

Doc lends a helping hand

Roy Halladay has received and given a few high-fives over his career.

After complete games, 10-inning shutouts, his Cy Young award and there was that two-hit night at Dodger Stadium in 2007.

They were accomplishments we have come to expect from the former first-round draft pick.

The high-five Halladay received, as he leaned out of the third base dug-out, extending his palm to his old pal Isaac McFadyen at 6:43 last night, was likely as satisfying as any he's had in a Blue Jays uniform.

Halladay had not seen Isaac since last season when Isaac visited Doc's Box, a sky-box where Halladay and his wife, Brandy, entertain children and their families.

The Jays ace was named the fifth annual George Gross/Toronto Sun Sportsperson of the Year in December and before the Detroit Tigers played the Jays, editor in chief Lou Clancy presented Halladay a \$1,000 cheque last night.

Halladay donated it to the Isaac Foundation (theisaacfoundation.com) and then Halladay matched the offer himself.

"My wife Brandy and I believe in the Foundation," Halladay said. "It hasn't gotten a lot of support and there's not a lot of awareness for the illness."

Isaac was born 4½ years ago. At 18 months, in November of 2005, he was diagnosed with Maroteaux-Lamy Syndrome, or MPS VI. The disease is caused by an enzyme deficiency which stunts growth and causes joints to stiffen

and heart valves to fail.

"Without proper medicine his hands will (turn into a) claw and corneas will cloud," said Isaac's father Andrew McFadyen seated at the St. Louis Bar and Gill, across the street from the Rogers Centre

"Isaac has already had an operation when his spinal cord compressed," said McFadyen.

Isaac's three-year-old brother Gabriel, shared the table — when he wasn't crawling under it.

Now, Isaac is taking the synthetic enzyme Nagalazyme, which costs between \$350,000 and \$1 million a year. While approved in the United States and the United Kingdom and by the Canadian government, the Ontario government initially refused to approve it.

"Christina Blizzard of the Toronto Sun really fought for us, helping us get approval," said McFadyen. "Only three people in Canada have this disease so there were not enough children to test. This is now our life boat."

Later the gang — Isaac and Gabriel, with mother Ellen Buck-McFadyen and father, plus grand parents Paula and Wayne Buck plus Ellen Dabbs and friends — walked to the concrete building across the street and out onto the carpet.

Before the game a video entitled *The Isaac Foundation* which can be found on YouTube was shown on the Jumbotron and Halladay scooped his pal Isaac up like a comebacker with men on first and second and pointed to Isaac on the giant screen.

Halladay invites children



Bob Elliott



JACK BOLAND/SUN MEDIA

A smiling Roy Halladay shares a moment with Isaac McFadyen and Isaac's brother last night. Halladay was awarded the George Gross/Toronto Sun Sportsperson of the Year for 2008 and was presented with a cheque for \$1000 by Sun managing editor Lou Clancy. Halladay matched the amount and donated it all to the Issac Foundation to combat the rare disease known as MPS VI that breaks down complex sugars and enzymes in the blood. Isaac was diagnosed with the disease at 18 months of age.

from the Hospital for Sick Children once a month to his skybox, which is where Brandy and Roy met Isaac a few years back.

"We hope to have the box nine or 10 times this season," said Halladay, who visited Sick Kids the day after the 2008 season ended. "We went into a few treatment rooms and would like to get more directly involved at the hospital.

Singer John Mayer and Hal-

laday are helping raise funds for MPS VI research.

"This allows us to make a difference," McFadyen said. "Roy Halladay is respected in Toronto, in Ontario and across Canada. He's a great father and a role model for kids across the country."

Then the proud father told of how excited his son Isaac gets when he sees Halladay on the TV.

McFadyen lives in Camp-

bellford, Ont., and teaches grade 8 at Sir Winston Churchill Public School in Kingston — where I managed to pass both kindergarten (Miss Preston) and Grade 8 (Mr. Joynt).

"I hope fans understand what a treasure they have in Halladay," McFadyen said. "I know our family understands."

After Isaac threw his Campbellford strike with the ceremonial first pitch he printed

to Halladay and gave him another high five, which looked like it had the same force as the ones Brad Fuller used to deliver after a home run.

Who is your favourite ball player Isaac?

"Roy Hall-A-DAY!" said Issac with a big smile.

A lot of Jays fans would give the same answer.

bob.elliott@sunmedia.ca

Raps reserves get their moment in the spotlight

FRANK ZICARELLI
Sun Media

In a sign of the times in Raptorland, Quincy Douby and Patrick O'Bryant were on the floor when the fourth quarter began last night in a one-possession game.

Had the Raptors been playing for something meaningful other than pride, both would have been buried on the bench.

For the first time in three years, the Raptors aren't making the playoffs, making life

difficult for interim head coach Jay Triano.

On one hand, Triano wants nothing more than to win as many games as possible and in turn help GM Bryan Colangelo's decision to retain Triano for next season and beyond.

On the other hand, Triano needs to give meaningful minutes to players whose minutes have been limited.

Douby, whose 10-day deal has been extended for another look-see, and O'Bryant, who came to Toronto in a dead-

line deal involving Boston and Sacramento, fall into that category.

Get used to this picture as the Raptors close out their season with five games remaining, including tonight's tip in Indiana.

O'Bryant has the length to contribute, but he began last night by picking up two fouls in seven minutes.

In 18 minutes, O'Bryant scored four points, had four

rebounds and picked up four fouls.

For the record, the Hawks defeated the Raptors 118-110.

Douby is the ultimate backcourt tweener who isn't afraid to look to score or attack the basket.

When Douby made his exit with the Hawks leading 105-98, he contributed to Toronto's cause by scoring nine points in nine minutes on 4-of-5 shooting.

"There were a few mistakes,

but overall I thought I played well," Douby said.

Douby did admit to being winded, a natural by product of not playing in clutch moments.

In contrast to the Raptors, there's plenty on the line for the high-flying Hawks, who came into Toronto having lost five of six games and five consecutive on the road.

Atlanta's Achilles heel is its bench, but the team's starting five can give any team problems.

At least Flip Murray and

Zaza Pachulia provided some impact off the bench against the Raptors, combining for all of Atlanta's 23 points among reserves.

No matter who comes off Atlanta's bench, they will go as far as Joe Johnson takes them.

Johnson and Smith each scored 25 points, while Chris Bosh led the Raptors with 21 points in posting his eighth consecutive double-double.

frank.zicarelli@sunmedia.ca

Raps report: Page S15

HAWKS
RAPTORS

118
110