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## LOCAL NEWS



Robert McCartney

Monday 02 June 2008 18:12

### Best friend of murdered man Robert McCartney gives evidence

The best friend of murdered Robert McCartney told a court he will *"never forget,"* the expression on his alleged killer's face *"til the day I die."*

Giving evidence at the Belfast Crown Court trial, Brendan Devine said he himself had been attacked and had his throat cut but that at one point, he allegedly saw 61-year-old Terence Davison *"gouging"* at Mr McCartney's face *"in a really evil way."*

He told prosecuting QC Ciaran Murphy: *"I will not forget the expression on his [Davison's] face til the day I die."*

Davison denies killing the 30-year-old father-of-two in January 2005 while his co-accused, 39-year-old James McCormick and Joseph Fitzpatrick both deny causing an affray.

Mr Devine, who had known Mr McCartney for 15 - 20 years, said they had been drinking and watching football in Magennis's Bar when an argument broke out over a rude gesture which Mr McCartney had made with Davison's wife mistakenly thinking it had been directed at her.

He claimed he had tried to calm the situation down and offered to buy the ladies drinks but that the next thing he knew, he was hit over the head with a bottle and his throat was cut three times and showed the court the scarring on his neck.

Mr Devine said that covered in blood, he went outside with his best friend and two other men but were followed by a gang of up to six men and chased into nearby Market Street.

As he fled the scene, Mr Devine told the court he looked back and saw Mr McCartney standing *"with his hands up shouting `nobody deserves this`"* and that as he walked back towards him, he saw Davison *"gouging at his face."*

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