

# Stronger Together: Softball Team Raises Money for Cancer Awareness

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Liberty players Luci and Izzy Mateo's shirts from after the game last year



Picture of the team about to go onto the field at the cancer game last year

On May 5, the Liberty Softball Team will be playing at Worthington Kilbourn to raise awareness for cancer.

The game will begin at 5:15, and all the players, including Kilbourn's, will be wearing a cancer awareness shirt. The shirts will include the name(s) of the person they are playing for. Liberty Softball's motto, "Stronger Together", has been the inspiration for this.

Stronger Together is all about playing better as a team, and not as an individual. The program has worked together to sell cancer awareness shirts for the game.

The money raised will go to the Ohio State Cancer Program and further help with cancer research. This will be Liberty's third year doing the game, and captain, Allie Motyka, has been in charge of the event. Junior captain, Brooke Aberle, believes this cancer game has a good impact on others.

"It's very important because it shows awareness for people who have or had cancer. Not only do we show awareness but we also raise money to donate for cancer programs."

Freshman player, Nina Nist, is a cancer survivor who will be playing in the cancer game.

In 2021, Nina was diagnosed with stage four of defused large b-cell lymphoma. This is when multiple tumors start growing in tissues and organs. Nina had to spend most of 7th grade and some of 8th grade at home or in the hospital.

"It was actually very difficult, as much as I enjoyed not doing school work, I missed being at school and seeing my friends and teachers."

The cancer game is especially important to Nist because of her personal experiences.

"The cancer game is so important because it represents people we love who have or have had cancer. It's important to share stories. And most importantly, it raises money for cancer itself, which helps people who could get diagnosed."