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WEST ROXBURY

Hub student to shoot hoops 24 hours straight in cancer research fundraiser

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 6, 2011 04:07 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A show of public support, including from the mayor and other state and local politicians, is expected at a reception this weekend for a Catholic Memorial senior who plans to shoot hoops for 24 consecutive hours to raise money for brain cancer research.

Watertown native Mike Slonina, who's mother Betsy Cullen was treated for a tumor at Massachusetts General Hospital last year, will challenge himself to a nonstop day of shooting basketballs in the West Roxbury private school's Ronald Perry Gymnasium beginning Saturday at noon, school officials announced Wednesday.

During the event, Slonina's senior year capstone project he dubbed "A Shot for Life," he hopes to raise \$30,001 for the Curry Research Lab at the hospital his mom was treated at, an announcement said. The lab develops unique ways of treating brain cancer in patients.

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, along with other area officials, are expected to attend a 6 p.m. reception to cheer Slonina when he is one-quarter of the way through his effort, said school officials.

The school said in an announcement that Slonina's project has "sparked the imagination of the Catholic Memorial community, who will come out to support him at all hours, as well as local media."

ESPN Boston and The Boston Herald profiled Slonina, the school basketball team's manager for four years, in advance of the event, and film crews will chronicle the day, according to CM. Slonina hopes to attend Quinnipiac University in Connecticut in the fall.

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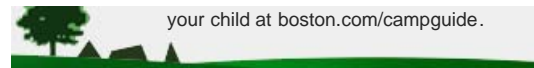
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