

Sunday, July 2 – Pueblo to Durango

Daylan took over the wheel this morning with Luke navigating, as Tony told everyone he was given his “pink slip!” In reality, it was really set up that way and Team Walla Walla really appreciates Tony giving his time and energy to go with a bunch of high school kids from a small town in Washington state – far from his home in Wisconsin to drive from Philadelphia to Pueblo, Colorado. It isn’t enough just to say thanks to you, Tony, but for now, that’s all we’ve got!

The other boys were scheduled for the noon gate so they, too, left bright and early with the staff people to get ready for the racers as they arrived in Alamosa. However, once again we had a sick team member, so Jeff came along with Nonda and I in the support truck as we headed to Durango.

The racers hit the highest spot of the trip on today’s route and were at almost 11,000 feet in elevation. It was a grueling trip and we ended in third place today with a score of 1:26. Philadelphia did not have a good run and, unfortunately, Ponca City was the latest victim of an accident. They were rear-ended making a right hand turn just shortly before the lunch stop, and it took out the rear right quarter panel of the truck, knocking them into a ditch. Fortunately they were not hurt and made some adjustments on the truck so they were at least able to end the day, but have some major repairs to do. Good thing the day off is scheduled for tomorrow!!

The Charleston team did well with their newly borrowed engine from us and came in first today, followed with a few seconds behind their score for a second place from Lawrence. We may not win the race in first place, but we can be proud of believing in the spirit of the race and loaning out the extra parts and pieces we have that others may not.

Tomorrow’s plans include two new tires for Abigail along with a few adjustments needed – like oil changes and fuels filter changes. The boys are definitely forming a bond and when we were at dinner tonight at the local “Pickles Restaurant” joked and teased as brothers would. The other new experience we had pertained to dinner where we had a side order of “fried pickles!” We don’t think it will ever take the place of French fries, but they weren’t too bad!!!

