



**Question –**

Why do we have a heart on our uniform?



**Answer –**

In Loving memory of former Heat player and Elk Grove Village resident Carolyn (Carrie) Burke:  
Dec 04, 1984 - October 28, 2000.

Carrie Burke moved from Norridge to Elk Grove in August 1997, just in time for the Heat tryouts. Carrie was an excellent athlete and softball player. Carrie made the U14 Heat team that year managed by Rich Farrell and immediately made an impact in the Heat program as a very good player, and more importantly as an excellent person.

Carrie was a very loving person: outgoing, trustworthy, and responsible. Carrie stood up for others and for what she believed in. Always upbeat and with a smile on her face, Carrie put others before herself. She was first in line to help those in need, whether they were friends, teammates, or people she didn't know. Carrie was an extremely hard worker; in softball, academics, and everything she took to task. Carrie was determined to be the best player and best person she could be. Carrie Burke was a Leader. **She made a positive impact in the world she lived in.**

Each August Carrie attended Heat tryouts and made the team managed by Mr. Farrell. Carrie and her family loved being a part of the Heat. **They loved softball, competition, and they especially treasured the community atmosphere and the relationships made during Carrie's Heat years.**

On the evening of October 27, 2000 the Burke family's world was shattered by the knock on their door of the Elk Grove police. The police had arrived to tell the Burkes that Carrie was a passenger in a horrific vehicle accident less than a mile from her home. They needed to immediately escort the Burkes to St. Alexius hospital where Carrie had been taken by ambulance. The next day, October 28, 2000 Carrie died tragically, needlessly, an innocent victim of a DUI vehicle accident. Carrie was a sophomore at Conant High School. She was an honor role student and a three-sport athlete. Her senseless and sudden death shook the Burke family, the Heat program, Conant HS, and our community to its core.

A few years later, in honor of Carrie the Heat program retired Carrie's uniform # 11.

**This year your uniform will have a heart on it in honor and remembrance of Carrie, and others who have been a part of the Heat program and who have suffered through tragedy.**

Whenever Carrie put on her Heat uniform her eyes lit up. Carrie took great pride in being a member of the Heat and she always carried herself in a manner that made the Heat program proud. **You too should take great pride in being a part of the Heat program and should always carry yourself in a manner that will make the program proud of you.** It's your life, and the only one you will have. **Be like Carrie. Do everything you do with great passion and make a positive impact in the world that you live in.**

In March 2001 The Carrie Burke Foundation was established to honor Carrie, and to keep Carrie's spirit alive throughout our communities. The Foundation awards \$4000.00 in annual Scholarships and other financial assistance in Carrie's name to students (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) who best exemplify Carrie's many wonderful characteristics.

**If you would like more information about Carrie or if you want to apply for the scholarship now or in the future please visit the Carrie Burke Foundation web site @ [www.carrieburkefoundation.org](http://www.carrieburkefoundation.org).**

