

TeenTribune

Bishop McGuinness guard Spencer Wilson brings the ball up against Union Grove during a high school basketball game in Kernersville, N.C.



Teen's faith beats buzzer and cancer



The shot hung in the air and time seemed to stand still.

Spencer Wilson wasn't looking at the scoreboard clock. Time is relative for the 17-year-old point guard.

"I took two steps," Wilson said. "I didn't dribble. I just heaved it."

He watched the ball arc toward the rafters, and the only sound was the buzzer going off. The game was over. And yet it wasn't.

Wilson's shot beat Mount Airy, but in many ways, that ball is still hanging in the air.

AP Associated Press Wilson is a two-time cancer survivor, a remarkable young man with his entire life ahead of him. There was a time when that wasn't certain, when he had a clock ticking in his head, a constant reminder of his prognosis. Six months.

Wilson was 13 when he first noticed the lump on his left knee. He didn't think much of it at the time. He was just a kid from High Point who played baseball and basketball and went to church on Sundays and to Ferndale Middle School on weekdays.

He didn't know the meaning of the word when he first heard it: rhabdomyosarcoma.

Wilson soon found himself undergoing surgery. Then came the chemo treatments. His hair fell out. He lost weight.

"That was in 2009," he said. "I grew up fast. I learned to value every moment of life that I have."

He still carries a thought with him that he took from the darkest hours.

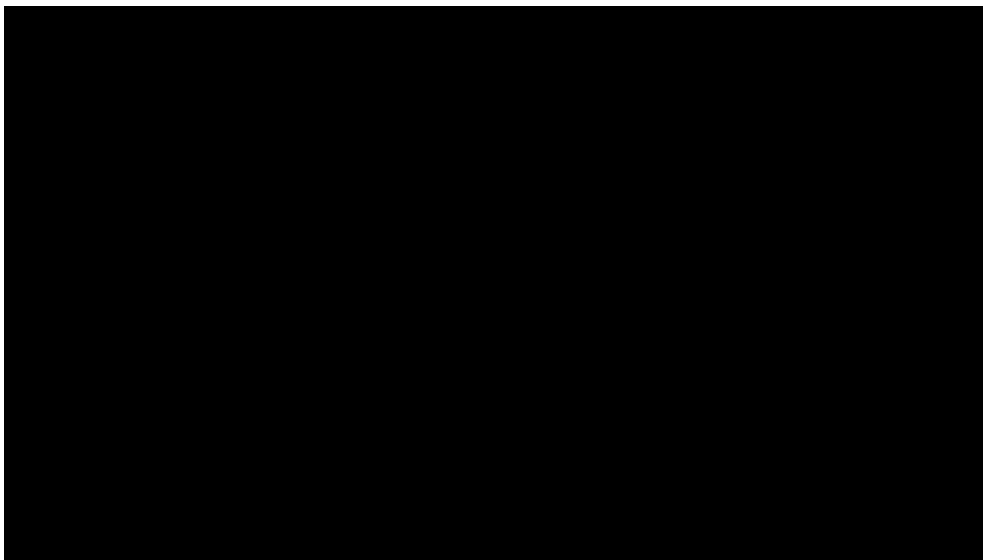
"Dedicate yourself to the day," he said this week, sitting in the bleachers not far from where he let the shot go. "Because tomorrow's never promised."

Josh Thompson, the boys coach at McGuinness, said the experience was powerful for everyone.

"Faith," Thompson said. "That's what this has been all about. I don't think the Lord cares who wins basketball games, but I know that he cares about us, his people."

Critical thinking challenge: *Why does the story say "time is relative" for Spencer? Is the author referring to the amount of time left in the game or the amount of time Spencer has left in his life?*

[See the shot on YouTube](#)



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