

PREFACE



WILLIAM C. LAUERMAN, MD
Guest Editor

It was indeed my pleasure to accept Dr. Miller's invitation to put together an issue of *Clinics in Sports Medicine* dealing with spinal disorders and injury in athletes. I hope the reader will be pleased with the variety of topics presented, all dealing with either common or potentially very serious injuries or conditions involving athletes.

The issue leads off with Dr. Robert McAlindon reviewing appropriate initial evaluation and treatment of athletes who have sustained a head and/or neck injury during competition. This is an up-to-date review dealing with one of the few times that orthopaedic surgeons come into contact with potentially life-threatening injuries. Drs. Allen and Kang have contributed a manuscript on transient quadriplegia in the athlete. This overview brings us up to date on current thinking in terms of etiology, treatment, and return-to-play considerations. Drs. Brian Shannon and Klimkiewicz have contributed a very thorough review dealing with the subjunctive cervical burners in athletes. This is a common condition, relatively poorly understood and clarified greatly, I believe, by this article.

Drs. Greg Sassmannshausen and Smith have helped out with a discussion of what I believe to be one of the most difficult patient populations to treat, the young athlete with back pain. Their common sense approach to evaluation and management, I am quite sure, will be extremely helpful. Dr. R. Lane Wimberly and I have reviewed the all too common cause of back pain, spondylolisthesis in the athlete.

We are then fortunate enough to have Dr. Kirkham Wood from the University of Minnesota and the Twin City Spine Center, who has reviewed the topic of spinal deformity, both scoliosis and kyphosis in the adolescent athlete.

Dr. Robert Watkins has provided an overview of lumbar disc injuries in athletes and Dr. Anthony Delitto discusses for us the subject of low back rehabilitation in the athlete. Finally, Drs. Trainor and Wiesel review the epidemiology of low back pain in the athlete.

Hopefully, this collection of articles will prove both entertaining and educational. There is much new information regarding etiology, evaluation, and treatment for many of these conditions and I hope that this issue of *Clinic in Sports*

Medicine will provide a valuable reference for physicians treating both adolescent and adult athletes.

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