

April 16, 2008

**Section:** BUSINESS

**Edition:** FINAL EDITION

**Page:** C01



### **Sports injury info going beyond NCAA**

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A company launched this week in Indianapolis marries two of Indiana's strengths: sports and the life sciences.

The nonprofit Datalys Center was formed to collect and analyze nationwide data about the treatment and prevention of sports and exercise injuries. Formed through a collaboration of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the American College of Sports Medicine and BioCrossroads -- all based in Indianapolis -- Datalys will gather data on millions of American athletes and use the information to educate the public and help develop safer programs, rules and policies.

Troy Hege, Datalys' president, said the company will expand on the NCAA's 25-year-old Injury Surveillance System, tracking data from peewee leagues through high school and even weekend leagues for adults. "By taking it outside the NCAA and putting it into this nonprofit, it really gives us the opportunity to expand successfully and serve different constituencies," said Hege, 36. Datalys, which Hege said received \$1 million in cash or in-kind services from its three supporting organizations in March, is a spinoff of Novus Sport, a research company founded five years ago as a sort of sports division of BioCrossroads, which promotes and finances the local life-sciences industry.

The project's backers say a data-gathering enterprise of this type and scale is a first; universities and research centers for sports injuries tend to focus on specific sports or populations. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 10,000 emergency room visits per day result from sports, recreation or exercise.

Robert Vowels, NCAA vice president for education services, said the organization gathers data on 380,000 athletes in three divisions -- the largest system of college athletics data in the world. Trainers report the information over the Web. The NCAA's Injury Surveillance System has been used to change equipment rules and practice schedules to prevent heat-related injuries to football players. The database also was cited when the NCAA required eye protection for women's lacrosse players.

But the same system also could benefit high school, youth and adult leagues across

the country. The Datalys Center wants to expand ISS because your weekend basketball league doesn't have the same resources to deal with injuries as, say, the Indiana University men's team.

"That same need really does exist for all sports at all levels," said Jim Whitehead, executive vice president and chief executive of the College of Sports Medicine. "It's a critical issue in all sports. It cuts across literally every sport at every age."

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#### Datalys Center

Purpose: Conduct research to help reduce the occurrence and improve the treatment of sports- and exercise-related injuries.

Leadership: Troy Hege, president. Hege also heads Novus Sport.

Plans: Datalys is seeking to hire a director of research and plans to hire as many as seven employees in the next 2 1/2 years.

Location: Operates out of the BioCrossroads offices at 300 N. Meridian St., Suite 950, Indianapolis.

To learn more: Contact Hege at (317) 238-2460.

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