



Fw: Concussions (Response to Mathieu's email..."need to do something")

Mike Murphy to: Bradley Holland

12/28/2011 04:40 PM

----- Forwarded by Mike Murphy/TOR/NHL on 12/28/2011 04:39 PM -----

From: Mike Murphy/TOR/NHL
To: "Kris King" <KKing@nhl.com>
Cc: "Colin Campbell" <CCampbell@nhl.com>, "Gary Meagher" <GMeagher@nhl.com>
Date: 12/28/2011 02:22 PM
Subject: Re: Concussions (Response to Mathieu's email..."need to do something")

Wish I could add something intelligent but I can'tso I will say something stupid.....I'm a strong believer we are "over doctored".....too many so called experts weighing in who have never been on the field of play....after playing or practicing you don't feel like superman, you're tired and worn out... ..once I started playing in the NHL there were not many days when I felt great....fatigue, sore muscles, bumps, bruises, aches, headaches were commonyou learned to live with them and play with them.....I realize we do have a problem but I think we have enhanced our problem by listening to all these experts.....MM

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 28, 2011, at 2:10 PM, "Kris King" <KKing@nhl.com> wrote:

Well said. Very well thought out. I agree with many of your points on why our numbers are increasing, especially the fact that we as a league have put so much onus on teams and players (quiet room) to report all injuries that "may" be a concussion. I also feel today's players don't mind having a week or 2 off during the season, where we never had that option for fear of losing ice time or worse, our spot in the line up. I do agree we are now at the point where we as a group must do all we can to "beat this up" and not with the Charles Tators of the world, just Hockey people as you have stated.

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Colin Campbell---12/28/2011 12:09 PM EST---Guys, We have discussed this internally...I have talked to young and old, whoops...experienced GMs.

From: Colin Campbell

To: Brendan Shanahan; Rob Blake
Cc: Gary Bettman; Bill Daly; Mike Murphy; Kris King; Julie Grand; Gary Meagher
Date: 12/28/2011 12:09 PM EST
Subject: Re: Concussions (Response to Mathieu's email... "need to do something")

Guys, We have discussed this internally...I have talked to young and old, whoops...experienced GMs. Talked to young and retired players. Theories????many. I would have to say it is a combination of a number of factors. (and you guys can add, delete,...comment as you see). You both (and Kris as well) have bridged the era as players where this concussion conundrum has taken it's roots. I first experienced it with coaching and it was Jeff Beukeboom (before the "SUCKER PUNCH" by Matt Johnson). He took a serious elbow from Owen Nolan in our playoff game with Quebec in 94-95. Missed rest of game, was better next day, got sick 3rd day and missed rest of play-offs. We had never seen this before. BUT...this was a BIG TIME elbow to the head as Jeff moved up to hit Nolan and he countered with an elbow smash as he could. I was sure Bekeboom was babying this and for some reason pulling the "proverbial chute" as this was unheard of. Since then, bumps and soft collisions result in concussions. Hanzal the other night(23rd) for Phoenix took an errant stick to the face, not hard at all and had difficulty getting off the ice and down the corridor. According to Don Maloney they monitored him and by the time they left for LA on Dec 26th he was fine. Then, however, he became nauseated on the plane. He threw up. They have now shut him down. What has occurred in the last 1-5-12 or so years that seems to be increasing thru that time span. Many, many theories but here are a number of them and after the outdoor game we should try and get a handle on this...almost like an allergy and we need a 100 pin pricks to see what is affecting the human system. **POSSIBLE FACTORS:**(not in any order). 1) Fear and nervousness about the fact a headache or lousy feeling MAY be a concussion. 2) The speed of the Game now because of the rules and better athletes. 3) The strength and size of the players today. 4) The size/mass/hardness of the equipment (elbow pads and shoulder pads) that has players delivering hits with equipment...not their bodies...and catching players with the mass of the equipment. 5) The rules at all other levels of hockey before they get to the NHL. These players are protected by rules and by the fact there are sub-par players at the college, European and CHL leagues that will never make it. In the NHL all players are fast, strong and big. 6) Players put themselves in ridiculous, stupid situations and are responsible 75 per cent of the time for exposing themselves to a hit. You can't slow or stop a player now with a hook or quick grab...you can only bodycheck him. Unlike in the *olden days* where there were no panels, cameras, eye in the sky Player Safety department, 2 referees, etc if you didn't look after yourself you WOULD get killed and let your team down as that would give the opposition the benefit of knowing they took you out....never show an injury. Get off the ice and grimace until you get in the dressing room. It is entirely opposite now...lay down and "suck out" that 5 min call and perhaps a suspension. 7) The fact that there are way, way more hits in a game now. The 3rd and 4th line are energy lines and throw 4 or 5 hits every shift. Our Game never saw the hitting like it is now. *I have probably missed some theories but we certainly need to break this down as hockey people. We perhaps could look at this in our GM March meeting and not only in a ...perhaps unintended benefit of appeasing the world that we are concerned.... but first*

*and foremost attacking this **CONCUSSION EPIDEMIC** with the experience that all our GMs have and Hockey Ops people along with the information Gary, Bill and Julie have accumulated over the past 5-10 years. It can't hurt and perhaps brain storming this we can /will discover ,marry, arrive at some steps we can take to reduce or even halt the increasing numbers of concussions. I am sick and tired of all these other Think Tanks **WITH** reputable people just blaming it on the NHL because our players and our rules lead to concussions because simply of player behaviour. We may even have to negotiate our flexibility to do what we have to do in the next CBA without interference from the NHLPA . It is obvious I have had lots of time to think after this second knee operation but this seems to be the ISSUE that is on everyone's front burner.... and one that continues to mystify and baffle as to why they seem to be multiplying.*