

Qasim such a fighter!

DESPITE nine operations and a life-threatening brain disease, feisty Qasim Pervase is bursting with energy.

The seven-year-old is top of his class at Nelson Mandela Junior, in Sparkbrook, and always the first to make his school chums laugh with jokes and impersonations.

And it is this vigour for life that has led Qasim, of Wycome Road, Hall Green, to become a shining example for children with a rare water-on-the-brain-type condition, hydrocephalus.

He has been picked by the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus to star in a new book providing parents with more information.

Strong

Proud father-of-two Khalid Pervase, the 38-year-old owner of Catering Solutions in Digbeth, said: "Qasim was born with both spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

"He had dislocated hips, twisted feet and nine operations so far, but has never let any of this get him down.

"Qasim is a fighter and mentally very strong. He makes people laugh and is a great personality at school.

"There is no cure for hydrocephalus but Qasim shows

BY ALISON
DAYANI

you can still lead a full life and is an inspiration for others. I am blessed to have a son like him."

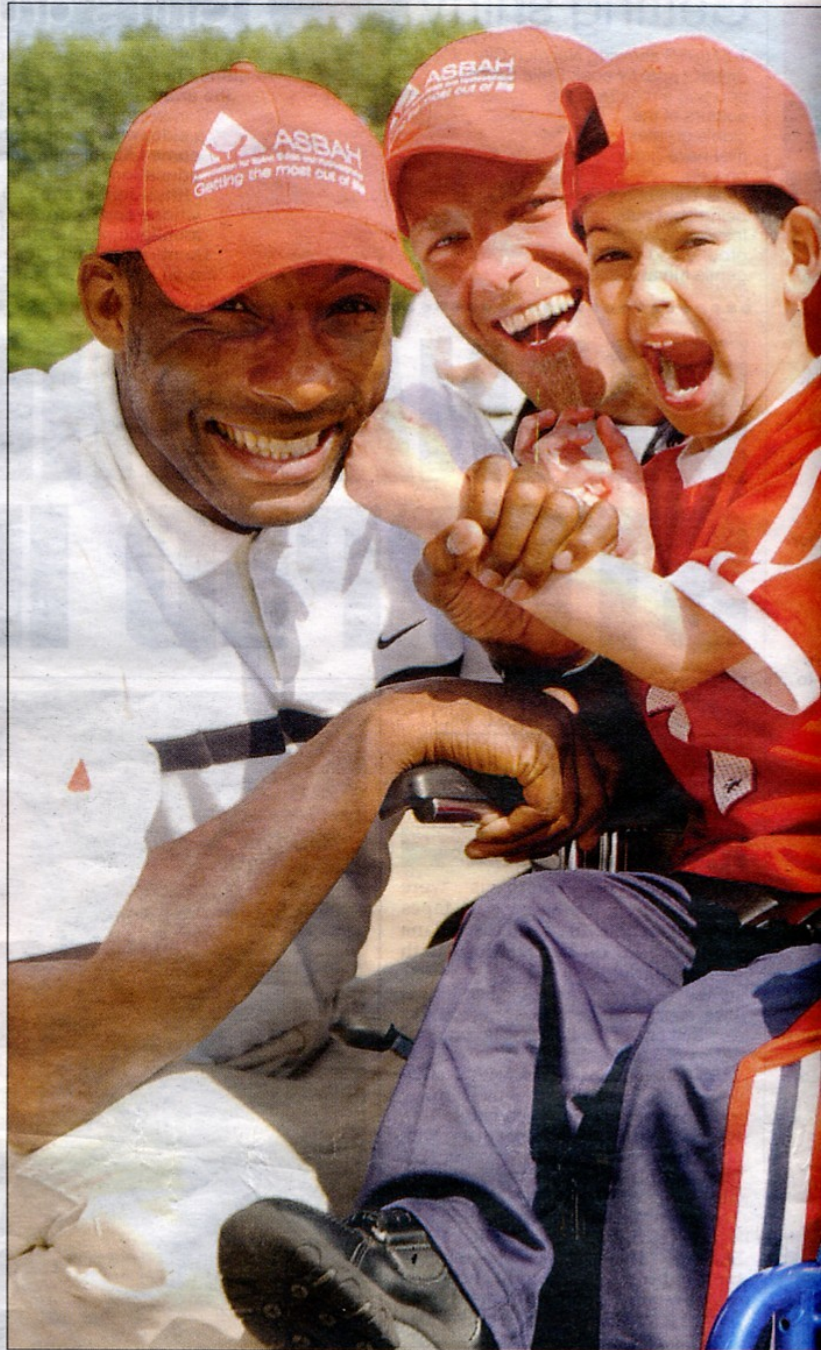
Hydrocephalus is where fluid gets trapped in cavities of the brain causing increased pressure that expands the skull.

Khalid and 36-year-old wife Zabedah, a medical secretary for West Midlands Police, found out Qasim had hydrocephalus while he was in the womb.

They decided to go ahead with the pregnancy with surgeons operating on Qasim within hours, fixing a drain from the brain to stomach to release extra fluid from his head.

The youngster, who has a healthy ten-year-old brother Hashim, is spreading his happiness at charity events for the cause, where he met WBO Cruiserweight Champion Johnny Nelson and former British Middleweight champion Ryan Rhodes.

The two sportsmen are trying to raise awareness of the illness that caused the death of the son of England and Manchester City footballer Danny Mills.



■ PUNCHING ABOVE HIS WEIGHT: Qasim Pervase with Johnny Nelson and Ryan Rhodes (right)