**Slug-Head:** Some Ohio High Schools Are Disregarding Student-Athletes’ Concussion Safety.  
**Slug-Deck:** Some High Schools in Ohio are not tracking their student-athletes’ concussions nor are they requiring mandatory training for their coaches.

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A survey of Ohio High Schools reveals that seven out of the 24 surveyed high schools said the athletic department does not track the number of concussions a high school athlete receives in games and practices, which according the CDC is a very important part of the recovery process.

When the student journalists requested the records from Youngstown City School District for a record of every concussion for this year and last year, the assistant district records officer said the district has no record of a concussion injury in the past nine years.

“I saw four concussions today,” said Dr. Joseph Congeni, M.D, the Director of Sports Medicine at Akron Children’s Hospital. When Dr. Congeni was shown Youngtown’s response to the public records request, he found the news “staggering.” Dr. Congeni said, “It concerns me a little bit, as to geez, is that school district just very fortunate? Are they very lucky? Or, is there the case that maybe there weren’t people trained who are able to spot these earlier on when they are much easier to manage?”

The Kent State University journalism students, who conducted the survey, also discovered that five out of the 25 surveyed schools said they do not require concussion education training for coaches. When the student-journalists asked the Athletic Director for Lakewood High School, Bob Thayer, about their policy he said that coaches are not required to attend mandatory concussion training.

The CDC states that “Recognition and proper response to concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or even death.”

“I know the coaches don’t love it,” said Dr. Congeni when asked about Ohio High School Athletic Association concussion training requirements for coaches. “But if you ask me, I’m glad we have some mandatory training.”