



# Quick thinking saved teen's teeth after football accident

**ADAM McCaffrey (16) from Balbriggan had four of his front teeth accidentally knocked out during a football match.**

Playing in goals, Adam went down to save a ball and he was caught in the mouth by the striker from the other team.

"It was a complete accident," said his dad Eugene. "Another of his teeth was bent right back," he said.

Dad-of-three Eugene (54) told how there was a dentist on the pitch at the time, and he advised them to put the teeth in milk.

"I got a phone call to say there had been an accident, and they were waiting for an ambulance to come," he said.

"In fact, it wasn't that long since Adam had finished his treatment with braces," said Eugene.

"I rang his **orthodontist, Sinead O'Hanrahan**, and told her what had happened.

"She went to Temple Street, which is where Adam was taken, and she put the teeth back in.

"The quicker it is done the better, and the greater the chance they have of taking," Eugene said.

He added: "It is a temporary job, in that it will get him by for a couple of years until his mouth is fully formed and then he will have to get implants."

After Adam was initially treated in Temple Street, he was then referred to the Dental Hospital as a day patient for five or six days.

They had to stitch up the inside of his mouth following the very painful accident.

"They did a marvellous job," Eugene said.

"Adam got his braces in November 2009, and got them taken off in April 2011. The accident happened over a year later in September. His teeth were absolutely perfect after the braces," Eugene said.

Talented Adam, who attends Gormanstown College, plays for Balbriggan

Football Club. He also plays rugby and GAA, and has just started his Leaving Cert year.

Meanwhile, Eugene added that he would love to see everyone wearing gum shields when playing contact sports.



**LUCKY:** Adam before treatment (left) and after (right)