



Racing For A Cure:

Donegal Native To Run Boston Marathon For Boston Children's Hospital

By Jim McGrath

Mark Porter knows the damage that cancer can do. In 2005, during what he thought was a routine surgical operation, doctors discovered that he had traces of

it in his colon. Thankfully, the cancer appears to be in remission, but Mark decided that he needed to do more to help those who were not as fortunate. Last year he ran the Boston Marathon to raise funds for

the city's Children's Hospital, and this year he's looking to match the \$30,000 he gathered in the charity's name in 2006.

Mark, a Donegal native who came over here 20 years ago, is able to see his experience in the hospital in a positive light. "People took a lot of time, effort, and money into making sure I got well - I vowed that I would do the same for others when I got better." While he does get sick from time to time, he notes that "these injuries are small compared to what others are going through. Everything's relevant."

Boston's Children's Hospital pairs up runners with patients, and in 2006 Mark met his, Andy Trevino. According to Mark, Andy has spent

a third of his life in the hospital, seeking treatment for his Primary Immune Deficiency Disorder. The hospital was able to successfully transplant DNA from Andy's sister, Sophia, and he is now a healthy boy living a more normal life.

Mark will continue to run in Andy's name, and he's also running for another child, a little girl named Rachel who was Brittle Bone Syndrome. He says that "Rachel has more spirit and enthusiasm than most people I know. She deals with her ailment like we would a 'bad hair day'...like no big deal." He notes that the facilities and services offered to her and her family at Children's Hospital help Rachel and other boys and girls be brave in the face of such difficulties.

Mark, a father of three, says that he's come to realize how lucky he is to have healthy kids in light of the problems faced by these children. He visits the Hospital on a regular basis, and he says that "the more I see what kind of treatment these kids receive, the more I realize what an amazing place the hospital is." Prior to his first marathon, Mark says that he "never had the push to run." But with the needs of children like Andy and Sophia staring back at him in the hospital's corridors, he sees running in their name as the least he can do.

That being said, he still has to make it through 26 miles of Boston terrain on April 16th. "This year's going to be tougher," he tells us. His bouts with illness have derailed his training regimen a bit, but Mark's confident that

he'll be ready to complete the race when the time comes. He feels that it's the least he can do if it will help give children more of a fighting chance in the face of life-threatening disease.

There will be a fundraiser for Mark's cause at the Blackwater Tavern (35 Washington St., Quincy) on Saturday, April 7th at 9pm. All donations are graciously appreciated.

To help Mark in his efforts, you can write out a check (payable to Children's Hospital) and send it to: Children's Hospital Trust, One Autumn Street #731, Boston, MA 02215-5301. You can also call in donations at 617-355-6890 or donate on the web by visiting www.Mark4Andy.org. Mark's ID number is "Mark Porter PM0031."



Paddy Saul:

Talented Songwriter Celebrates Debut Record Release With Paradise Gig

By Jim McGrath

Paddy Saul's music might be familiar to many readers, as he's been playing pubs and clubs in the Boston area for the last five years. Those of you who've caught the man opening for Mundy at McGann's or playing a set at Tir na Nog might be pleased to hear that he's celebrating the release of his debut album, *One Town Tasted*, with a show at The Paradise Lounge on Saturday, April 7th. And for those of you who've never heard of the man, he was able to chat with the 'Emigrant' this week in the hopes of changing that. We're sure his fantastic new record will help more of you get to know him as well.

While the County Meath native is proud of his Irish heritage and roots, Paddy's music is more along the lines of "indie folk rock," as he puts it. In the vein of Irish crossover successes like David Gray and Damien Rice, he sings autobiographical tales with his haunting and melodic voice. "There's no fiction in my songwriting," Paddy tells us. "Everything

on [*One Town Tasted*] happened to me. I can't write about subjects I haven't experienced myself." Most of the songs on the record deal with "past relationships" and chart their ups and downs.

While *One Town Tasted* is only his first record, it's clear that Paddy's years on the Boston music scene have paid off in spades. While his voice is fantastic and the musicianship on the record is top-notch, the ace up Paddy's sleeve is his knack for writing songs that rest in your ears well after the record's done spinning. *One Town Tasted* opening track, "Walking The Dog," immediately grabs your attention from the very first line: "Time heals every wound." Like the rest of the

song's lyrics, this line is delivered in a way that makes you think its singer doubts the truth behind the words, but feels he has to keep pushing on in life no matter what's in front of him.

"The Devil Must" is the album's fourth track, and it's no wonder that some of the local Boston radio stations (WBOS, WFNX, WERS, among others) have taken to playing it. The chorus finds Paddy defiantly asserting that "All my love ain't gone for good" and it's backed by some gritty guitar work and a rollicking pace. While "The Devil Must" and "Walking The Dog" are standouts, the rest of *One Town Tasted* could easily serve as a choice introduction to Paddy's tremendous power as a songwriter. His talent got the attention of Nine Mile Records, which is releasing the CD and planning to market it heavily in radio stations throughout the Northeast.

Paddy cites Boston's music scene as being a strong and inspiring source for his creativity. While he plays the occasional gig at an Irish pub and spent many a night at "the 'Nog," he's performed at many of the city's best venues for singer-songwriters, like Toad (Porter Square) and the Liz-

ard Lounge (Cambridge). "While I'm an Irish man living in a town that's strong in Irish population and roots, I'm not being pigeonholed," he says. "People into the music scene here are really into music that's good and honest."

Friends and strangers back home are also taking an interest, and Paddy is getting ready to tour Ireland in May. "Especially with the internet, we've been able to drum up a bit of interest." Paddy and his band will be taking a local band, Los Diablos, to Dublin, Belfast, Galway, and a few other spots. He's also excited about playing his home town, Navan, at a great venue for music called The Lantern.

Even with the debut album, the CD release party, and the upcoming Ireland tour, Paddy still finds time to work on music for his *second* record. "This one's going to be more about being out and about Boston," he says. While he's pleased with how *One Town Tasted* turned out, he's still got plenty more songs in him. If you haven't seen Paddy and his band already, make sure to come by The Paradise Lounge on Saturday night to see a man that won't remain a Boston secret for too much longer.

Paddy Saul plays The Paradise Lounge (967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston) on Saturday, April 7th. For tickets please visit the box office or www.TheDise.com. "One Town Tasted" is available on iTunes, Amazon, and CD Baby. For more information on Paddy please visit www.PaddySaul.com.



Snow Patrol Gives Boston, Its 'Home Away From Home,' A Fantastic Show



By Jason O'Sullivan

Last Wednesday saw the return of Irish rock band Snow Patrol to Boston at Boston University's Agganis Arena. The band, nearing the end of a grueling North American tour with support bands Silversun Pickups and OK GO, didn't show any signs of fatigue. Last June Snow Patrol played their biggest American concert at the Bank of America Pavilion, to a crowd of 5000 fans. This time 'round saw over 7000 greeting them at the Agganis.

The band received a thunderous reception upon walking on stage and proceeded to open with *Final Straw's* "Spitting Games". The band was as energetic as ever, and the night kicked off on a great note. Lead singer Gary Lightbody thanked the crowd for coming and said they were delighted to finally return to Boston, their "American home away from home" on account of the "incredible amount of Irish living in the city."

The band rocked the Agganis' phenomenal house sound system with a setlist that was heavy on songs from 2004's

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