

Sports & Entertainment



**Former NFL players who played before 12 are not linked to worse health from sports page 1**

Sports Medicine, contrast with previous small studies from a decade ago. A series of prior studies evaluated a few dozen symptomatic former professional football players and found that those who started in the sport before age 12 had health problems — such as worse depression, greater apathy and structural brain differences — in their post-career years compared to those who started playing football at age 12 and after, said Douglas Terry, PhD, assistant professor and clinical neuropsychologist in the Department of Neurological Surgery and co-director of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center.

“I believe this is the largest study on this topic, and we didn’t see a signal that starting to play before 12 led to adverse health outcomes. The huge number of survey respondents underscores how committed former players are to understanding the long-term health outcomes of the sport,” said Terry.

According to senior author Aaron Baggish, MD, a cardiologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital Heart Center, “There may be other aspects of youth football participation that are linked to later life health. The key to protecting amateur and professional players is using large and varied cohorts to identify which risks are or are not worthy of attention.”

Playing sports in childhood boosts children’s cardiovascular conditioning, ability to work as a team, and self-esteem, so Terry wants to see future studies further clarify the risks of youth football in those who do not end up in the NFL since most boys do not go on to play at the professional or even collegiate level.

Terry, co-first author along with Rachel Grashow, PhD, MS, director of epidemiological research initiatives for the Football Players Health Study at Harvard University, statistically accounted for a variety of factors that were not considered in pre-

vious studies, including primary football position (lineman or not), number of professional seasons, index of prior concussions signs or symptoms, as well as age, race and BMI.

Research Driven by Input from Former NFL Players

The Football Players Health Study at Harvard University, launched in 2014, is a comprehensive research program dedicated to examining the multifactorial causes that impact the health of former NFL players. The research has been informed by the players themselves, who have provided input on the health concerns and conditions they face after a career in football. An interdisciplinary team of researchers from Harvard University and Harvard Medical School and its affiliated teaching hospitals, including those in the Mass General Brigham system, conduct research from neurology, cardiology, sports medicine, rehabilitation medicine, chronic pain and public health. While concussion and head injury are of paramount concern, the study examines all aspects of player health across the life span. Former players can find important resources to support their health in this section of the study’s website.

This work was supported by the Football Players Health Study at Harvard University, which is funded by the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of Harvard Medical School, Harvard University and its affiliated academic healthcare centers. The NFLPA had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis and interpretation of the data; preparation, review or approval of the manuscript; and the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

**Sen. Blackburn accuses NBA from sports page 1**

dignitary. The league profits from this relationship, but at what cost? President Kagame has ruled Rwanda for over 20 years with impunity. Freedom of expression and internet freedom is extremely limited in the country. Anyone who dares to question Kagame’s rule—whether it be opposition candidates or the free press—is jailed, disappeared, or brutally assassinated. President Kagame’s government has also allegedly provided military support to M23, a rebel group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has caused tens of thousands of Congolese people to flee

their homes in fear. This group has been accused of horrific abuses, including recruiting child soldiers, using rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war, and torturing civilians.”

Playing Ball with Dictators Should Not Be the NBA’s Business Model

“The Rwandan government is known for murdering, kidnapping, and intimidating dissidents living overseas, including those in the United States. The NBA should not remain silent as Kagame exports his authoritarianism. Our concern about the

NBA’s business relationship with a government with a demonstrated record of human rights abuses and repressive behavior is not limited to Rwanda. The league’s activities in China, engagement with Chinese Communist Party officials, and policies on products made with forced labor remain troubling... Playing ball with dictators and brutal regimes should not be the NBA’s business model. Instead, the league should use its influence to advocate for governance reforms, including respect for the rule of law.”

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 27, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- The Prostate Conditions Education Council (PCEC) will be hosting a free men’s health screening event on Saturday, September 28, at the Alpha Memphis Education Foundation Building located at 4122 Barton Dr, Memphis, TN 38116. The event, a collaborative effort between PCEC, Carpenter Primary Healthcare, City of

*“We are excited about the opportunity to partner with individuals who share a commitment to promoting men’s health and well-being. This screening event is designed to empower men with essential health information, prostate cancer education, and encourage proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle,” said Renee Savickas, Vice-President of PCEC.*

Hope Cancer Center- Atlanta, Man2Man Group, National Panhellenic Council of Memphis Metropolitan Area, and Prostate Pedals Prayer aims to raise awareness and provide crucial health screenings for men in the community.

“We are excited about the opportunity to partner with individuals who share a commitment to pro-

moting men’s health and well-being. This screening event is designed to empower men with essential health information, prostate cancer education, and encourage proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle,” said Renee Savickas, Vice-President of PCEC.

The event will feature a free 7-point men’s health screening, conducted by experienced healthcare professionals. The screening includes PSA prostate cancer screening, testosterone, cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL, LDL, and glucose tests. Attendees will be provided lunch and the opportunity to attend expert talks led by leading specialists discussing Prostate Cancer, Treatment Side Effects, and New and Novel Diagnostics.

At the event, attendees can also visit education booths, speak with healthcare professionals and community leaders, and connect with other survivors to learn more about prostate cancer and available resources.

According to the American Cancer Society, Tennessee is ex-

pected to have over 6,150 newly diagnosed men with prostate cancer in 2024, and sadly, over 750 men will die from the disease. PCEC believes that knowledge is power and aims to provide cutting-edge information to help extend lives and keep families together longer.

“We’re pleased to see the Divine 9 Community unite with its sponsors and partners to address prostate conditions in all men especially black men through testing and education during this historic event in our community said Ken Carpenter,” with Carpenter Primary Healthcare

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, September 28th, 2024
- **Location:** Alpha Memphis Education Foundation Building 4122 Barton Dr, Memphis, TN
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Registration & Men’s Health Screening (testing will be available throughout)

**Speakers:**

- **Ken Carpenter,** Advocate & Survivor

- **Dr. Walter Rayford,** The Urology Group, P.C.
- **Dr. Michael Granieri,** Conrad Pearson
- **Dr. Bamidele Adesunloye,** City of Hope

Visit <https://shorturl.at/gBOX9> to register and learn more about the event.

This Prostate Screening & Education Event is a valuable opportunity for men in our community to receive important health screenings and gain knowledge about prostate cancer. Media and press are encouraged to attend and cover the event.

For more information on the event, contact Cara Clements, Patient Engagement Specialist, PCEC

Email: [Cara.Clements@prostateconditions.org](mailto:Cara.Clements@prostateconditions.org), 501-441-0550

About Prostate Conditions Education Council (PCEC):

PCEC was founded in 1989 and is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to men’s health. PCEC is the nation’s leading resource for information on prostate health, dedicated to saving lives through awareness and education about prostate cancer prevalence, the importance of early detection, existing and novel diagnostics, and treatment options.

**The NFL announces top awardees in HealthTECH Challenge I to accelerate innovation in field surface safety efforts**

*Top Finishers in Crowdsourced HealthTECH Challenge I Generate Advances to Field Surface Composition, Surface Modifiers*

NEW YORK — August 28, 2024 — The NFL announced the top finishers in the HealthTECH Challenge I, a crowdsourced challenge to accelerate innovations that will help make

playing surfaces more consistent and safer for players. The two awardees are:

GrassMaster, which developed PlayMaster, a hybrid playing surface using synthetic carpeting that is covered with sand and brushed and seeded with natural grass. The surface is distinguished by its quick installation and repair capabilities, along with its durability and its safety-centric design.

FieldTurf USA, which developed Liquid Surface Modifiers designed to improve existing turf surfaces in a simple and convenient way. The Modifiers are meant to accelerate the process of field settling and can be adjusted to enable better traction and alter the firmness of a surface to make it safer for players. GrassMaster will receive \$59,000 for its proposal and FieldTurf USA will receive \$41,000.

“While these proposals represent only one part of the NFL’s comprehensive strategy to create the safest, most consistent playing surfaces, attracting new and innovative ideas from experts in and outside of the industry will make the game safer, and we are excited to see how these two innovative approaches evolve,” said Jeff Miller, NFL Executive Vice President overseeing Player Health & Safety.

HealthTECH Challenge I was held in partnership with Football Research, Inc. (FRI) and Duke Biomedical Engineering (Duke BME). The crowdsourced entries were assessed by an oversight committee comprising leading experts in injury prevention, materials engineering and playing surfaces. In addition to providing funding, members of the oversight committee with expertise relevant to the two awardees will provide guidance and input to the teams developing both technol-

ogies.

“The top submissions have the potential to support the league’s broader approach to providing the safest and most playable fields possible,” said Nick Pappas, field director for the NFL and a member of the challenge oversight committee. “I look forward to working with the rest of the oversight committee to support the awardees as they hone their technologies and prepare them for potential usage on NFL fields.”

HealthTECH Challenge I is part of the HealthTECH Challenges (previously known as the Head-HealthTECH Challenges), a series of innovation challenges intended to deepen understanding of and advance solutions in the areas of head protection, lower extremity protection, materials science and kinematic measurement, among others.

**NFL expands loans from minority banks to \$100 mil for economic opportunity ... from sports page 1**

“By including cornerstone institutions of culture and community in these transactions, community-based banks are stronger and better equipped to fulfill their missions: to extend hope and credit to neighborhoods that have relied on them through the years.”

This year’s new banking partners include:

- **Piermont Bank (MDI, Asian American Women-owned and led in New York, NY)**
- **Nave Bank (MDI, Hispanic Owned in San Juan, PR)**
- **Legacy Bank (MDI, Black or African American Owned in Murrieta, CA)**

- **Carver Federal Savings Bank (MDI, Black or African American Owned in New York, NY)**
- **Commonwealth National Bank (MDI, Black or African American Owned in Mobile, AL)**
- **Carver State Bank (MDI, Black or African American Owned in Savannah, GA)**
- **Anchor Bank (MDI and CDFI, Hispanic Owned in Palm Beach Gardens, FL)**
- **Liberty Bank & Trust Co. (MDI, Black or African American Owned in New Orleans, LA)**
- **Tioga-Franklin Savings Bank (MDI in Philadelphia, PA)**

The NFL continues to make headway in its commitment to advancing inclusion and opportunity across the League, its clubs, and communities.

Recently, the NFL announced the rollout of NFL Source, an evolution of the league’s supplier diversity commitments which seek to standardize how the NFL and its partners support working with underrepresented businesses locally and nationally, year-round. To learn more about the program and to join the NFL’s directory, visit [source.nfl.com](https://source.nfl.com).

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