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For Immediate Release

ATLANTIC HEALTH, MORRIS UNITED TEAM UP AGAINST HEAD INJURIES SOCCER PLAYERS TO UNDERGO ImPACT™ TESTING AT OVERLOOK HOSPITAL

MORRISTOWN, NJ FEBRUARY 2009 – Atlantic Health, the parent company of Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital, in Summit, has partnered with the Morris United Soccer organization to help protect young soccer players from head injuries.

Morris United has mandated that all of its travel league players undergo Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing, or ImPACT™. The computer-based test, which will be offered through the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute's Concussion Center at Overlook Hospital, is given to players before they sustain a concussion to create a baseline measure of their cognitive ability. That baseline is used to determine if there has been a loss of cognition after a head injury, and whether it is safe for a player to resume activity.

Joseph Rempson, MD, a physiatrist and co-medical director of the Concussion Center at Overlook Hospital, explained ImPACT testing to parents at a seminar at Morristown Memorial Hospital in February. Dr. Rempson also explained concussions, including its affects, such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy and Post-Concussion Syndrome, which includes symptoms ranging from chronic headaches to personality change and loss of short-term memory. He also discussed Second Impact Syndrome, in which a second blow to the head while recovering from an initial concussion occurs, causing swelling of the brain, which is sometimes fatal. Dr. Rempson also discussed treatment options for concussions.

"We recognize that head injuries are a growing concern not only in soccer, but in all sports," said John Gilfillan, vice president of Morris United Soccer. "We as a club want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to protect our players not only from head injuries, but also from returning to the field too soon following a head injury. The ImPACT test program is a valuable tool that will help us achieve this objective."

The CDC estimates that about 1-3 million sports-and-recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year. There were more than 17,000 cases of head injuries related to soccer treated at emergency departments in hospitals in the United States in 2007, according to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. The CDC reports that an average of 1.5 deaths each year are attributed to sports-related concussions. In most cases, a concussion, usually undiagnosed, had occurred prior to the final one.

(more)

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

Unlike other sports injuries, concussions and other head injuries are not visible and often do not become apparent until an athlete begins exhibiting symptoms such as loss of function, chronic pain or dizziness. ImPACT testing offers a simple, uncomplicated tool to determining whether an athlete who has suffered a head injury is well enough to continue playing, or whether more rest and care is needed.

For more information on Atlantic Health, ImPACT testing, the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute's Concussion Center or Atlantic Sports Health, visit www.atlantichealth.org.

For more information on Morris United Soccer, visit www.morrisunited.com.

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