

New Nebraska Research Center To Study Concussions

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — If all goes according to Dennis Molfese's plan, the day is coming when a football player who takes a hit to the head will come to the sideline, take off his helmet and slip on an electrode-covered mesh cap.

The team's medical staff will analyze the player's brain waves on the spot and determine within minutes whether he can safely return to the game or whether he has sustained a concussion and, if so, how severe.

Putting the finishing touches on that device is among the projects planned in the University of Nebraska's Center for Brain, Biology

and Behavior, which opens this month in Memorial Stadium's newly expanded east side.

CB3, as it's called, is housed in the same \$55 million structure that holds 38 luxury suites and an additional 6,000 seats for the football stadium. The center is one of a number of university-affiliated research centers across the nation looking for better ways to diagnose and treat traumatic head injuries and make football and other sports safer.

"There has been great concussion research that's been going on for decades," said Molfese, the CB3 director. "It's disconcerting to realize just how little we really know."

Tom Osborne, Nebraska's retired

football coach and athletic director, said CB3 and the adjoining Athletic Performance Lab fit his vision for what he wanted to include in the stadium expansion.

The project was one of Osborne's major initiatives in his five years as athletic director. Osborne envisioned a collaboration of the athletic and academic sides of the university. So while athletes participate in concussion studies, political science researchers might use CB3's brain-scanning technology to see if they can figure out why some people lean conservative and others liberal.

Concussions have become one of the top concerns in sports in recent years after prominent brain in-

juries and disease in former NFL players, driven in part by some high-profile suicides. Thousands of former players are suing the league, saying that for years the NFL did not do enough to protect players from concussions. The NCAA also is addressing the issue.

"There are a lot of things that are very important with the NCAA as far as the health and safety of the student-athlete," NCAA chief medical officer Brian Hainline said, "and concussion is right up there as first and foremost. It's the elephant on the table, and we, with everyone else, we have to solve it."

There are about 300,000 sports-related concussions reported in the United States annually, and hun-

dreds of millions of dollars have been funneled into research, with much of the funding going to universities.

Nebraska recruited the 67-year-old Molfese away from the University of Louisville, giving him virtual carte blanche in the design and equipping of CB3.

Molfese is among 14 experts serving on the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth, which will report to Congress and President Barack Obama on brain injuries in children and young adults. He also heads a Big Ten-Ivy League partnership

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Our National Pastime On Independence Day



ABOVE: Lesterville shortstop Tyler Edler scoops up a ground ball during the Broncos' South Central League baseball game at Yankton on Thursday at Riverside Field.

LEFT: Yankton pitcher Jake Broscha sends the ball home during the Tappers' South Central League amateur baseball matchup with Lesterville. Results were not available at presstime.

Baseball Roundup: Menno Mows Down Highlanders

MENNO — The Menno Mad Frogs scored at least two runs each time they came to the plate, including 10 runs in the second inning, on the way to a 17-0 victory over Scotland in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday.

Doug Hall had three hits and five RBI, and Macon Oplinger and Ben Fischer each had three hits and three RBI to lead Menno. Spence Neuharth had two hits and three RBI, and Tyler Miller added two hits and two RBI in the victory.

Blake Gomer, Paul Plante and Michael Kronaizl each had hits for Scotland.

Oplinger went the distance for the win, striking out seven in the five-inning contest. Mike Pietz took the loss.

Menno, 4-9 in SCL play, travels to Yankton on Sunday. Scotland heads to Irene on Sunday.

SCOTLAND.....000 00-0 3 1
MENNO.....2(10)3 2X-17 13 1
Mike Pietz, Michael Kronaizl (2), Paul Plante (3) and Casey Comstock; Macon Oplinger and Jay Thaler

Wynot 13, Freeman 6

FREEMAN — Chase Rolles, Scott Morrison and Aaron Bur-

bach each had three hits as Wynot downed Freeman 13-6 in SCL baseball action on Thursday.

Rolles scored three runs and Morrison had two runs scored and two RBI for Wynot. Lee Heimes had two hits, two runs scored and four RBI. Ryan Heimes and Eric Hames each had two hits in the win.

For Freeman, Mitch Wollman and Brett Scherschligt each had two hits. Alan Scherschligt homered for the Black Sox.

Brett Wiebelhaus picked up the win, striking out five. Alan Scherschligt took the loss.

Wynot is back on the road today, traveling to SCL-leading Crofton. Freeman hosts Tabor on Sunday.

WYNOT.....315 001 012-13 18 3
FREEMAN.....201 000 210-6 10 5
Brett Wiebelhaus and Steve Heimes; Alan Scherschligt and Brett Scherschligt

Legion

Corsica 12, Tabor 9

CORSICA — Nick Blom and Dan Van Zee each had three hits to lead Corsica to a

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Daytona Redoes Gates, Preps For Groundbreaking

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Daytona International Speedway just completed one project and is about to start another.

NASCAR's most famous track finished installation of revamped cross-over gates Wednesday, a day before drivers and teams took to the high-banked oval to begin preparations for Saturday night's 400-mile race.

The gates were reinforced following a frightening wreck in February that injured nearly 30 spectators. Daytona and Talladega added cables at the crossover gates, which allow fans to move between the grandstands and the infield before and after races. The tracks also installed supplemental tethers between the gate frame and support posts.

"I felt before that it was safe place," track president Joie Chitwood III said. "We've been around 55 years and, yes, things happen. But we've done a really good job of giving fans a safe and fun environment. You never stop doing that."

One of the eight gates at Daytona collapsed when rookie Kyle Larson crashed on the final lap of the Nationwide Series race a day before the Daytona 500.

Larson's car went airborne, slammed into the fence and spewed debris into the stands. Larson was unharmed, but dozens of fans were taken to hospitals for treatment, including one who was hit by a tire.

Daytona spent hours repairing the fence before the 500. After the race, the track hired a structural engineering firm to review the fence and propose improvements. NASCAR also was involved in the process.

The next Daytona project is considerably bigger and way more expensive.

The 2 1/2-mile speedway is overhauling the frontstretch to enhance the "fan experience."

International Speedway Corp., which owns Daytona and 12 other NASCAR tracks, estimates the redesign with cost between \$375 million and \$400 million.

The three-year project, scheduled to be completed by January 2016, begins Friday. And it won't have a tradi-

NASCAR Confiscates 31 Roof Flaps

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Thirty-one cars, including 16 in the Sprint Cup Series, failed inspection before Thursday's practices at Daytona International Speedway.

NASCAR confiscated the teams' roof flaps, which are designed to keep cars on the ground during spins and wrecks at high speeds, for further inspection. Penalties could be possible.

The cars involved included all three Joe Gibbs Racing entries (Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin and Matt Kenseth), all three Roush Fenway Racing entries (Greg Biffing, Carl Edwards and Ricky Stenhouse Jr.), all three Michael Waltrip Racing entries (Clint Bowyer, Martin Truex Jr. and Michael Waltrip) and both Roger Penske Racing entries (Joey Logano and defending series champion Brad Keselowski). Cars driven by Jamie McMurray, Trevor Bayne, Casey Mears, Marcos Ambrose and Aric Almirola also failed inspection.

The roof-flap spacers had been illegally machined down to reduce weight.

NASCAR inspectors made those Cup teams install new, unaltered roof flaps before drivers were allowed on the track for the first of two practices.

Inspectors then went to the Nationwide garage and found similar issues on 15 cars.

"When you find something in one garage, you communicate to the other garage," NASCAR spokesman Kerry Tharp said. "We looked into it and this is what we found."

tional groundbreaking ceremony.

Chitwood came up with a creative and competitive campaign for the event, called "Daytona Rising."

He is pitting current and former NASCAR drivers and a

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O'Gorman Grad Transfers, Joins MMC Baseball Program

Dustin Haffeman, a 2012 Sioux Falls O'Gorman graduate who was enrolled at the University of South Dakota last year, will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Wednesday.

Haffeman, a right-handed pitcher, helped O'Gorman to state high school championships in his sophomore and senior seasons. As a senior, he went 5-0, including two complete games and a shutout, and struck out 35 batters in 48 innings. Haffeman was also Sioux Falls West's "Pitcher of the Year" in the 2012 American Legion baseball season, going 6-3 with one save, six complete games and one shutout, striking out 49 batters in 64 innings pitched.

"I am pleased that Dustin has decided to transfer to Mount Marty to continue his education and to play college baseball," said MMC head baseball coach Andy Bernatow. "I recruited him last summer in hopes of getting him to Mount Marty. When I received a call this spring from Dustin inquiring about if the opportunity was still available, I was very ex-



Dustin Haffeman, playing for the Sioux Falls Squirrels amateur baseball team, sends the ball home during a game against the Yankton Tappers last month in Yankton. Haffeman, a 2012 graduate of Sioux Falls O'Gorman, will transfer to Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Friday. He had been enrolled at the University of South Dakota.

cited. He has the ability to be a major contributor on the mound for us and will be a great fit for the baseball program and campus community."

The son of Ritch and Kim

Haffeman, Haffeman will major in criminal justice at Mount Marty College. He will receive an academic honors scholarship in addition to his athletic baseball scholarship at MMC.

Men's Soccer

Colin Davis of Peoria, Ariz., will attend Mount Marty College and play men's soccer for the Lancers, the institution announced on Wednesday.

Davis, a mid-fielder and forward who recently graduated from Raymond S. Kellis High School, recorded five goals and six assists in 13 games this past season. He earned second-team all-district honors, as well as scholar athlete honors.

"Colin will be a great addition to our program," said Nathan Epp, head MMC men's soccer coach. "He is a very aggressive player and has the speed and talent to make an immediate impact on our program and will continue our offense moving in the right direction. He is also the type of student athlete that we look for here at Mount Marty. He excels in the classroom and will be very involved on campus. He will do great things during his time here at Mount Marty College."

Davis, the son of Amy and David Davis, will be majoring in Religious Studies at MMC. In addition to his soccer award he will be receiving an academic honors scholarship.



Davis

5-Time Champ Johnson Has New Take On Restarts

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Five-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson is reshaping his views about restarts.

After two noticeable mistakes during recent restarts late in Sprint Cup races, Johnson said Thursday he plans to "lighten up and loosen up" when it comes to restarts.

"I know the rule," Johnson said. "I feel like I'm maybe a little focused on the way the rule reads exactly and paying maybe too close of attention to that."

Johnson was penalized at Dover early last month for jumping a restart. Since then he's been critical of the pace of restarts and the interpretation of rules regarding them. He had a costly error at Kentucky last week, spinning shortly after a sluggish restart.

Johnson accused leader Matt Kenseth of breaking the pace car speed during the restart.

"There are a lot of restarts, especially during the Kentucky race, that I brought down that I feel like a good citizen, a good student in doing exactly what I'm supposed to," Johnson said. "There are other times when I don't feel that exactly happens and that it's not called on or viewed from the tower as kind of the rule reads."

"At the end of the day, I'm just going to lighten up on how I think about it and use that zone and that area regardless of the way the rule reads to get an advantage and worry about myself."

Kenseth went on to win his fourth race of the season. Johnson, meanwhile, managed to finish ninth and maintain his series points lead.

"Over the last month, month and a half, probably since Dover at least, I think Jimmie's been very frustrated with restarts," Kenseth said. "And I think last weekend ... he just didn't have good restarts. For whatever reason, his car wouldn't restart fast. We've all had cars like that."

Other drivers suggested restarts could be in Johnson's head, a notion he laughed off.