

Good Morning!

I was planning on coming to Hartford today to tell a bit about our story, sadly my son Remi who suffered a concussion on February 8, 2014 is still having symptoms and is unable to withstand a full day of school, so he is home this morning with me.

Our Story...Remi age 10 was playing in a Darien, CT house hockey game on February 8th, 2014 when he went to block a shot on goal and ran into the boards, not head first, but with enough force to take a blow to his brain. He acted like he got the wind knocked out of him, "tried to stand up, felt dizzy, lost consciousness for a split second, went back down"...all while play continued, finally the ref blew the whistle. Remi did get up, was a bit shaken, but after a couple minutes on the bench the coach asked if he was okay to go back in. Remi played the rest of the game.

After the game, he did not complain about his head, he just said he wanted to "chill out". A couple hours later he said he was okay to go to play in his soccer game. My husband took him and dropped him at Chelsea Piers to play in a 5 a side match. The minute my husband pulled back into our garage, my intuition told me something was not right. I got into the car, drove back to CPCT to be at the game. Remi was disorientated and just looked off. After the game, it was clear that something was not right. We started researching concussions and he seemed to be having most of the symptoms.

Both of the coaches in these games were volunteer coaches, both Dad's. The more I research and learn about concussions, the more I know that those involved in sports and in schools, need to become educated about the symptoms. If we had known the warning signs, Remi would not have continued playing in the hockey game and would NEVER have gone to play in the soccer game. The fact that he went on to play compromised his injury.

I would personally like to thank Katherine Snedaker who has taken time to not only educate me on the medical portion of a concussion, but also has taken so much of her own time to fill me on "the tricks" of dealing with a very active 10 year old boy, who does not necessarily understand the importance of healing his brain.

Thank you, I am in full support of educating, preventing, and supporting the healing process of this difficult injury we call concussions.

Regards,

Susan Zachary Maher
Remi Maher's Mom