

## Kody's Milestones from a Proud Mother on Mother's Day

*By Lynn Cassidy*

From the moment of your birth, there were proud moments! The first was seeing you lift your tiny head to look right into my eyes as if to say, "Hi, Mom! So you're the one that has been singing to me and talking to me all these months!" Infants aren't supposed to have strong necks like that!!

Your words! So many words for a baby! I remember taking you to a "La Leche" meeting. Some moms had newborns, some had toddlers of 18 months. The women were so surprised when my nine-month-old son, said "Look! Baby!" When we sat at a restaurant you exclaimed, "Broccoli!" to a surprised waitress. I made an illustrated dictionary of about 100 words you knew between nine and twelve months. Some of your favorites had to do with all types of balls that you loved to toss, roll, kick and swing at with a bat.

Our move to Grand Lake was a huge milestone! You had only turned five when we took a 26-foot U-Haul truck filled with all kinds of equipment for our new lodge purchased in Grand Lake. What an adventure! You started kindergarten at Grand Lake Elementary. I never thought I'd be like other parents and cry that first day. There was a whole group of us laughing and crying as Terry Sidell, the principal, made us feel normal.

It was exciting to see you venture into sports: hockey at five, soccer that same year, Little League baseball, then basketball in third grade. But the sport you started just for fun, turned into a sport that has taken you into tournaments, leagues, and a coaching career: tennis! It started out as fun family recreation, but you soon surpassed all of us in skill, power, and grace! Your first tennis match in Denver was an exciting milestone. You were 13.

Your first prom was another milestone which took you to Steamboat Springs to date a beautiful blonde who turned out to be the first of four Rachael's in your life! Your life whizzed right on to high school graduation and college at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction.

Your work has been an expression of your passion for tennis and it will be amazing and wonderful to see your life as it moves more into coaching others and sharing your passion, your kindness, and your creative, gentle spirit. Thanks for sharing your milestones with me!

With love,

Mom