An Invaluable Piece of Equipment

In the National Football League (NFL), injuries are an inevitable part of the fast-paced and hard-hitting sport. As such, player wellbeing and safety are critical to a team’s success in a league where one game can change the course of a season. Training and practice can only do so much to prepare players for in-game experiences, so teams need modern medical solutions for when injuries do happen. For John Norwig’s organization, the Fluoroscan® InSight® FD Mini C-arm system is essential, especially for cases involving the extremities.

“I think it’s an invaluable piece of equipment for us,” said Norwig. “For the extremities, we have been very pleased with the performance of the unit we have. It makes us more efficient as far as the sports medicine team is concerned.”

Speed and Safety for Any Situation

Over the course of the regular season, NFL teams only have 16 games to position themselves for a playoff run. With typically only one week of rest and practice in between games, player injuries can quickly derail a championship contender’s season. When it comes to diagnosing and treating a player’s medical issues, time is of the essence.

“I really believe that the system is essential to my job and to our team.”

“There’s no question that a mini C-arm gives you immediate feedback. The Hologic unit that we have is simple to use, so you have an answer in a matter of seconds. You have more information to help guide you in providing appropriate care for the athlete and I think it helps our athletes to be seen immediately in our facility rather than having to wait to get an x-ray.”

John Norwig, M.Ed., ATC
Head Athletic Trainer
National Football League (NFL)
As the head athletic trainer, Norwig prioritizes player safety above all else and credits the mini C-arm system for providing accurate and immediate insights.

“It’s about getting the players back on the field safely, but not prematurely. We want to do it as quickly as possible with the element of safety being the number one concern. If somebody gets a hand or foot contusion, or has an ankle sprain or hurts their wrist or elbow, the system gives us an opportunity to take a quick look at the joint and see if there is any type of abnormality.”

Norwig utilizes the Fluoroscan® InSight® FD mini C-arm system for a wide variety of cases involving the extremities, as well as at different points during a player’s recovery.

“Ensuring Player Confidence and Trust

In addition to the modern operational features offered by the Fluoroscan® InSight® FD mini C-arm like the rotating flat detector and touchscreen interface, Norwig values the system for one of the more intangible components it provides: player confidence.

“I think it gives the player a level of confidence so that when they do return to action, they know that they’re either healed or that they have no joint subluxation. It certainly provides us with an opportunity to give the athlete the confidence that’s needed to return to the playing field.”

Having spent years as a certified athletic trainer, Norwig understands the importance of player confidence. He can attest to the way in which medical care and modern solutions help foster trust between players and the medical team through education.

“There’s always a level of trust that goes into healthcare. When an athlete can see their own body on the mini C-arm system, it provides them with an element of trust and education. It’s a great educational tool because you can show the athlete what the injury is and where it occurred, helping them have confidence in the care being provided.”

Applications for Any Sport

Although John Norwig has spent the last 29 years working in professional football, he certainly sees and understands the application of mini C-arm systems across various sports and athletic competitions.