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Sports World

With LAKIS KONISTIS

PAUL AND THE PROFESSOR

He made it his own personal cry, "How Arre Yaah!" From this loud cry the whole of Earwood could see the friendliness, the zest for life, the passion, the gratitude Paul Bertuzzi had for each extra day he lived.

Paul, for those who knew him, had serious health issues- very serious health issues he would continue to fight for a very long time. When even the late Professor Chris O'Brien gave Paul "only six months to live", Paul was not quite ready to go just yet.

His battle was a long, protracted one. A tough one. a painful one. But he persevered. And fought off the disease many many times. I cannot recall how many times I was told "Paul is very ill and has only days to live"- only to see this courageous man get up off the canvass and live life once again.

This time however, was Paul's last. He lost the great fight he fought. The man is gone- but what a truly magnificent and inspiring man he was. What he has done for those who suffer from cancer is too difficult to even express in words. The sacrifices he has made along the way, simply breathtaking.

He has been a great role model for us all and we, those who knew him, up close and personal, and even those who simply hear about his epic life-journey are

indeed poorer now for having lost such an inspiring man.

Paul Bertuzzi, born December 1st 1938 and passed away on July 16th 2009, husband of Pauline and father of John and Anne, may you rest in peace.

PROFESSOR CHRIS O'BRIEN

How ironic life can be sometimes.....

The very doctor who was treating Paul Bertuzzi, and had given him only months to live, passed away FIRST- a month before Paul succumbed to his illness! Professor Chris O'Brien was one of Australia's top cancer surgeons before he was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour in 2006. I had the pleasure of meeting this absolute gem of a man when my late mother too was being treated by him back in 1989.

According to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd who spoke at his state funeral on the 11th June 2009 at Sydney's St. Mary's Cathedral, Professor Chris O'Brien "fundamentally changed lives" and left a lasting national legacy in fighting cancer". After decades of battling other people's cancer as a head and neck surgeon, Professor O'Brien succumbed to the disease himself.

PAUL & THE PROFESSOR

Before these vastly different, but great men passed away, BOTH of them established a formidable partnership- exerting whatever life they had left on Earth in ensuring that cancer sufferers would be better off through their combined efforts to tackle this dreaded disease together. In fact, both men derived enormous strength from each other in their own personal battles. Hence the irony of both of these great examples of humanity dying a month apart of each other.

Mr Rudd said Professor O'Brien had touched his own life. "Here lies the man who touched the nation's soul and we the nation Australia are richer for him having lived and having worked among us. Farewell my friend."

Professor O'Brien's pet project was "Lifehouse", at the Royal Prince Albert Hospital, where he was both director of the Sydney Cancer Centre and a star in the reality television show RPA. Mr Rudd promised, "Building will start by year's end, if I have to drive the bulldozer myself."

A LESSON FOR US ALL

Both these two men, in their own unique ways should be a lesson and an inspiration to us all. We all seem to forget from time to time the REAL things that matter- and the importance of life itself. Thank you Paul and Chris for showing us, one more time, what the most important things in life really are.

"SPARTAN WARRIOR"

BACK IN THE RING NEXT WEEK!

Although my heart is not really into sport this week, it would be amiss of me not to mention that Bobby "Spartan Warrior" Antonakos is scheduled to fight Solomon Egberime for the Australian Title next week- Thursday 30th July 2009 to be precise.

The venue will again be the Orion Function Centre at Campsie with bouts beginning from 7pm.

RONALDO'S VIEWS ON OWEN'S MOVE TO UNITED

Cristiano Ronaldo may have given up the #7 shirt at Old Trafford, but Michael Owen is a good choice to fill the jersey. That is according to Ronaldo himself. "Michael Owen is an experienced player. He has played at the biggest clubs," the Portuguese international said.

"He has everything to win at United. He is at a fantastic club and he is a great player. It was a good decision to give him the number seven." Signed on a free transfer soon after the £80 million sale of Ronaldo, the news of Owen joining the Red Devils did come as a shock to fans and pundits alike.

Having sat out for the majority of last season at Newcastle United through injury, Owen is now looking forward to wearing the #7 shirt- a Red Devils shirt that has been worn by the likes of George Best, Bryan Robson, David Beckham and Eric Cantona.



"LIFEHOUSE" PROJECT

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd then announced the Federal Government's support for a \$1.3 billion national cancer care initiative which was Professor O'Brien's lasting legacy. "That Chris, is your life's legacy because without you mate, it wouldn't have happened. It's as simple as that." Construction on the the project nearest and dearest to Professor O'Brien's heart at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital RPA is due to start by the end of the year.



ERREA TIPPING COMPETITION

	Αλιφέρης Γιώργος	Κονιστής Λάκης	Αυγερινός Δημήτρης	Σταυρουλάκης Μανώλης	Σταυρουλάκης Γιώργος	Νικολάου Παναγιώτης	Το πουλί
Μπόνιριγκ-Σάθερλαντ	X	2	1	X	2	X	1
Πένριθ-Μπανκστάου	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Γουέστ Σίδνεϊ Μπέρρις-Γούλονγκονγκ	1	X	1	1	1	1	1
Μένλι-Μπλακτάου	1	1	1	1	1	1	X
Σίδνεϊ Τάιγκερς-Μαρκόνι	2	X	2	X	2	X	2
Σίδνεϊ Ολύμπικ-Σίδνεϊ Γιουνάιτεντ	1	X	1	2	2	X	2
ΒΑΘΜΟΙ	53	49	50	55	54	45	41



Ο νικητής θα κερδίσει \$1000 δολάρια τα οποία θα διατεθούν σε ίδρυμα της επιλογής του. Το ποσό αυτό είναι ευγενική προσφορά της εταιρίας αθλητικών ειδών "ERREA".

