



Arkansas Athletic Trainers' Association

##FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE##

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Athletic Trainer, AED & CPR Critical to Athlete's Survival

Last night at Little Rock's Parkview High School a basketball player collapsed on the bench after playing in a basketball game's first quarter. The athlete was without a pulse & not breathing when a certified athletic trainer (who was there with the visiting Searcy High School team) arrived. He immediately began CPR on him, and this stabilized him. His heart rate was erratic so an automatic external defibrillator (AED) was called for. A first shock was administered & this helped to stabilize the athlete. CPR was maintained by athletic trainer until emergency medical technicians arrived & transported him to Arkansas Childrens' Hospital, where he is currently recovering.

Important Key Points about this incident:

- **Having trained medical personnel on hand for athletic events is critical.** The visiting athletic trainer, along with other key people at the game, was instrumental in the initial assessment of the athlete's condition. Based on his vital signs, they made the decision to call 911, to initiate CPR, and to use the AED.
- **Having an AED on hand was critical to the athlete's survival.** Arkansas' Legislature recently called for AEDs to be on hand at every school, but this was an unfunded mandate. LR Parkview's AED was provided to the school through the Antony Hobbs Foundation by Arkansas Specialty Orthopedics. Fortunately, many schools have acquired them recently on their own or through donations, but unfortunately many schools are without proper access to an AED. We need to make sure that all schools and all athletic facilities can have immediate access to an AED within 2 minutes of cardiac emergency.
- **Not all schools have access to an athletic trainer....less than 15 schools in Arkansas employ an athletic trainer.** It is vital to our state's youth that if they participate in sports that they are protected with the best possible healthcare, and not just for games---practices happen everyday, while games are only 1-2 times per week. An athletic trainer is the best person to handle sports-related injury issues & emergency incidents at athletic events. Who is taking care of your kids?

ABOUT THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION:

Founded in 1987, the AATA exists to advance, encourage, and improve the athletic training profession in the State of Arkansas. The AATA is the state's leading advocate to provide a safer environment and increased health care for all athletes in the State of Arkansas.

For more information: www.swata.org/aata

What is an athletic training? **Athletic training is practiced by athletic trainers, health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities.**

www.nata.org

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