Anecdotal Evidence Surrounding Toxic Playing Fields

Amy Griffin
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BIO: Amy Griffin is soccer veteran at the highest level as both a player and a coach for a combination of 33 years. Her unique experience of coaching at the University of Washington for the past 22 years in the place where she grew up has offered her a perspective that only someone in position can experience. In her first 13 years of coaching in the Seattle area she did not come across anyone she coached or played who had lymphoma. In 2009 that changed when two goalkeepers she coached were diagnosed with lymphoma. The trend continued as she added 7 and then 13 more players to the list of people she knew who played soccer and had been diagnosed with cancer, primarily forms of lymphoma. Along with her soccer passion came an awareness of a new common denominator that seemed to gradually appear which was that the surface kids were playing on had gone from primarily grass to almost exclusively fields made up of 20,000 ground pellets made from used tires composed of carcinogens. Her anecdotal list of players with cancer is now upward of 250 athletes and has caught the attention of the EPA and Dept of Health as well as other government agencies around the world. The last 6 years she has been unravelling and studying the issue to find out how the EPA and consumers deemed this to be a solid and safe idea in the first place. She is of the opinion that government officials, toxicologists and scientists have been unable to find conclusive evidence to deem these fields safe.

12:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, 2019
LEPH 101, 60 College Street

• 11:30 pizza lunch • 1-2 pm meet EHS students (LEPH 513)