

I want to share a standard message to clarify the boundaries between my medical background and my coaching role. I am a physician who completed medical school and residency in Family Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, including two years of primary care at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Main Campus, and rotations in pediatric sports medicine and orthopedic surgery at Texas Children's Hospital. While I have extensive training and experience managing injuries such as concussions, broken bones, and lacerations, my primary role here is that of a coach.

I will always respond in the moment to help keep players safe—for example, stopping play if someone is injured, assisting with basic first aid, or helping assess whether a player can safely return to play. However, this does not replace an in-person medical evaluation by your child's own healthcare provider or a specialist. I will always recommend that your child be evaluated by their own physician, urgent care, or a specialist when appropriate.

All injuries are reported to the Dawson athletic trainers, and any notes from your doctor will go directly to them (not to me). The athletic training staff alone will decide whether or not your athlete is ready to return to activity.

This approach protects your child, you as a family, and me as a licensed provider. My goal is to advocate for athlete safety while respecting the boundaries of my role. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns with me at any time.

Coach Esteban Fernandezlopez, MD