

“Never Ever Boys” do the Impossible

Trevor, Justin, Colin and Tremaine all have one thing in common; they were all told they would never ever walk again! Last Saturday, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City conducted a charity 5K/1 mile race. The Toga Trot was sponsored by Center IMT Atlanta, the clinic where these men learn to make possible the impossible. All of them accomplished what they were told they would never ever do...and they proved to themselves, the doctors who doubted them and the rest of the world, that the Impossible is indeed Possible!

Trevor Akers was injured in a motorcycle accident in July 2003. The doctors relayed to Trevor that his head injury, along with his T2 complete spinal cord injury (SCI), would mean he would spend the rest of his life in a power wheelchair. He was assured that he would never ever walk again. Trevor, a *Never Ever Boy*, never ever accepted that verdict, and this weekend, he participated in the one mile portion of the race. He wheeled his wheelchair (definitely not a power chair) all but the last 10 meters of the mile, where he got up on his feet, and with the aide of his walker and ankle supports, walked across the final 10 meters without assistance.

Justin Campagna's injury was much like Trevor's. He was a passenger involved in a car accident exactly five years to the day of the race which killed his girlfriend and left him critically injured. Justin doesn't remember anything until two weeks after the accident: he doesn't remember the crash, he doesn't remember the ambulances and commotion in its aftermath, and he doesn't remember being revived three times after his body stopped fighting. But, survive he did and the fight resumed. He soon found out that in addition to the head injury, three heart attacks, blindness in his left eye, bruises, cuts and broken bones, he had a severe spinal cord injury (T3 complete) and was told he would never walk again. Justin also didn't buy that prognosis, and he also participated in this weekend's race. He chose to finish his race by walking the last 100 meters, as that was the distance he ran in high school – again proving that he could complete the 100 meter dash - 100 meter dash, a race which requires focus, body strength, speed, and the desire to finish no matter how much it may hurt along the way.

Colin Madhavaiya was injured four years ago in a diving accident, immediately paralyzing him from the neck down (C5 complete SCI). He was told he would never ever have the use of his shoulders, arms, hands or trunk,

let alone his legs. He was told he would never be able to use a manual wheelchair, yet he completed the mile loop wheeling himself the whole way. He has let the other *Never Ever Boys* know that next year he, too, will be walking across the finish line with his friends.

Tremaine Nathan was also injured in a motorcycle accident, resulting in a ruptured aorta and a T6 complete spinal cord injury. Tremaine joined the *Never Ever Boys* in being told he would never ever walk again, but like Trevor, he traversed the last 10 meters walking with his walker after wheeling the first part of the mile. Tremaine is to be married in April 2009, and his plan is to walk into that church, and stand next to his bride as they recite their vows.

CenterIMT Atlanta is the physical therapy office where the *Never Ever Boys* have relearned to use those muscles necessary to reach their not so impossible goals. It is a physical therapy clinic in Fayetteville, Georgia which treats all types of maladies, but specializes in spinal cord injuries. Susan Leger, DS, MS, PT, the owner of the clinic, has been treating patients with spinal cord injuries for over 20 years. The clinic treats several spinal cord patients with varying degrees of injuries, who all have their own incredible story and amazing progress. For more information, call (770) 716-8885.