 hours and 45 minutes he spent in hospital recovering from the disease.

It attacks the nervous system which seriously affects only one in every 10,000 people.

Sitting in the front room of his house in St Kilda Road, West Ealing, which is dominated by Eddie's sporting trophies, he explained that the nightmare began on Christmas eve when he was sent to bed suffering from a sore throat.

A few days later Eddie had developed a high fever and discovered that his toes had gone numb.

Then he was rushed to West Middlesex hospital because doctors suspected he was suffering from Polyneuritis.

Dangers

The family's fears came true when expert medical examiners confirmed Eddie had been hit by the killer disease.

Immediately Eddie was moved to intensive care and doctors told his father, Edward, the dangers of the disease and the possible after effects.

On the second day Eddie was put on a life support machine and suddenly overnight he was paralysed in both legs.

His father said: "We were terrified and couldn't believe it was happening to our son. We were praying that this was the worst of it and that he'd soon pull through it."

Eddie spent ten days in West Middlesex Hospital during which time he was being liquid fed.

He said: "It was horrible. I can't remember much of my time in the hospital and it never sunk into my mind that I was seriously ill. I kept thinking I would be out soon."

His parents kept a constant vigil at his hospital bedside and streams of school friends came to visit him.

On the tenth day he was transferred to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases and was still on a breathing machine. Doctors gave new hope to the family by describing his condition as "excellent".

Eddie was now completely paralysed and was being liquid fed with a pipe which was forced into his body through a slit in his throat.

Because he could not speak his mother devised a clever way of communication.

Eddie explained: "Somebody would say the alphabet and every time they came to the right letter I would blink my eyes. The beginning of the letter would give them some idea of what I wanted."

Eddie was also given a special typewriting machine on which he could type out his message.

His parents had mastered the technique of lip reading which was a great help to him.

Eddie said: "I tried to move once but fell out of bed. I don't really remember the incident but that's what I was told.

"I was surrounded by machines and pipes. It was something like a scene out of the Six Million Dollar Man television series. I had been in hospital so long that I began to feel like the bionic man."

'Worrying'

Eddie was now on the road to recovery and there was a slight movement in his legs.

His father said: "He could move slightly and doctors told me that the

Teenage sports star Eddie Gorniak tells how he overcame a killer disease. Reporter Dippy Chaudhary listens.

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more he exercised the quicker he would be able to get out of hospital.

"When I first found out that he could move slightly I couldn't believe it. The only thing I kept worrying about over and over again was the after effects the doctors had told me Eddie might have."

But his father kept his worries hidden and spurred Eddie on constantly reminding him that the more he exercised the quicker he would be out.

The day eventually came when Eddie was taken off the life support machine and forced to do more exercises.

He said: "They put me in a wheel chair and told me I had to do at least one hours exercise.

"By this time I could move my arms and there was a slight movement in my legs."

Press ups

Eddie was taken to the hospital gym and he jokingly pointed out that his first exercise was press ups.

He said: "It was really difficult. The first thing I was asked to do was bend my legs and they were so stiff. I wanted to give up and go back to bed but they wouldn't let me."

After a week of light exercises Eddie was moved to West Middlesex hospital for physiotherapy.

He said: "I was all skin and bones and had lost something like two and a half stones. I was glad to get out of hospital."

Eddie went back to Drayton Manor High School in Hanwell, in the summer term.

Although he is now fully recovered and healthy he says he still has a lot of exercises to do to get back to playing table tennis at a national standard.

His father said: "We are over the moon that there have been no after effects. Now all Eddie has to concentrate on is practising his table tennis and catching up with the school work he has missed."

Eddie, who has been tipped off as a future England table tennis international, says he has at the moment no plans regarding the sport.

He said: "I'm not seriously thinking of table tennis at the moment but I intend to carry on practicing and start playing in September.

"At the moment I've got so much school work to catch up on as I will be taking my 'O' levels next year."

Eddie's father said: "We are so glad the whole nightmare is over.

"The doctors and nurses in both the hospitals have been wonderful.

"The nightmare has affected us mentally more than it has Eddie.

"I don't think I can ever explain the feelings I have had to go through in these past months.

"It is something that is now behind us and we are more than pleased to leave it there."