



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Media Relations
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Marketing and Public Relations
(614) 355-0495

Nationwide Children's Hospital Sports Medicine Provides Specialized Baseball Performance Training to Help Prevent Common Injuries

COLUMBUS, Ohio – About three out of four youth baseball players between 8-18 years of age report experiencing arm pain while throwing, according to data previously released by the American Sports Medicine Institute. Because many of the most common baseball arm injuries are preventable, experts at [Nationwide Children's Hospital Sports Medicine](#) have designed a unique baseball performance-training program for all skill levels to help address the majority of injuries caused by overuse and improper throwing technique.

Personalized baseball injury prevention training at Nationwide Children's incorporates a focus on age-appropriate communication to help maximize results, as well as hands on instruction that emphasizes mobility/flexibility, core stability, acceleration, strength and power and recovery. Additionally athletic trainers provide continuous education about proper nutrition, rest from activity and the importance of quality sleep beyond the playing season.

One of the key components of the injury prevention training is video analysis, which displays an athlete's exact stance and their throwing mechanics frame by frame.

"Video analysis is a great tool that allows us to assess the movement, power and motion of each athlete, down to an exact second," said [Michael Macatangay, AT, ATC](#). "We can freeze a particular frame and examine specific throwing mechanics to help prevent injury and improve performance."

Compared to other sports, baseball tends to cause players to put more strain on their upper bodies, including the shoulder, where 17 percent of high school baseball injuries occur according to a [2012 study](#). The video analyzes real-time measurement of the angles of a player's body and arm and that helps athletic trainers establish proper individualized throwing technique. For example, video analysis can illustrate an improper throwing stance that training and systematic drilling can correct over time.

"The year before I started the program, I experienced a lot of soreness after throwing," said Jeremiah Cangelosi, a pitcher for Watkins Memorial High School in Pataskala, Ohio. "The breakdown of the video helped me see that I was throwing with all arm and I was not throwing in time with the rest of my body, which put a lot of strain on my arm. We worked on that every time and I was really able to see how I was improving and I'm a lot better because of it," continued Cangelosi, who also plays shortstop for Watkins Memorial.



In addition to pitchers, all athletes who participate in the program are able to view the video on their smartphone or desktop computer and practice the correctional drills recommended by the athletic trainers in their free time in addition to following health and wellness advice.

“Within 10 years, five percent of youth pitchers will have a serious elbow or shoulder injury and our team often works with athletes who are rehabilitating these types of injuries,” said Macatangay.

“This program is designed to help athletes achieve their performance goals, but most importantly reduce their risk of injury so they can experience long-term athletic success and enjoyment.”

Nationwide Children’s Hospital Sports Medicine

The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Sports Medicine staff of doctors, athletic trainers and physical therapists are trained to provide age-appropriate care for patients. The Sports Medicine program emphasizes the importance of early injury recognition and treatment in order to prevent recurring injuries. In addition to treatment, Nationwide Children’s partners with parents and coaches to focus on injury prevention, conditioning and age-appropriate activities. Children and teens to age 18 require expert care, especially when they are serious athletes. Because these kids are still growing, their health care needs are unique.