

Cleared to Play.Org Hosts Event Focusing on Concussion Issues and NJ High School Athletes

Clifton Nonprofit Joins Forces with NJ Hospitals and NFL Alumni on Concussion Protocols

Dr. Sean Lager, founder of Clifton-based Cleared to Play.Org and Gotham City Orthopedics, LLC, presented the latest concussion management protocols to a room full of New Jersey High School athletic directors, coaches, trainers, and administrators on February 15th, 2013 at Flemings Steakhouse in Edgewater. The event was co-hosted by Bayonne Medical Center, Christ Hospital, Hoboken University Medical Center and the Gridiron Group, a nonprofit comprised of retired NFL players who provide mentoring to inner city youth through sports and educational programs.

Cleared to Play.Org provides an array of important services to New Jersey High Schools including education, preseason baseline concussion testing, community outreach programs and medical care for athletes who sustain concussions and other injuries. To date, Cleared to Play.Org has administered over 6000 concussion tests and managed the care of over 200 New Jersey High School athletes who have suffered concussions.

Dr. Lager has created a thorough concussion management protocol checklist, which includes establishing preseason baseline concussion testing through the online IMPACT test and TRAZER HRA technology, which simulates game-like conditions for athletes and measures an athlete's physical condition and readiness to resume play after sustaining a concussion. These two tests, when combined with a physical exam from a physician certified in concussion management, give the physician an assessment of the injured athlete's overall condition which will help them determine the appropriate care and return to play protocol for that athlete. Currently only a handful of medical facilities, including The Cleveland Clinic, are utilizing TRAZER HRA, given New Jersey high schools, colleges and elite athletes access to this state of the art technology.

NFL alumni on hand to speak about the importance of concussion testing and the resources Cleared to Play.Org provides included former Detroit Lions Damian Gregory and Darian Barnes, former NY Giant Mark Slawson and former NJ Jet Bruce Harper. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Letter of Recognition to Dr. Lager from Assad Ahkter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Pascrell. Congressman Pascrell was a key sponsor of the Concussion Bill passed into law by Governor Christie in 2010, which requires all New Jersey High School athletes to take a preseason baseline concussion test.

Cleared to Play.Org is looking to expand its outreach to additional schools and community youth organizations. For more information on Cleared to Play.Org, please visit www.clearedtoplay.org or contact Cleared to Play.Org Director of Marketing Lee Haberman at 973 330-3999 or via email at lhberman@clearedtoplay.org.