

Rob Marchand



I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in October 2009 following a free blood screening at Cabela's. The cancer was confirmed following a physical examination performed by my local physician Dr. Doug Holum.

I selected Dr. Darlys Hofer of the Sioux Falls Urology Specialists to be my urologist and he performed the biopsy on my prostate. The biopsy showed that one-third of my prostate was cancerous. Mulling over the various options provided

to me by Dr. Hofer, I decided to have the prostate removed robotically. The surgery was performed at Sanford on December 4, 2009.

Even though the surgery was deemed a success, there was always a possibility that not all of the cancer would be eliminated surgically. This possibility happened to me. We discovered during a post-surgery PSA test that my levels were rising and something more needed to be done. We decided on a 6 month program of hormone therapy to try and slow the cancer growth. I received Lupron injections. Enduring hot flashes, night sweats, body aches, and weight gain would be worth it if we could slow the cancer down. Unfortunately, the hormone therapy didn't bring my PSA level down to an acceptable number and I decided on radiation treatment. I underwent 32 radiation treatments at Queen of Peace Cancer Center under the direction of Dr. Stephen Dick. I finished with the treatments on December 16, 2010.

I recently had a follow up PSA test and my number is still high. My doctors have encouraged me to wait 3 months and have another test administered. Hopefully my number will have dropped and we will have good news to report.

I would like to thank the Heart and Sole committee for selecting me to be an honorary co-chair. I am thrilled and humbled to be included in the festivities. I wish to thank all those people who have come forward and wished me well and a special thanks to my family for their love and support through this most difficult time.

Finally, I encourage all men ages 50 and older to have their PSA's checked regularly. Early detection of prostate cancer is the key!