

Joe Molloy Interview

Last October Joe Molloy, a past pupil of Salesian College, won the highly prestigious PPI Sports broadcaster of the Year Award. Joe is a presenter on the popular radio sports show Off the Ball where he has interviewed some of the biggest names in Irish and international sport. He has covered many of the biggest sporting events in the world including the London Olympics, Euro 2012, the British open and last summer he spent six weeks in Brazil covering the World Cup. We caught up with Joe to see how he is getting on.



1. What are your abiding memories of Salesian College?

I graduated from Salesian College in 2003 and its fair to say that I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. It was a typical experience of most Irish teenagers as I had some subjects that I enjoyed, while others maybe not so much. I have great memories of playing with the school teams and being coached by Mr.McGovern and Mr.Moran. But my best memories of Salesian College were hanging out and just the general laugh that you have with your friends. I remember when I was in fifth year, my mam said to me that 'your school days are the best days of your life' and I pretty much got and appreciated that during my time in the school.

2. Why did you get involved in sports journalism?

After my Leaving Cert I went to Maynooth to study English and History. It had always been in the back of my mind to become a teacher. After I graduated I was planning to go to China to teach English, however I spotted a media course advertised on a flyer stuck under my windscreen wiper and decided to give it ago. One thing lead to another and I began presenting a show with *Liffey Sounds* before I got a job as a researcher with *Newstalk*. I worked on a variety of radio shows in *Newstalk* and honed my skills before I got a chance to co-present *Off the Ball*.

3. What advice would you have for any young budding sports journalists?

Hard-work. You have to take every opportunity that comes your way. One of my first jobs at *Newstalk* was working as a current affairs researcher and I didn't have much of a clue about what was going on in the world. I remember at one stage having to Google who Eamon Gilmore was! So every night for months on end, I would take home a pile of newspaper and spend hours reading through them with a highlighter to get up to speed. Initially in *Newstalk* I didn't have any chance to present so every Saturday I prepare and presented my own show on *KFM*, this was on top of my five day a week regular job. Community stations are a great way to gain experience in broadcasting and they are always looking for new talent.

4. Who is your most memorable interview?

A few interviews stand out. One with the former French footballer David Ginola, when he opened up about missing out on France's World Cup win in 1998 ranks as my proudest. In an Irish context, it has to have been interviewing Katie Taylor after she won gold in London. I have great respect and admiration for Katie as she

grew up in a sport with no women role models and is almost single handedly responsible for having Women's Boxing added to the Olympic Games. Before the interview I had felt particularly nervous but it went very well. Katie was incredibly relaxed and we spoke for twenty minutes about her achievement.



5. What sports did you play when you were younger?

Growing up I played a lot of sports. Soccer was definitely the number one. I played with Ballyoulster and was part of a successful team that won a few leagues playing centre mid. I also played with the local football team. My biggest sporting disappointment came in a County Minor final that we lost in a replay to Confey down in Newbridge. It still hurts to this day. I also played tennis and golf. Playing sports is something that all young people should be encouraged to do. Many students in exam years give up playing in order to focus on their studies and never actually take them up again, when studies have actually shown that people who play sports regularly actually do better in exams. It's all about finding the right balance.

6. What is the proudest moment of your career?

It has to be winning the PPI award for Sports Broadcaster of the Year last October. This was completely unexpected as there are some great broadcasters in this category, it was a proud moment for my family and girlfriend.



7. From an Irish perspective, what do you consider is our most memorable sporting victory?

This is difficult. In terms of team sports the 2009 Grand Slam win sticks out. Pádraig Harrington's major wins in 2007 and 2008 have to be up there. He definitely doesn't get the recognition that he deserves. He kick started a European Golfing Renaissance that has seen

them win several majors in the years after, but it all began with Harrington. The first is always the toughest to win. Finally, Katie Taylor winning in London. It was incredible to have been at the fight and the atmosphere was just brilliant.

8. Who are your sporting hero?

Hero is probably a strong word but growing up I was a big Man Utd fan and I loved that Treble winning team of Beckham, Scholes and Keane. Paul O'Connell and Brian O'Driscoll are two that I admire for all that they have achieved as well as Pdraig Harrington and the Katie Taylor.

9. Finally Joe, some students are giddy with the prospect of Ireland winning this year's RWC, do you think they will or do expectations need to be tempered?

I wouldn't say we can't win it, but realistic expectations would be to get to the Semi Finals and who knows after that. In Joe Schmidt, we definitely have the best coach in the world and this has to count for a lot. The group is manageable and hopefully with a bit of luck we could do it.

Scam Magazine would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Joe on winning his PPI award and thank him for taking some time out of his busy schedule to speak with us. We wish him continued success in the future and look forward to listening to him on Off the Ball.

Speed-amis a Salesians

The TY French students invited the girls from St. Wolstons TY French class to join them in a fun afternoon of 'speed-amis' (speed dating).

There were 21 'filles' and 21 'garçons'. They spent the afternoon telling each other about themselves, their 'familles' and their 'passe-temps preferé'. Every three minutes the 'professeure' blew a whistle and the boys said 'au revoir' and moved to introduce themselves to the next 'jeune fille'. One and a half hours of non-stop French among friends.

What's not to like? (Quelle que tu pensé?)

