

# Thinking about the Unthinkable: Security Planning for the Serious Event

Officer Ted Gagnon – Saco (Maine) Police Department  
Gary Stevens, Athletic Administrator – Thornton Academy  
Allan Young, Associate Head of School – Thornton  
Academy



# A Heightened State of Alert in American Schools

**Columbine High School**



**Sandy Hook Elementary School**



# Major Threats to Sports Events: The 2013 Boston Marathon



# A Simple and Frightening Truth



- “Athletic arenas are soft targets.” – Dr. Lou Marciani – University of Southern Mississippi

# Challenges for Managing Large Scale Athletic Events



- ◆ Athletic facilities may have multiple entrances that are challenging to manage
- ◆ Large numbers of people in attendance
- ◆ Chaotic and volatile environment

# Challenges for Managing Large Scale Athletic Events



- Layout of the athletic facility
- Infrastructure – ex. lighting, parking lots
- Availability of financial and human resources
- Relationship between school and law enforcement agencies

# Implications for High School Athletic Administrators

- ◆ High school athletic administrators must examine emergency preparedness through new lenses
- ◆ Situations such as an active shooter that may have been unimaginable must now be at center of one's attention
- ◆ Need to work collaboratively with local law enforcement to identify proactive measures and develop potential solutions

# The School Emergency Response Team



- ◆ Principal
- ◆ Athletic Administrator
- ◆ School Resource Officer and other representatives of Police Department
- ◆ Fire Department and Rescue Services
- ◆ Consultants with Specialized Knowledge

# Tools of the Trade



- ◆ Provide law enforcement with most current information about school campus
- ◆ Updated maps of all buildings, grounds, and athletic facilities
- ◆ Systems of communication (Cell Phones, Two-Way Radios)
- ◆ Numbered access points

# The Most Critical Component



# Game Day Security



- 💧 Security Job Descriptions
- 💧 Include adequate resources for security in budget
- 💧 Strategic placement of security at events
- 💧 Planning for safety of participants

# Proactive Measures to Prevent a Serious Incident



- ◆ Have a written plan for managing major incidents
- ◆ Employ capable front-line staff (ticket takers, parking attendants) and ***train them*** to assist in security screening
- ◆ Signage to direct people away from restricted areas

# The Angry Fan



- ✔ Know your fan base
- ✔ Communication with colleagues
- ✔ Communication with law enforcement
- ✔ Plan for intervention

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #1: Secure the perimeter by limiting the number of spectator entrances to athletic facilities during contests

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #2:  
Incorporate an adequate security presence at major athletic events
- ◆ Position personnel in a strategic manner

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #3: Develop a written plan and share it with all players involved in the operation
- ◆ Periodic review of the plan

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #4: Identify where are team members and other game personnel should go in the event of an incident
- ◆ How do you communicate that?

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #5: Be prepared for a “lockdown” in the event of a serious incident
- ◆ The natural instinct to “flee”

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #6: Identify the role of the public address announcer when an incident occurs
- ◆ Prepared scripts for various scenarios in the announcer's packet
- ◆ Persona of the announcer
- ◆ *The Voice Above the Crowd* ([www.niaaa.org](http://www.niaaa.org))

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- ◆ Step #7: Review the post-incident communication plan
- ◆ Crime Scene
- ◆ Shift of locus of control
- ◆ Role of the athletic administrator in dealing with the media

# Event Planning and Preparation: Components of the Plan



- **Step #8:**  
Consider using the facility to host a police tactical session

# Involving the Coaching Staff



- ◆ Invite to Preseason Coaches Meetings
- ◆ Emergency Response Strategies – particularly for remote practice locations
- ◆ Provide cell phones/radios for all staff
- ◆ Rehearse emergency situations

# Jay Hammes and Safe Sport Zone



# Safe Sport Zone Program

- ◆ [www.safesportzone.com](http://www.safesportzone.com)
- ◆ Safety Training Program - \$15.00 per person/minimum of 40 participants
- ◆ Seven steps for mitigating liability
- ◆ Emphases:
  - ◆ Building the team
  - ◆ Screening the gate entrance
  - ◆ Dealing with the irate fan

# e-Ticketing



# NCS4 – National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security



- ◆ [www.ncs4.com](http://www.ncs4.com)
- ◆ Assessment and training of administrators of events for safety
- ◆ Established in 2006 at the University of Southern Mississippi
- ◆ Grant from Mississippi Office of Homeland Security and Department of Homeland Security

# Components of NCS4 Program



- ◆ Training
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ Certification for Sports Venue Personnel
  - ◆ Certified Sport Security Professionals (Summer, 2014)
  - ◆ Certified Sport Venue Staff (ex. Ticket Takers, Parking Staff)
- ◆ Research of Sports Incidents

# Professional Development Opportunities



- ◆ NCS4 Pilot Programs in Michigan, Connecticut, Indiana in 30 school districts
- ◆ Have trained 4000 security professionals and 1000 incident command personnel
- ◆ New LTI course (LTC 631 – Emergency Management of Interscholastic Sporting Events) splitting off from LTC 630
- ◆ *Interscholastic Athletic Administration*

# Questions



# Special Thanks

- ◆ Ray Demers – Saco Police Department
- ◆ Jeffrey Cook – Saco Police Department

# Contact Information

- ◆ Gary Stevens
  - ◆ (207)-282-3361 ext. 4406
  - ◆ (207)-671-4578
  - ◆ E-mail: [gary.stevens@thorntonacademy.org](mailto:gary.stevens@thorntonacademy.org)
- ◆ Allan Young
  - ◆ (207)-282-3361 ext. 4435
  - ◆ E-mail: [allan.young@thorntonacademy.org](mailto:allan.young@thorntonacademy.org)
- ◆ Officer Ted Gagnon, Saco Police Department
  - ◆ E-mail: [ted.gagnon@thorntonacademy.org](mailto:ted.gagnon@thorntonacademy.org)

Thank You for Attending!

