

A Person I Admire



The person I admire is Paul O'Connell. I admire him because of what he has done for Munster, Ireland, his family, friends and charities.

Paul O'Connell is an iconic person in the country's eyes, especially rugby fans' eyes. He captained Munster to a Heineken Cup victory and to two or three Pro12 League victories. His success was seen especially with Ireland in the famous win in Wales in 2009 for Ireland's first Grand Slam in 56 years and last year beating France for the championship. Despite all his success on the rugby pitch, I admire him the most for his work with Donal Walsh and the Donal Walsh charity.

Donal Walsh was first diagnosed with cancer at the age of 12 but he bravely fought it. However in 2012 it returned. He fought it again but in October 2012 Donal was diagnosed for the third time. Paul O'Connell was one of many iconic people who supported Donal but O'Connell did something different. Paul O'Connell did so much for Donal. Paul went out of his spare time to talk to and support Donal. O'Connell gave Donal the likes of Munster rugby tickets and a Munster jersey as Donal was a big fan of rugby.

Donal later went on to the *Saturday Night Show* and radio shows and talked about his struggle with cancer. One of Donal's quotes was, "If I'm meant to be a symbol for people to appreciate life more in general then I'll be happy to die if that's what I'm dying for".

O'Connell donated money to The Donal Walsh Foundation but he went above and beyond that and would call or text Donal to see how he was.

Sadly Donal Walsh lost his battle with cancer and passed away. Donal taught us to value life. He promoted the idea that there is always someone to talk to, so talk to them. Paul went out of his way to help Donal. Therefore I really admire both of them for going out of their way to do something good for the world.