



**American
Heart
Association.**



Every two to three days, a young athlete in the US dies of cardiac arrest

The Joel Cornette Foundation makes \$1 million investment to advance emergency response training and support science to prevent sudden cardiac death in athletes

CINCINNATI, June 2024 – The American Heart Association, a global force for healthier lives for all, is pleased to announce that the Joel Cornette Foundation is continuing its impact with the association to fund an initiative to accelerate a new future for young athletes and their families. The Joel Cornette Foundation has made a \$1 million investment to support youth sport CPR & AED education, awareness, and training. The grant will also fund science to understand the risks and prevent sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes.

The Joel Cornette Foundation was established to honor the life and legacy of Joel Cornette, Butler University basketball standout who led the University to three NCAA Tournaments and one trip to the NIT. Joel had an amazing career and was loved by his family and many friends. But at just 35, Joel passed away.

“Having lost my seemingly healthy, athletic and vibrant son to heart disease, I am passionate about discovering how to prevent this from happening to others,” said Joel’s mother Christi Cornette, President, The Joel Cornette Foundation. “We have an urgent need for more research to stop tragic and unacceptable deaths of young athletes.”

Support from the Joel Cornette Foundation is multifaceted focusing on youth sports, particularly disparities as black athletes are about three times as likely as white athletes to die from sudden cardiac death. Given that less than 50% of youth sports coaches have been trained in CPR, the initiative will help implement cardiac emergency response plans allow CPR training events and increase AED access.

The Foundation’s investment will also continue the momentum of registering athletes into the Outcomes Registry for Cardiac Conditions in Athletes (ORCCA) Study, which strives to uncover evidence needed to predict and prevent sudden cardiac death among athletes. Findings from this study can also benefit the general population’s approach to heart health.

“As the American Heart Association drives towards the 2030 goal of doubling survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, the investment from the Joel Cornette Foundation is critical in achieving this goal, said Alyson Poling, Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati American

Heart Association. “We are grateful for the support of the Foundation as a key collaborator in the association’s mission to build a Nation of Lifesavers.”

To learn more about the CPR, AED and join the Nation of Lifesavers, visit heart.org.

About cardiac arrest in athletes:

- In the U.S. a young athlete dies of cardiac arrest every two to three days.
- Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death during exercise and sports, far surpassing heat illness, head injuries and other causes of sudden death.
- Black males are among the highest risk group with about 6 out of every 100,000 Black college-age males experiencing cardiac arrest each year.
- The inability to identify those at high risk for sudden cardiac death stems from a lack of data on the conditions that lead to the untimely death of seemingly healthy individuals