# Meet Michael Davis, LAT, ATC

**Michael is a health care provider and a young professional in the Project 17 Certified Athletic Trainer initiative in the Duval County Public Schools. Michael is a fan of sports and recognizes his importance in regard to player safety. He has seen his share of bumps, bruises and breaks that occur to high school athletes. As an athletic trainer, Michael sees his primary job as an educational resource for kids and coaches by providing sports safety leadership which helps prevent injury.**

**By the numbers:** *DCPS Injurefree*

- **A total of 56 reportable injuries were recorded @ assigned school. (Aug 2019 – Oct 2019)**
- **10 student athletes were evaluated and treated for sports-related concussion.**
- **Heat illness accounted for 9% of the reported injuries.**
- **5 athletes sustained fractures to bones.**



PROJECT 17
Certified Athletic Trainer Program

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Game time is never a simple task for a certified athletic trainer at the high school level. When you think about a game day in the NFL or college setting, these levels of competition benefit from a wealth of health care resources. On any given day at these levels, there are more than 20 health care providers assigned to keeping the football team safe. High school is a different monster. On a football game night, an athletic trainer is generally running solo up until kickoff when the volunteer physician and EMS crew join them if everything goes as planned. Before the game, however, the athletic trainer is immersed in getting the team ready as well as getting the cheerleaders ready, evaluating cross country and volleyball players with bumps, bruises, or evaluating the swimmer with a sore shoulder. The life of a high school athletic trainer can become overwhelming, "but that's the challenge," says Michael Davis, head athletic trainer at Atlantic Coast High School in Duval County, FL. "You have to keep an even temperament and be ready for things to hit you on-the-fly," Davis adds.

On this particular afternoon, a football athlete reports minor abdominal pain before the game, for which Davis goes through a complete examination. The athletic trainer does not seem concerned; after all, butterflies are usual on game night. Upon the arrival of volunteer team physician Kevin Kaplan, MD, Davis reviews the case and both agree to monitor the athlete. The first half ends without incident, but that changes in an instant. Soon after the team arrives in the locker room for the half time meeting, the young man collapses in acute abdominal distress. "At this point, our emergency action plan we rehearse kicks into place," comments Davis. With haste, athletic trainer, team physician and EMS crews work to stabilize the ill athlete and prepare him for emergency transport and further evaluation at the hospital. The outcome of this case is excellent, and the athlete returns to school on Monday. This story highlights the need for athletic trainers as an integral part of sports safety and emergency care for student-athletes. Through the Project17 initiative, the Duval County Public Schools have prioritized sports safety and have made the DCPS a safer place to play.

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