

Butch Woolfolk Joins Forward Edge To Help Tackle Steroids in Schools

As a player and a parent, Butch Woolfolk wants to do whatever he can to keep student athletes from using steroids to improve their game.

Editor Ty Weaver

Former NFL Player and rose bowl game MVP Butch Woolfolk joins the Forward Edge staff as the new business developer. In this role Woolfolk plans to build a team environment to help in the company's development and implementation of steroid testing for Texas high school students.

With Woolfolk's background in professional sports and a son, who was recently recruited to play football for the University of Michigan, he has not only seen steroid abuse firsthand, but he is also a parent concerned about the dangerous side effects of drugs. In past Texas Senate and House hearings, Woolfolk spoke about the effects of steroids to numerous legislators.

"There's a lot more to this than just passing a law. Kids are using steroids and they are doing so at dangerous levels," said Woolfolk.

To date, there is a bill in the Texas

legislature to conduct steroid testing for student athletes. The current bill says that the state is going to test a statistically significant number of athletes. A statistically significant number is a percentage of the total population. In the case of this current bill the statistically significant number is three percent. The total number of student athletes in Texas is approximately 750,000. Passing this bill would open the door to test 22,500 student athletes. Some critics of the bill feel that this is not enough to deter students from abusing steroids. Woolfolk is confident that it is a matter of time before more states will follow and establish steroid testing legislation.

The advantage of having Butch Woolfolk on the Forward Edge staff is his own experience seeing the effects of steroids on people involved in sports. "I've been there. I've watched it. Once you've watched it, you have more of a commitment to get the kids off of the steroids. It's not just a business for me. It's a passion of

mine," said Woolfolk.

The availability of steroids has become increasingly easier to access. "High school kids can get it. Junior high kids can get it. Back in the day, it was more of a professional sports thing," said Woolfolk. "With 750,000 student athletes in Texas, they are exposed to it. My son is a top athlete in Texas and he's been exposed to it."

Texas Lieutenant Governor, David Dewhurst, has approached Butch Woolfolk and Forward Edge to find out more about the steroids students are using. Dewhurst is responsible for spearheading the steroid legislation.

As the Texas legislators debate the steroid testing bill, Butch Woolfolk and his winning team huddle to execute a winning drive to get students away from steroids.

Download the complete podcast
at www.onesourcetox.com

Student Drug Testing Provides Intervention and Confidentiality

A year ago, no one would have imagined the success and acceptance of student drug testing at Cy-Fair ISD.

Editor Ty Weaver

As the academic school year for Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District draws to an end, so will the first year of random student drug testing. On May 8, 2007, the school district conducted another open community meeting to discuss the past year's drug testing program.

After the first year of drug testing, it was clear to the administration about the true value of random student drug testing in schools. Safe and Drug-Free Coordinator Nancy Rose said, "The main objective for student drug testing was to intervene a student's drug use and to provide better health for students."

Students were able to use the drug testing as a valid excuse to escape peer pressure when confronted about the choice of using drugs. Students throughout the year made a conscious effort to choose not to use drugs.

The testing process enabled school administrators to identify whether or not a student had used drugs. Prior to drug testing, parents and administrators did not have this tool as a way of intervention. Students who tested positive for drugs were initially in denial during the medical review process, as were many of the parents. Drug testing and parent intervention provide a strong method of deterring drug abuse among students.

Once a student tests positive, he or she is submitted to a one-hour assessment with a dependency counselor for an evaluation of their drug use. "The meeting with the dependency counselor is paid for by the district. In addition, the district will pay for three more hours with a counselor if the student feels that it is

necessary," said Rose. "However, the evaluation is not a means of treatment."

Additional student organizations were added to the list of extracurricular activities for drug testing. Those activities include PALS, Young Women For Positive Action, Young Men For Positive Action, HOLA and Robotics.

Meeting attendees were given a presentation about the student specimen collection process by Forward Edge Sales Manager Margaret Gilbert. The presentation reiterated some of the important collection procedures for student drug testing with an emphasis on the security and confidentiality provided by Forward Edge.

Forward Edge's Medical Review Officer Dr. Wayne Keller spoke about his process of notifying the parents of the student after a positive drug test result. As a medical review officer, it is his role to seek a legitimate medical explanation for a student's positive drug test result.

Testing confidentiality was stressed heavily at the meeting as well. Forward Edge and Cy-Fair ISD have taken precautions to protect students' privacy. The only person to break the confidentiality of a test result is the student. A positive result will not be placed in a student's academic record and law enforcement officials are not contacted regardless of the drug test results.

For more information about Cy-Fair ISD's random student drug testing program, visit www.cfsd.net.