

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Jon Heck Slotted to Speak at Adam Taliaferro Foundation 2009 Medical Symposium

Stockton's Associate Director of Athletics & Recreation to Address Prevention of Cervical Spine Injuries

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Township, NJ**-Jon Heck, Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, will be speaking at the Adam Taliaferro Foundation's 2009 Medical Symposium for health care professionals on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the William G. Rohrer Center for Health Fitness on the Virtua campus in Voorhees, New Jersey. Prevention, treatment and management of cervical spine and head injuries will be the main topics of discussion. The symposium runs from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Jon Heck's presentation titled, *Prevention of Cervical Spine Injuries: Wtpro 6*

## **Jon Heck: Expert in Prevention of Catastrophic Neck Injuries in Football / page 2**

Approximately 10 to 15 athletes are paralyzed every year in football relating to cervical spine injuries. Another 10 to 20 athletes fracture their cervical spine without paralysis. The primary cause of cervical fracture with paralysis injuries is the initiation of head-down contact. Heck believes that most of these catastrophic injuries are preventable through education, coaching, practice and improved officiating. Heck's presentation will emphasize that making contact with the shoulder while keeping the head up greatly reduces the risk of these catastrophic injuries.

The Adam Taliaferro Foundation's mission is to provide "emotional, financial, and educational support to student-athletes who suffer catastrophic head or spinal injuries in sanctioned team events in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or Delaware." In addition, the foundation provides financial and educational support for research, prevention, and care of such injuries. The