



Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association

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For Immediate Release

Matt Dunigan and Graeme Bell Spread Message of Safety in Sports

Saskatoon – The Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA) will host 30 **Saskatoon Minor Football** athletes as part of this weekend's **BHP Billiton Brain Blitz presented by WorkSafe Saskatchewan**. This special community event is designed to tackle the issue of concussion in a fun environment with CFL Hall of Famer, **Matt Dunigan**, and former Saskatchewan Roughrider, **Graeme Bell**.

Dunigan and Bell will work with the athletes on their football skills, and then talk with them about safety in sports. The event combines safety in sports with physical activity, which is an important part of a healthy lifestyle, to encourage the athletes to "Respect the Unexpected". The event takes place on May 3 at 11 a.m. next to **Griffiths Stadium**, where the **U of S Huskies** are having their Spring Training Camp.

"Life is full of choices - to speak or to listen, to encourage or to dishearten, to play or to watch, to love or to hate. I have chosen to speak, encourage, play and to love in the wonderful city of Saskatoon!" said **Matt Dunigan**, "I'm looking forward to being teammates with the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association and making a difference in the world of sport."

The athletes will sign the **Take Brain Injury Out of Play Pledge**, a declaration to make safety a priority and play with respect, inside Griffiths Stadium with the U of S Huskies in the background, showing their support for the event.

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults worldwide. Thirty percent of brain injuries are caused by sport injuries. Canadian statistics indicate that there are 2,200 new cases of ABI in Saskatchewan each year, 660 of which are caused by sports injuries.

Following the Community Event, at 7 p.m. Dunigan is scheduled to speak at the *Springtime in Paris* **BHP Billiton Brain Blitz Gala, presented by WorkSafe Saskatchewan**, alongside Gala emcee, Catriona Le May Doan who joins the event courtesy of Saskatchewan Blue Cross.

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For more information and tickets: www.sbia.ca/brain-blitz.aspx
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