

**Mayo Clinic News Network**

**Title: Outracing Cancer: Medical Innovations Get Driver Back on Track /** Date: August 2015

Intro: The Trans Am Muscle Car Challenge promises to be a high-octane event Friday in Lexington, Ohio. But, one of the drivers is already a winner. With some special help from his doctors, Tommy Archer outraced prostate cancer in order to be there. Here's Dennis Douda for the Mayo Clinic News Network.

Video	Audio
<b>Total running time [5:20]</b>	/// NATS VTR
/// NATS Race track montage	/// video montage
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“I started racing when I was, like, 15 years old. You know, I had a race car before I was able to drive it. I won my first championship in 1975. I mean, just about everything we ever raced, we won championships in and set track records.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	This is a huge day for professional race car driver Tommy Archer. He's back behind the wheel after a 3-year detour, one that had him wondering if he'd ever find his way back to the track, or perhaps had even come... to the end of the road.
<b>C.G. Igor Frank, M.D. Mayo Clinic Urology</b>	<b>“I first saw Mr. Archer back in 2012 when he was first diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer.”</b>
<b>C.G. Tommy Archer Race Car Driver</b>	<b>“Actually, I never felt anything from the beginning. It was basically just a blood test that they took and they saw elevated PSA count.”</b>
<b>C.G. Jeffrey Karnes, M.D. Mayo Clinic Urology</b>	<b>“Which stands for Prostate Specific Antigen, which is a protein that's secreted into the blood system by the prostate and it can be abnormally elevated for numerous reasons.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	One of those reasons is the body's response to cancer in the prostate, which is a small male gland positioned beneath the bladder. It's a diagnosis one in 7 men will hear in their lifetimes, often tipped off ,as Tommy was, when rising PSA levels are found in a blood test.
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“We thought it was contained inside the prostate, but it actually had spread.”</b>

Dr. Igor Frank speaking	<b>“He had two malignancies. He had two different types of prostate cancer. He had a very aggressive type that formed a large mass and extended outside the prostate, involved surrounding structures.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Mayo Clinic urologic oncology surgeon, Dr. Igor Frank removed Tommy’s two cancerous tumors in a robotically-assisted, minimally invasive, procedure.
Dr. Igor Frank speaking	<b>“He had good response to therapy initially, but eventually his PSA started to elevate.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Which meant Tommy’s cancer wasn’t completely gone and still posed a serious threat.
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“But for me as a person, not knowing what’s going on, every night you go to bed, you’re thinking there’s a Pac-Man inside you, but you don’t know where, but he’s going to get me if we don’t get him first.”</b>
<b>C.G. Eugene Kwon, M.D. Mayo Clinic Cancer Center</b>	<b>“So he was put on hormone therapy and a number of other medications to basically try to control his prostate cancer.</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Urologic surgeon and cancer researcher Dr. Eugene Kwon says, while hormones do suppress the testosterone that drives prostate cancer growth, men often hate the side-effects, like weight gain and a risk for brittle bones.
Dr. Eugene Kwon speaking	<b>“You have lethargy, malaise, sometimes you have depression.”</b>
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“I mean, just the fact that if I took the medicine for depression, I couldn’t drive a race car.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	So, after nearly two years, Tommy Archer the race car driver wanted his life back. He and his team of Mayo Clinic doctors agreed to take a chance and bring his cancer out of hiding.
Dr. Eugene Kwon speaking	<b>“To make a long story short, we elected to go ahead and take Mr. Archer off of his medications.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Within a month Tommy’s PSA levels were on the rise again, which meant his cancer was once again growing.
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“ and Dr. Kwon said to me, he says, we have now let the beast out of the cage. We’ve got go figure out where he’s at.”</b>

Dennis Douda speaking	To do that, they turned to an FDA-approved technology Mayo Clinic help to develop and refine, the use of C-11 choline as a radioactive marker for cancer cells. Because this dye has a half-life of less than 30-minutes, it has to be manufactured right on site.
Dr. Eugene Kwon speaking	<b>“We have the only C-11 choline PET scanner that’s approved in the western hemisphere. C-11 choline is an isotope that has been attached to a molecule called choline.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Choline is a natural nutrient present in all mammal cells, but some, like kidney, liver and spleen cells carry much high concentrations. So do cancer cells.
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“And so they put me in the MRI tube. They put the solution in me and the next day they showed me the screen and there was a bright red dot.”</b>
Dr. Igor Frank speaking	<b>“Ooh, bright as a light bulb.”</b>
Dr. Eugene Kwon speaking	<b>“So sure enough, we see a very small bright spot in the pelvis. It's picking up the choline.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	With his remaining cancer no longer invisible, Urologic oncology surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Karnes was able go in and remove the last stubborn tumor.
Dr. Eugene Kwon speaking	<b>“And since that operation, Mr. Archer has had a PSA that’s dropped to zero.”</b>
/// NATS race track sounds	/// NATS
Dr. Eugene Kwon speaking	<b>“And basically, at least at this point in time, we would regard him as being free of disease and potentially cured. “</b>
Tommy Archer speaking	<b>“Want you to meet the guy who saved my life!”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Although he didn’t treat Tommy directly, Chair of the Mayo Clinic Urology department Dr. Brad Leibovich – a part time race car driver himself – even turned out to cheer Tommy on.
<b>C.G. Bradley Leibovich, M.D. Mayo Clinic Chair of Urology</b>	<b>“I’ve been a fan of his for decades. I thought it’d be nice if he had someone from the Mayo family up here to support him for his comeback.”</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	Quite a comeback, indeed. With the fastest qualifying time, Tommy won the pole position. And ended up on the podium with a 2 <sup>nd</sup> place finish.

Tommy Archer speaking [ ]	<b>“Some of the crewmembers, they left their dark glasses on because they were crying. I wasn’t sure that I could ever race again. But it was really cool inside to feel how good it was to be back.</b>
Dennis Douda speaking	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Dennis Douda.

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Anchor Tag: Tommy says if someone hadn’t crashed into him mid-race, he would have finished 1<sup>st</sup>. By the way, prostate cancer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cancer among men. And it’s second to only to lung cancer as the deadliest. Men should talk with their doctors to determine if PSA testing would be a good cancer screening tool for them.

A little bit more about Tommy, he’ll be monitored with regular PSA testing going forward. And, if his doctors see any change, they can bring him back in for another C-11 Choline scan to keep tabs on any recurrent cancer that needs to be treated.

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