

ADOPTION >> 13-YEAR-OLD REMAINS HOPEFUL



Isaiah, a big Pittsburgh Steelers fan, says getting adopted means he wouldn't have to keep moving around.

Steelers win, great; a new family, better

BY AMY FLOWERS UMBLE
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Last year, Isaiah was glued to the TV for the Super Bowl.

This year, the 13-year-old Steelers fan from the Richmond area hopes his team can repeat their big victory.

If so, like last year, Isaiah will be jumping up and down and screaming at the TV. And when he goes to school the next day, he'll brag about the Pittsburgh Steelers.

But while a seventh Super Bowl victory would be a dream come true, Isaiah has a bigger wish: A family.

The seventh-grader has been in foster care for about five years. And if he had a family, he said, he'll get to go places, play games

and eat a lot of fried chicken.

Best of all: "I won't have to keep moving," said Isaiah, who has lost count of how many times he has moved over the years.

This football-loving teen dreams of having parents who would take him to some games. He has gone to a few high school games, but Isaiah would love to see a college or NFL game in person.

Of course, he'd enjoy seeing the Steelers play. But a little bit closer to home, Isaiah hopes to see the Virginia Tech Hokies in action.

When he's not tossing the pigskin around, Isaiah plays chess. And if his future family plans to challenge him, they should be warned: Isaiah is a champion

chess player.

Isaiah hopes to go to Virginia Tech and become an engineer or a football player.

But whatever his future entails, Isaiah hopes he faces it with a family by his side.

ABOUT THE SERIES

On any given day, 1,500 Virginia children seek an adoptive family. The Free Lance-Star joined with Children's Home Society of Virginia, a private adoption agency, to spotlight some of these children. First names are used, but no last names are published to protect their identities.