

## Indianapolis Indians Scout Future Slugger at Riley Children's Hospital



The Indianapolis Indians made a visit to Riley Children's Hospital this season, expecting to visit with kids, sign some autographs, and take a few pictures. They didn't expect to have the emotional experience they did when they walked into the room of 3 year old patient Kolton Mitchell.

Kolton is a patient of Riley Children's Hospital and has a rare condition called Aplastic Anemia. This disease, which affects only 1-2 people out of every million, prevents bone marrow from making enough new blood cells that the body needs. He was also diagnosed with HLH, which is another rare disease that affects his immune system.

Indians Players Ivan Dejesus, Brett Carroll, Felix Pie, Stolmy Pimentel and Darren Ford entered the room to see Kolton playing a game with his nurse and his mother. His face instantly lit up when he saw the team in their jerseys. Kolton and the players began

playing their own version of batting practice, while he told the players about his favorite movies, *Angels in The Outfield* and *The Sandlot*. The team gave Kolton an autographed Indianapolis Indians water bottle as a souvenir, which he held in one hand while he swung the bat with the other, despite the efforts of his nurse to hold it for him.

Kolton's mother teared up as she took pictures of the players with her son, saying how special it was since Kolton has such a love for baseball. As the team got ready to leave, Kolton began to cry, not wanting them to leave. Some of the players gave him a hug goodbye to cheer him up, while getting slightly emotional themselves.

It only took the players about 15 minutes of their day to make an impact on Kolton and his mother. What started as a typical appearance for the players turned into a memorable moment that the Indians players won't soon forget, reminding them just how easy it is to volunteer their time and make someone's day special.

