

## **Ailing Patriots fan bound for Gillette**

A 25-year-old Needham man who is battling a brain tumor that doctors say has left him with just a month and a half to live, had just one wish — to watch his beloved New England Patriots play at Gillette Stadium one last time.

And when the Pats take the field to do battle with the Bengals this afternoon, Yashar Alizadeh's final wish will come true, thanks to the CareGroup Parmenter Home Care & Hospice team at Mount Auburn Hospital. In addition to getting to watch the game from club seats, Alizadeh and his 20-year-old brother, Shervin, will ride to the game in a limousine and get to step out onto the field before kickoff.

"I am excited. I was even more excited when I heard about the limo," Alizadeh told the Herald yesterday. "I hope they win. I hope I get to meet some players. That would be very cool."

When asked how he reacted when he learned his hospice team had gone to such great lengths to make his dream a reality, Alizadeh said: "It was thoughtful and kind of them. It was unexpected."

Alizadeh had just graduated from Needham High School in 2010 when he collapsed in his Evelyn Road home, had a seizure and was diagnosed with a grade four glioblastoma. The next day, he was rushed into emergency surgery.

But that was only the start. After six years, three surgeries and two chemotherapies, Alizadeh's doctors told him recently he only was left with less than two months to live. There was nothing else they could do but wait.

The news was a heart-wrenching blow for his family.

His mother, Manijeh Alizadeh, said she didn't want to call hospice care because it would be too much to bear.

"I didn't want to accept that — for that to happen to him," she said, fighting back tears. "They said he would lose his speech, his vision."

That was a month and a half ago though, his parents said, beaming.

"He's still walking and eating by himself," Manijeh said with a smile. "I think they are already wrong about him."

Football Sundays have always been Alizadeh's favorite day of the week.

"I've been watching for as long as I can remember," Alizadeh said. "I enjoy watching them play."

By: Kathleen McKiernan