



Alison Kuusisto stands in front of former Harvard teammates during a January game in Cambridge, Mass., where the school celebrated the 20th anniversary of the 1999 national championship.

A MEMORABLE LIFE

Former Denfeld goalie Kuusisto, a one-of-a-kind personality, losing battle with cancer

By Louie St. George III
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The voice, out of place as it was, gripped Angie (Francisco) Flygh as soon as it escaped the speaker's mouth. Flygh was a freshman defenseman on the Harvard women's hockey team in 1997-98. During a lull in

practice, there was a sound she couldn't mistake. "I heard that Duluth accent," Flygh recalled. It's one the Duluth East graduate knew well. And when she spotted the owner of the words, she found fellow Northland native Alison Kuusisto, who was making quite an impression on her recruiting visit to

the Ivy League school in Massachusetts. The outstanding Denfeld goaltender was wearing "a little bit of a wild outfit," Flygh remembers, including gingham pants — and, undoubtedly, her million-watt smile. Kuusisto never worried much about fitting in. "There are free spirits, and

then there is Ali Kuusisto," Flygh said. "She's just fearlessly herself." "Outlandish pants," as another former Crimson player, Sally Duval, called them, are a Kuusisto staple. Leopard skin, bright polka dots ... it was all on the table. Even if the rest of her teammates were wearing all black on game day, Kuusisto would have "some kind of funky pattern going on." Proudly. "She isn't an all-black kind of person," Duval said.

"She's colorful." That's remained true all the way to the end. Kuusisto, then 35, was diagnosed March 9, 2016, with stage 2B cervical cancer, which has since reached stage 4. Kuusisto lives in Paonia, Colo., with her husband, Greg Hottinger, and their five children, all of whom are 10 or younger. Social media posts indicate Kuusisto's family is in the process of making final arrangements.

KUUSISTO: Page B6

Making his pitch

Steve Kuchera /
skuchera@duluthnews.com

Duluth Huskies pitcher Erik Kaiser throws to the plate during the first inning of Monday's game against St. Cloud at Wade Stadium.



PREP BOYS TENNIS / STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Doubles duo profits from net work

East juniors' aggressive play bodes well at state

By Rick Weegman
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Coming from a school noted for its successful boys hockey program, perhaps Duluth East boys tennis coach Chad Humphreys' description of his state-qualified doubles duo isn't too surprising. Junior Nolan Humphreys and Michael Sutherland won Section 7AA and will compete for the Greyhounds at No. 1 doubles in today's Class AA quarterfinal against Edina and later in the week in the individual tournament. "I really like their chances and I like how they play. They are an in-your-face type of team that is certainly a top-five doubles team in the state," Coach Humphreys said. "They get to the net and are the enforcers like in hockey. They serve and get to the net and put things away."

That style of play can fluster opponents not used to the serve-and-volley approach. "The best part of our game is our volleys, so we love to get to the net as quickly as we can and put the ball away," Sutherland said. "We really get into their heads when we get to the net, and it forces them to change their game to try and lob us." Though neither player has John Isner-like height, Humphreys and Sutherland are talented at overheads and quick to race back to the baseline to return lobs. The duo faces the Wayzata pairing of Sanjit Shah and Jayho Hong in a Class AA first-round matchup at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis. The winner could meet Edina's third-seeded tandem of Luke Westholder and Otto Schreiner later in the day. No matter the opponent, Humphreys and Sutherland are confident in their tactics.

TENNIS: Page B3



Dave Harwig / For the News Tribune
Duluth East's Nolan Humphreys is comfortable playing the ball at the net. The junior qualified for the Class AA state doubles tournament and leads the Greyhounds into the team quarterfinals against Edina today.

Blues bounce back against the Bruins

St. Louis beats Boston to even Stanley Cup Final at 2-2

Field Level Media
ST. LOUIS — Ryan O'Reilly's winning goal mirrored his team Monday night: It came on the rebound. The Blues center scored his second marker of the game at 10:38 of the third period, lifting St. Louis to a 4-2 win over the Boston Bruins in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final and tying the best-of-seven series at two games each. Off a quick transition, Alex Pietrangolo whipped a shot that Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask stopped. However, O'Reilly got to the rebound and wired it

home for his fifth goal of the playoffs. Brayden Schenn scored into an empty net at 18:31 to seal the outcome. Game 5 is Thursday night in Boston, with the winner getting a chance to lift the Cup on Sunday night in St. Louis. Needing a quick start, St. Louis got it. O'Reilly won a loose puck from Danton Heinen behind the net and beat Rask with a wraparound at the right post for a 1-0 Blues lead 43 seconds into the game.

NHL: Page B4



Bruce Bennett / USA Today Sports
The puck gets behind Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask (40) but goes wide of the net in the second period of Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final on Monday at Enterprise Center in St. Louis.

HP – HERMANTOWN / PROCTOR C – CHARTER																		TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 4									
HP	C	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30								
4	OW-KDLH (3.1)	18	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Flash "Godspeed"	The 100 "The Sanctum"	Page Six TV	Goldberg	Goldberg	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Rules of Eng	Rules of Eng	Queens									
6	NBC-KBJR (6.1)	6	Judy (N)	Judge Judy	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Wheel	America's Got Talent "Auditions 2" (N)		Songland "will.i.am" (N)	News (N)	:35 The Tonight Show	:35 Seth Meyers	:35 C. Daly												
3	CBS-KBJR (6.2)	3	Jeopardy!	Millionaire?	Jeopardy (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Inside Ed.	NCIS "Once Upon a Tim"	FBI "Family Man"	Blood & Treasure (N)	News (N)	:35 The Late Show (N)	:35 James Corden	:35 Pickler												
9	MNT-KBJR (6.3)	9	House "Paternity"		House "Occam's Razor"	House "Maternity"		Chicago P.D. "Sanctuary"	Chicago P.D.		Trek: DS9 "The Forsaken"	Star Trek: Voy. "Deadlock"	Star Trek: Enterprise		NYPD Blue												
8	PBS WDSE (8.1)	12	Odd Squad	Arthur	Arthur	Jet Go!	PBS NewsHour (N)	Assia: Live in Conce		Alone in the Wilderness, Part 2 Pt. 2 of 2		Great Scenic Railway				More Perfect Union											
101	EXPLORE (8.2)	193	3Carpentr	Dick Van Dyke: A Celebration		Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Odd Squad	Arthur	Arthur	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	American Experience "Stonewall Uprising"		Forever Painless												
104	CREATE (8.3)	194	3:30 Spiritual	Laws	Aging Backwards		Rick Steves' Europe: Great German Cities		Suze Orman's Financial Solutions for You			Music Gone Public "Tommy Emmanuel"	The Legends of Folk: Isn't This a Time														
102	MN CH (8.4)	195	Built/ Agri.	Built/ Agri.	Tourism MN	Health/Clim.	Sportsman	P.Mosaic	MinOrlgin	W. Foodie	Elder Victim	SafeHome	Built/ Agri.	Built/ Agri.	Tourism MN	Health/Clim.	Yard	Postcards									
13	ABC-WDIO (10.1)	13	Ellen DeGeneres (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	ET (N)	The Connors	Am.Wife	Modern	Goldberg	Modern	Black-ish	News (N)	:35 Jimmy Kimmel (N)	:35 Nightl.	:05 ET	:35 Paid									
113	MeTV-WDIO (10.2)	196	Charlie's Angels		Mama's F.	Jeffersons	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Green Acres	HoganHero	HoganHero	C. Burnett	Perry Mason	Twilight	Hitchcock	Hitchcock								
2	FOX-KQDS (21.1)	11	Mom	Family Feud	Family Feud	News (N)	Last Man St.	BigBang	MasterChef "The Grand Finale, Parts 1 and 2" (SF) (N)	Fox 21 Local News (N)	2 Broke G.	:35 BigBang	Last Man	:35 Modern	:05 Mom	:35 Mother											
	Antenna-KQDS (21.2)	227	Break	Maude	Maude		Bunker's Pl.	Bunker's Pl.	Alice 1/2	Alice 2/2	B. Miller	B. Miller	Johnny Carson	3's Comp.	3's Comp.	Coach 1/2	Murphy B.	Becker	Wings								
	KCWV (27.1)		Animal Res.	Dog Tales	The Jet Set	Celeb Page	Foren. Files	Foren. Files	Judge Faith	Judge Faith	Leverage	Sanctuary	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Cheaters	Mantracker	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers									
25	A&E	41	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First 48: Teens	First 48: Teens (N)	KdsBBars "Brandon" (N)	:05 The First 48	:05 First 48: Teens	:05 First 48: Teens													
62	AMC	57	Movie	☞ The Expendables ★★ (2010, Action)	Eric Roberts, Steve Austin, Jet Li.		☞ The Expendables 2 ★★ (12) Sylvester Stallone.		:05 ☞ The Expendables 3 ★★ (14) Jason Statham, Sylvester Stallone.	:40 NOS4A2	Movie																
71	AP	27	Star Law "Moving Target"	Star Law "Wild Encounters"		Lone Star Law		Lone Star Law		Lone Star Law (N)	L. Star Law "Wet and Wild"	Lone Star Law	Lone Star Law		LoneStar "Bucks and Bows"												
-	BET	68	3:10 ☞ National Security	Steve Zahn.	:35 ☞ Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins ★★ (08) Martin Lawrence.		Games People Play (N)	Ladies Night (N)			Games "Persons of Interest"	Ladies "A Spinderella Story"	Martin	Martin													
44	BRAVO	58	Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills	Beverly "Meet Rinna Jayne"	Beverly Hills (N)	Texdcanas (N)	Watch What	Beverly Hills		Hollywood Medium	Medium												
41	CNBC	32	Fast Money		Mad Money		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Profit "Farmgirl Flowers"	The Profit "Tea2Go"	The Profit "Faded Royalty"	The Profit "The Casery"													
38	CNN	31	The Situation Room		The Situation Room		OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360	Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360	Cuomo Prime Time												
66	COM	55	:10 Office	:45 Office	:15 Office	:50 Office "After Hours"	:25 Office	The Office	The Office	Drunk	Drunk	Drunk	Drunk	Daily S. (N)	:35 Drunk	:05 Drunk	:35 Drunk	:05 Drunk	:40 Daily S.								
24	DISC	33	Glades "Land of Monsters"		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch (N)	Deadliest Catch (N)	Glades "Night Terror" (N)	D. Catch "Goodbye Jake"	D. Catch "Russian Roulette"	TheGlades "Night Terror"													
31	DISN	53	Raven's.	Sydney Max	CoopCami	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Andi Mack	Sydney Max	Sydney Max	CoopCami	Sydney Max	BigCity	BigCity	Sydney Max	Andi Mack	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie							
64	EI	56	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	EI News (N)	☞ Bride Wars ★★ (09) Anne Hathaway, Kate Hudson.	☞ Something Borrowed ★★ (11) Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin.																		
34	ESPN	34	Horn (N)	Interrupt (N)	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		Baseball T. NCAA Softball	Division I Tournament (L)		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)														
35	ESPN2	35	HighNoon	Highly? (N)	Horn (N)	Interrupt (N)	ESPN FC (N)	Art Conver.	NBA: The Jump	30 for 30 "This Magic Moment"	30 for 30 "Qualified"	NFL Live															
94	EWTN	80	The Choices	There is a s	EWTN News	Real Life	Daily Mass	Mother Angelica	EWTN News	Holy Rosary	Scripture	Carpenter's	Women	Cathedrals Across America													
45	FNC	62	The Five		Special Report		The Story		Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity	The Ingraham Angle	Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity												
65	FOOD	67	Chopped		Chopped "Every 'wich Way"	Chopped "Say Cheese!"	Chopped "Pizza Poetry"	Chopped (N)	Chopped "Breakfast Battle"	Chopped																	
28	FREEFORM	54	☞ Mrs. Doubtfire ★★ ★ (1993, Comedy)	Sally Field, Pierce Brosnan, Robin Williams.		The Bold Type (N)	☞ Beauty and the Beast ★★ ★ (91) Paige O'Hara.																				
58	FS1	70	3:30 Lock It	FairGame	NASCAR Race Hub (L)	N Presents	NHRA Drag Racing	Route 66 Nationals Site: Route 66 Raceway – Joliet, Ill.	MLB Best (N)	18 Holes (N)	MLB Whiparound (L)	TMZ (N)	Fair Game	Speak for Yourself													
48	FSN	37	3:00 MLS Soccer PH/MI	Destination	Pre-game	MLB Baseball	Minnesota Twins at Cleveland Indians Site: Progressive Field (L)	Post-game																			
37	FX	29	2:30 ☞ Avatar ★★ ★ (09) Zoe Saldana.		☞ X-Men: Apocalypse ★★ ★ (16) Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence.		☞ X-Men: Apocalypse ★★ ★ (16) Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence.																				
211	GOLF	60	Academy	Tiger/Proj.	Golf Central (N)	Learn (N)	PGA Tour	Golf's Greatest Rounds "2000 U.S. Open: Tiger Woods at Pebble Beach" (N)	Golf Central	G.Rounds "2000 U.S. Open: Tiger Woods at Pebble Beach"																	
258	GSN	79	AmerSays	ComKnowl.	ComKnowl.	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	AmerSays	AmerSays	AmerSays	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	AmerSays	ChainReact.										
59	HALL	78	3:00 ☞ Love on Safari		☞ Sailing Into Love (2019, Romance)		☞ A Dash of Love (17, Rom)	Brendan Penny, Jen Lilley.																			
26	HIST	63	Counting Cars		Curse "A Void At All Costs"	The Curse of Civil	Civil War Gold (N)	The Curse of Civil (N)	:05 Pickers "Field Trip" (N)	:05 Unidentified	:05 The Curse of Civil	:05 A. Pickers "Field Trip"															
27	HGTV	66	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	Good Bones (N)	H.Hunt (N)	House (N)	Unsell.	House Hunt.	Good Bones	House Hunt.	House												
29	LIFE	26	3DanceMom	Dance Moms		Dance Moms		DanceMom	Dance Moms	DanceMom "Abby's Big Comeback / Mommy Dearest" (N)	:15 Dance	DanceMom	Dance Moms	Dance Moms													
40	MSNBC	48	MTP Daily (N)	The Beat (N)		Hardball (N)		All In With C. Hayes (N)	Rachel Maddow	The Last Word (N)	The 11th Hour (N)	Rachel Maddow	The Last Word														
50	MTV	28	3:50 Catfish	Friends 1/2	Friends 2/2	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	☞ 21 Jump Street ★★ ★ (12) Channing Tatum, Ice Cube, Jonah Hill.	Tattoo Far												
170	NBCSN	69	Dale Jr. Download (N)	IMSA Auto Racing	Detroit Grand Prix		Mecum10	FIVB Volleyball	Nations League United States vs Korea (L)	American Ninja Warrior	American Ninja Warrior	American Ninja Warrior	Amer.Ninja														
208	NGEO	45	Inside SS "Hitler's Evil Elite"	SS "Hitler's Killing Machine"		24 Hours After Hiroshima	After Hitler (N)	Eyewitness: D-Day (N)	Hitler Youth (N)	Eyewitness: D-Day	Hitler Youth	After Hitler: Spoils of War															
70	NICK	39	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	H.Danger	☞ LEGO Batman: The Movie - DC Su...	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	:35 Friends	:10 Friends	:45 Mom	:20 Mom										
-	OXY	19	Chicago P.D.	Chicago "Stepping Stone"	Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D. "Chin Check"	Chicago P.D.	Chicago "Thirty Balloons"	Chicago "Conventions"	Chicago "The Price We Pay"	Chicago P.D.															
47	PRMT	43	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	☞ The Goonies ★★ ★ ★ (85) Corey Feldman, Josh Brolin, Sean Astin.	☞ The Goonies ★★ ★ ★ (85) Corey Feldman, Josh Brolin, Sean Astin.																		
46	SYFY	59	Movie	:45 ☞ X-Men Origins: Wolverine ★★ (09) Hugh Jackman.		☞ Terminator Salvation ★★ (09) Sam Worthington, Christian Bale.	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	☞ The Thing														
32	TBS	65	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	Last O.G.	Conan (N)	Last O.G.	Seinfeld	Conan	New Girl	New Girl									
73	TCM	64	3☞ The Woman In White	☞ The Haunting ★★ ★ (63) Claire Bloom, Julie Harris.		☞ Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace & Music: The Director's Cut	Sights and sounds from the Woodstock music festival.	☞ Easy Rider (69) Dennis Hopper.	Movie																		
23	TLC	38	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Sweet Home Sextuplets	Little People (N)	Little People, Big World	Home Sextuplets (N)	OutDaughtered	Little People, Big World	Little People, Big World														
30	TNT	42	2☞ Jack Reacher: Never...	☞ Captain America: Civil War ★★ ★ (16) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans.		Animal King "Angela" (N)	Animal Kingdom "Angela"	☞ The Finest Hours (16, Drama)	Holliday Grainger, Eric Bana, Chris Pine.	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad																
69	TOON	40	Total:15 Total	Victor/ Victor	TeenT./TeenT.	Teen Titan	Gumball	Gumball	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Bob Burgers	Bob Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	RickMort	Robot/ Robot	Truth/ Truth	Tim&Eric	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad							
72	TRAV	51	Exp. Unkn.	"Code to Gold"	Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown	America Unearthed	America Unearthed (N)	America Unearthed (N)	America Unearthed (N)	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens								
36	TVLAND	52	:10 Griffith	:45 Griffith	:20 Andy Griffith Show	:55 Griffith	A. Griffith	:05 Ray	:40 Ray	:15 Ray	:50 Two and a Half Men	:25 2½Men	Radkes (N)	:35 Chrisley	:05 Chrisley	:35 Chrisley	:05 Chrisley	:05 Chrisley	:05 Chrisley								
43	USA	44	Law&O: SVU "Careless"	Law&O: SVU "Obscene"	Law&O: SVU "Scavenger"	WWE Super Smackdown		Chrisley Knows Best (N)																			
63	VH1	46	:55 Black Ink Chicago	Black Ink Crew: Chicago	Black Ink "Lacuna Matata"	Black Ink Chicago (N)	Black Ink Crew: Chicago	Love&Hip "Up All Night"	Black Ink Crew: Chicago	☞ How High ★★ (01) Redman, Dean Cain, Method Man.																	
61	WE	97	Law & Order "Paranoia"	Law & Order "Savior"	Law & Order "Aftershock"	Law & Order "Aftershock"	Law & Order "Good Girl"	LawOrder "Working Mom"	Law & Order "D-Girl" 1/3	Law & Order "Turnaround"	Law & Order "Showtime"	CSI: Miami "Last Straw"															
12	WGN	21	Blue Bloods "No Regrets"	Blue Bloods "Loss of Faith"	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Pure "Faspa" (N)	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married								

KUUSISTO

From Page B1

The 1998 Denfeld graduate and multi-sport athlete was a goalie on Duluth's first high school girls hockey team, the Dynamite. Kuusisto then headed to Harvard and, as a freshman, was thrust into action when starting netminder Crystal Springer broke her collarbone. Springer re-aggravated the injury in the national semifinals, forcing Kuusisto between the pipes for a championship showdown vs. New Hampshire.

The drama stretched into overtime, where the Crimson snagged a 6-5 victory. Their freshman goalie, a year removed from playing high school girls hockey, which was in its infancy in northern Minnesota, was steady throughout.

"She didn't let the moment become bigger than she was," Duval said of Kuusisto's performance in the 1999 title game.

Added longtime Harvard coach Katey Stone: "She was probably the loosest person in the rink."

One of Kuusisto's coaches with the Dynamite, Jack Shearer, never was surprised at the success she enjoyed in college hockey. He said Kuusisto was "very driven." She knew what she wanted and charged after it.

Shearer has been around young athletes for decades. After so long, he said, you start to get a feel for what each kid is about.

"And when you looked at Ali, you thought, 'This kid's got something,'" Shearer said. "She was the whole package."

That included being a consummate leader, the kind who "took the younger kids under her wing," Shearer



News Tribune file photo

Northland natives and Harvard teammates Angie (Francisco) Flygh (left) and Alison Kuusisto are pictured while in town to take on Minnesota Duluth in a December 2000 series.

remembered. Kuusisto, whose infectious personality endears her to so many, always has time for others. To meet Kuusisto is to meet a new friend. A playful and goofy friend who never takes herself too seriously.

"She was an athlete (at Harvard), but she had a lot of other close connections with people who were not on the hockey team and not involved in sports," Flygh said. "All sorts of people in college were drawn to her."

That's likely because, as Stone noted, "She makes everybody around her feel good. She just has a magnetic personality."

While Laura Bellamy never met Kuusisto, she nonetheless looked up to her. Bellamy, associate head coach of the Minnesota Duluth women, was a star goalie at Denfeld, where she graduated in 2009, then Harvard. Sound familiar? The career trajectory wasn't lost on Bellamy.

"I wanted to be 33 because that's the number (Kuusisto) wore at Harvard," Bellamy said. "She definitely had an impact on my life."

After graduating from Harvard in 2002 with a degree in psychology, Kuusisto embarked on what could best be described as a nontraditional life. She is a certified massage therapist who believes strongly in natural medicine and holistic health. Among Kuusisto's many roles, and certainly the one she is most passionate about, is stay-at-home mom, which was especially helpful when she and her family were living half the year in Colorado and the other half on a beach in Mexico.

Ditto for her willingness to home-school their children.

It's a lifestyle she loved — leading art projects, brewing her own kombucha, teaching a different language and culture, encouraging a reverence for nature — and one she wrote about elegantly on her blog, "Triumphs and Disasters." In a March 2018 post, she discussed the possibility of an "early death."

"I now have 5 children between the ages of 1 and 9. They deserve to have their mother in their lives for a long time. I have a

lot to live for. I'm only 37. I have so many dreams that are ready to become reality. I believe in my healing capacity and I am committed to consciously assisting my body in healing.

"And yet to be patient with so many unknowns and to have complete faith and the willingness to let go of expectations, is no small feat.

"I want to live. And not just live but thrive. And to love with wild abandon and adventure with wonder like a child. And to be inspired and to inspire others, all from a place of love. To know love so richly it oozes from every pore of my skin. To be so alive that when it's time for me to pass, my spirit will have the momentum to live on, in new dimensions.

"I take a deep breath in. For in every breath, is life."

Shortly after her 2016 diagnosis, the tumor growing on Kuusisto's cervix was deemed inoperable because of its size and location. According to her blog, she was told "my only option was high dose chemotherapy in conjunction with radiation." However, she and Greg pursued Gerson Therapy, which

Kuusisto describes as using "food and nutrition and detoxifying practices as its medicine, eliminating wastes, regenerating the liver, activating the immune system and restoring the body's essential defenses (including the enzyme, mineral and hormone systems)." The worthiness of this decision was reinforced when Kuusisto learned she was pregnant with their fifth child. The Gerson Therapy was safe to continue. And, initially, it shrank Kuusisto's tumor by 45 percent, she wrote.

But the cancer never went away and instead advanced aggressively. And yet, those who know her say, Kuusisto attacked the disease with vigor and optimism.

"Throughout this

sickness, she's just continued to count her blessings and have gratitude and celebrate all kinds of moments," Flygh said.

This past January, when Harvard celebrated the 20th anniversary of the 1999 championship, Kuusisto did the ceremonial puck drop. Surrounded by ex-teammates dressed in black or gray pants and black jerseys, Kuusisto typically stood out.

She was wearing a white jersey.

And purple pants with black polka dots.

► Kuusisto's treatment and care the past three years have come at a steep cost. To offer financial support to her and her family, visit the GoFundMe page set up for Kuusisto at gofundme.com/for-kuusisto39-kids.

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