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***Jeffco Public Schools Implements 2015 Pilot Program with Guardian Caps***

Every football player across 17 high schools in the district will wear a Guardian Cap in 2015

**Golden, CO – August 19, 2015** – Jefferson County Public Schools is pleased to announce that every student athlete participating in high school football will be equipped with a Guardian Cap for practices during the 2015 season. In doing so, Jeffco Public Schools becomes the first school district in the nation to implement the Guardian Cap across an entire school district.

The Pilot Program initiative began after one of our football programs in Jeffco, Colorado, and nationwide implemented Guardian Caps for practices with great results. The program will seek to further validate the effectiveness of the Guardian Cap at the high school level of play.

This program is of importance not only to Jeffco Public Schools, but to high schools across the United States as it will generate independent, unbiased, controlled data relating to Guardian Caps, along with the other safety measures Jeffco already has in place: Jeffco has a certified Athletic Trainer overseeing each program and coaches are committed and trained to teach proper tackling technique and fundamentals.

“Our top concern in our athletic programs is the safety of our kids,” said Jeffco Schools’ Athletic Director Jim Thyfault. “One of our schools has tried this in the past with great success, as have other schools, and if we can help reduce the impact to our players, it’s a positive move.”

Columbine High School Football Coach Andy Lowry was part of a trial three years ago and added, “As a coach, it is our responsibility to protect our players the best that we can. Anything we can do to proactively help decrease the impact of hits to our players is a good thing. My eighth-grade son wears one of these to play and I want to care for Jeffco Schools’ kids the way I would care for my own.”

In 2011, the Oregon Ballistics Lab tested the effect of the Guardian Cap on the change in g-force and brain attenuation. The study showed that the Guardian Cap reduced maximum acceleration values and Head Injury Criterion for side (33% reduction), front (31% reduction), and back (25% reduction) impacts from 70G to 39G compared to a standard polycarbonate helmet.

“We would like to commend Jeffco for its efforts to ensure that Guardian Caps are a part of all high school programs in their district,” said Lee Hanson, owner of Guardian Caps. “Jeffco’s administrators are clearly focused on the well-being of their students and we are thrilled that these athletes will join the

(More)



40,000-plus players who have experienced the benefits of Guardian Caps. Jeffco’s proactive stance will pave the way to a better playing experience for athletes everywhere.”

*About Jeffco Public Schools:*

Serving over 86,000 students, Jeffco Public Schools is one of the largest in the nation, with 18 public high schools. Jeffco’s mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future; Jeffco values integrity, teamwork, people, and exemplary performance in order to fulfill its mission.

*About Guardian Caps:*

Founded in 2011, Guardian Caps was born from The Hanson Group, a material science company with two decades of engineering expertise. The lightweight, soft-shell helmet cover fits both lacrosse and football helmets and reduces impacts by up to 33%. With an outer “soft” material of the proper density and stiffness and energy absorbing properties, Guardian Caps reduce the initial severity of the impact. Guardian Caps are here to reduce the impact athletes feel in a hit by dampening the force of impacts and extending them. Guardian Caps are also available at Sports Authority stores nationwide. For more information, please visit: [www.guardiancaps.com](http://www.guardiancaps.com).

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