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A couple of real smart Sharks

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Anybody who saw the Sharks-Leafs game in February probably felt pretty proud when Newfoundland's own Ryane Clowe scored the winning goal. The real reason that goal went in though was because of a young man sitting in the stands that night cheering Clowe on. If you've ever played a game at the Southern Shore Arena, you may have heard Corey Keough cheering for you too. The hockey fanatic has been avidly going to the games for years.

"He doesn't miss a game a year unless the roads are blocked," says arena manager Ken Williams. "He's there to junior. He's there to senior. The whole time."

Corey has been doing so since about 1993. Eventually, Williams gave Corey a job handing out flyers at the senior and junior games. Suddenly Corey was not only getting to go to every game, he was getting paid for it too.

"He was right on top of the world with that," says Williams.

The past year has been a tough one on Corey and his mother Monica. His father, Robert Corey, died at sea last fall when the crew had to abandon the vessel Sea Gypsy off the coast of Newfoundland. So a couple of weeks ago when Monica heard from Ryane Clowe's aunt who said she was dropping off a card, Monica didn't think too much of it. They know Clowe's family and thought maybe they were just dropping off a 'Thinking of You' type card. When the knock came to the door, Clowe's father was there too with a Ryane Clowe jersey for Corey.



Calvert's super hockey fan Corey Keough, left, and Fermeuse native Ryan Clowe of the San Jose Sharks pose for pictures during a recent Breakers' game at the Southern Shore Arena. Last month, Clowe treated Corey and his mom Monica to a game between the Sharks and the Maple Leafs at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.

And in the card were two tickets to fly to Toronto and see the Sharks-Leafs game.

"It is a dream come true for him," says Williams. "If you knew this kid, you would know where I'm coming from. This is a very, very heart warming story."

Corey and his mother flew up on the Sunday and took in the Sharks' practise on the Monday morning.

"When the practise was over,

Ryane came out and (Corey) said, 'Now you get that winning goal for me,'" says Monica. In the third period with the game tied two-two, Clowe did just that. When the game was over, Clowe came over to Corey right away.

"Now, I got what you asked me for," he said and gave Corey his hockey stick.

Corey was so excited, he hasn't come down yet, says Monica.

"He had a wonderful trip. He'll

never forget it."

And he'd like to thank Clowe and everyone else involved for making it happen.

At the southern shore arena, the players and fans are happy the NHL didn't recruit Corey to work for them. He knows every player ever set foot on the ice up the shore and the date they were born.

"He's an unbelievable young fella," says Williams. "He's wicked."