

Positive Coverage Continues

BY S. A. UNGER

Kevin Everett case highlights excellent medical care in Buffalo

THE DRAMATIC RECOVERY of Buffalo Bills' tight end Kevin Everett following a severe spinal cord injury continues to be widely reported in the national media, and UB alumni and medical school faculty have appeared in a variety of forums to discuss the role they and the Buffalo medical community played in his care.

Everett fractured and dislocated his spine at the third and fourth cervical vertebrae on September 9, 2007, during a game against the Denver Broncos. The injury he sustained was potentially life threatening and is one that often leads to paralysis. Since that time, he has regained the ability to walk and continues to make remarkable progress at home in Houston, Texas, where he is undergoing rehabilitation at Memorial Hermann Medical Center.

Andrew Cappuccino, MD '88, a team physician with the Bills, performed emergency spine surgery on Everett at Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital and ordered therapeutic hypothermia (cold therapy) both before and after the surgery. John Marzo, MD, a member of the UB Sports Medicine Institute and the Bills' medical director, worked with Cappuccino and the Bills' training staff on the field to provide immediate treatment and prepare Everett for transport.

"At this point, Kevin is ambulating on his own," Cappuccino told *Buffalo Physician* in early February. "He has persistent neurological deficits of some fine-motor groups and also for other upper-extremity muscle groups; however, he continues to work through these with therapy. Overall his recovery

is substantially better than we could have ever hoped for."

The reporting on Everett's case and the care he received by the Buffalo medical community has been unequivocally positive and has

fostered heightened interest in and robust debate about the use of hypothermia in spinal cord injury.

The following are highlights of some of the print and television coverage received to date:

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED devoted its December 11, 2007, cover story to Everett's injury and subsequent rehabilitation. In detailing the treatment provided by the Buffalo medical community, the article states that "Everett's care was remarkable on many levels."

The article, by Tim Layden, can be read online at <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com>. Search "Kevin Everett," and then scroll down to the entry titled "Tim Layden: Kevin

Everett is making big strides thanks to aggressive medical care (12.11.2007)."

CAPPUCCINO AND EVERETT appeared together on the Oprah Winfrey Show on January 31, 2008. They also appeared on Good Morning America, ABC Nightly News, ESPN and Nightline.

MEHMET OZ, MD, Oprah Winfrey's medical consultant, discussed the case on the Larry King Show on January 23, 2008.

KEVIN GIBBONS, MD, clinical assistant professor of neurosurgery at UB and director of the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit at Millard Fillmore Hospital, who assisted on the surgery with senior neurosurgical resident Ken Snyder, was interviewed on CNN and quoted extensively in a January 15, 2008, article in the New York Times. He also appeared on the ABC Nightly News.

Another "Save" for the Buffalo Medical Community

NHL forward Richard Zednik recovers from severed artery

THE BUFFALO MEDICAL COMMUNITY was in the national spotlight again in February 2008 due to another serious professional sports injury that took place during a Buffalo Sabres match against the Florida Panthers at HSBC Arena.

Prompt and skilled treatment by area medical professionals is credited with saving the life of Panther forward Richard Zednik after a teammate's skate cut three-quarters of the way through his right carotid artery.

Despite bleeding profusely, Zednik managed to skate to the bench, where

Sabres team doctor Leslie Bisson, MD, clinical assistant professor in the UB Department of Orthopaedics, immediately put pressure on the lacerated artery and slowed the blood loss. Bisson was assisted by his fellow team physician William Hartrich, MD, clinical instructor in the UB Department of Medicine, and by Panther trainer Dave Zenobi and Sabre trainer Tim Macre.

Zednik was transported to Buffalo General Hospital (BGH), where staff had been alerted by an off-duty employee who was watching the game on televi-

CAPPUCCINO was a featured speaker at the NFL Physicians Society Meeting in February. He has also been selected to the NFL Committee to establish national guidelines for management of NFL cervical spine injuries.

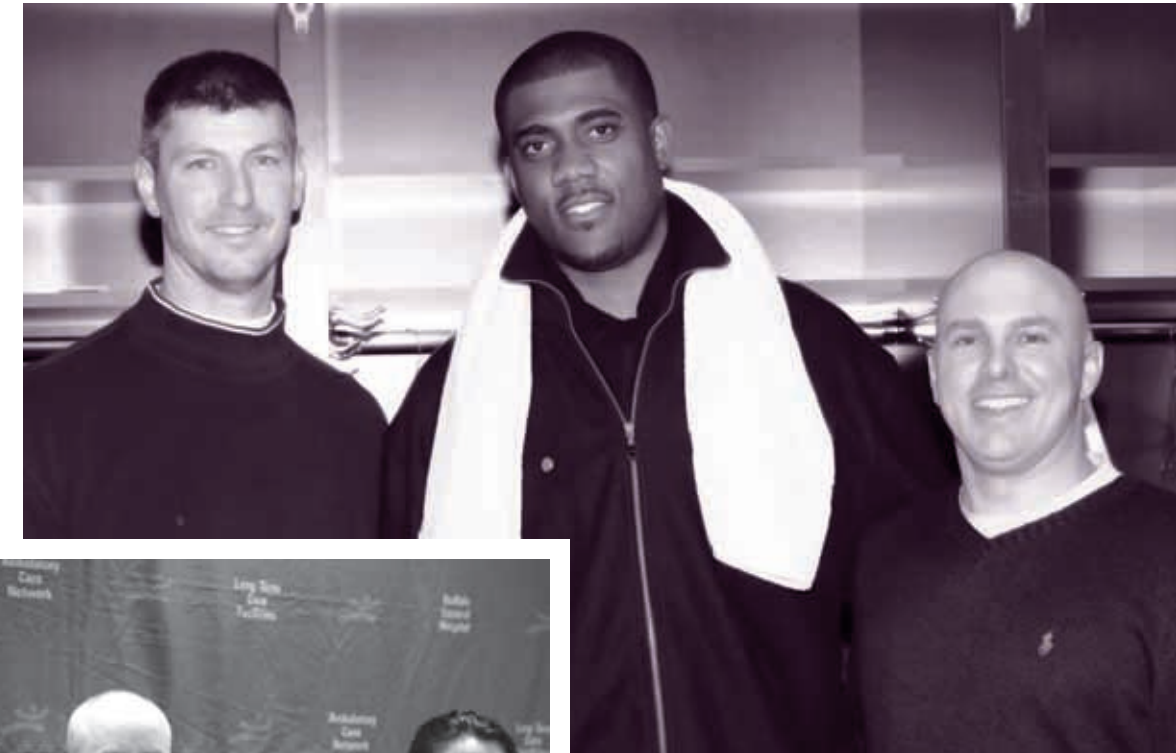
IN ITS SPRING ISSUE, the journal Orthopedics published a question-and-answer article with Cappuccino regarding the use of hypothermia.

CAPPUCCINO has been asked by Rhode Island representative Patrick Kennedy to take part in a Neurotechnology Forum at Brown University in June 2008.

THE BUFFALO BILLS training staff was named NFL Athletic Training Staff of the Year for the first time, in large part due to their treatment of Everett.

THE BUFFALO MEDICAL COMMUNITY is positively featured in a recently published book titled *Standing Tall, The Kevin Everett Story*, by Sam Carchidi.

FROM LEFT: John Marzo, MD, a member of the UB Sports Medicine Institute and the Buffalo Bills medical director; Kevin Everett; and Andrew Cappuccino, MD '88, a team physician with the Bills who performed spine surgery on Everett.



Pictured LEFT TO RIGHT at a press conference to discuss Richard Zednik's case are Leslie Bisson, MD, team physician with the Sabres; Robert McCormack, MD, chief of emergency medicine, Buffalo General Hospital; and Sonya Noor, MD, who performed surgery on Zednik.

At a press conference held on February 11, 2008, Noor explained that Zednik's carotid was "hanging by a thread." She explained that this kept the vessels from retracting, which would have made it difficult to retrieve and reconnect them.

"The biggest challenge is the bleeding," she said. "There is so much blood that it is hard to see. Time is of the essence, too. The shorter the time to the clamp, the better."

Zednik is recovering with no apparent complications; however, Noor says his hockey season is over. **EP**

—S. A. UNGER