



Brainwave launches new game plan for epilepsy awareness



Two young supporters join Tom Smith and Gordon D'Arcy to launch Brainwave's celebrity search

Tom Smith is well known to rugby supporters as the fearsome prop on the Scottish rugby team and a Lions Team member. But very few people will know that off the field of play he has another opponent to tackle -his epilepsy.

The 33-year-old Scotsman is known as the quiet man of rugby but began to speak out after being diagnosed with the condition. He is considered one of the best props in the world, played in six tests during two recent British and Irish Lions' tours and collecting 61

international caps during his eight year international career.

Now in a bid to raise awareness about epilepsy and to make people more aware about the true facts surrounding the condition, one of Tom's greatest admirers, Irish rugby star Gordon D'Arcy has joined forces with Smith in a new campaign launched by Brainwave.

Gordon said that Tom Smith's huge achievements in sport showed that epilepsy need not prevent anyone from living their dream.

"I personally haven't been affected by the condition but I do know that while growing up I looked up to certain sports men and women. Tom's campaigns for greater awareness and education about epilepsy have inspired many people in Scotland.

"If my involvement today brings an Irish celebrity forward, then I think it will be a very positive development." he said.

Brainwave's *Wanted* campaign which is supported by Pfizer, is hoping to encourage more celebrities who have been touched by epilepsy in some way to become spokesperson's for Brainwave. The campaign has had a fantastic start, with features included in the RTE Guide and the Irish Examiner in December.