PREPARING AND PACKING THE MEDICAL KIT

by Steve Nass, P.T., A.T.C.

Coaches, have you ever told your student managers to grab the medical kit before a game and, when the first injury occurred, opened it in horror to find 2 1/2 rolls of tape permanently fused together and nestled on a smashed and leaking chemical cold pack; a tangle of pre-wrap, band-aids and old gauze stuck to the sides of the kit; and what appears to be an Army surplus scissors?

To prevent this from happening, chuck that rusty old box and purchase a plastic fishing tackle box with multiple adjustable compartments. A box that opens from the side is preferable, since it keeps rain from leaking in. Place small items in individual plastic bags to keep them clean and orderly. Don't keep items in your kit that you do not know how to properly use or dispense. We suggest you and your student managers/trainers use the following checklists to be properly prepared for your next contest or practice.

Checklist for your sideline supplies Checklist for your medical ki		it
Ice chest with ice bags and ice cups	1 1/2" athletic tape	betadine
wraps	tape scissors	4 x 4 sterile gauze pads
splints	1" athletic tape	antibacterial ointment
crutches	skin scissors	roll gauze
knee immobilizer	elastic tape	hydrogen peroxide
backboard with cervical collar	tweezers	telfa pads
table	pre-wrap	sterile eye wash
water and cups	nail clippers	finger and wrist splints
squeeze water bottles	assorted foam	contact lens solution
stretcher	pocket knife	shoulder sling
telephone (if available)	skin lubricant	steri-strips
medical kit	sterile applicators	pen light
AED (if available)	two 6" ace wraps	tooth preserving pack
Emergency locator forms	tongue depressors	analgesic balm
	two 4" ace wraps	moleskin
	razor	quarters for pay phones
	assorted band-aids	emergency phone numbers
01 A 72	plastic bags	Special items for athletes with
	tape adherent	specific medical conditions such
	alcohol	as diabetes or asthma
	tape remover	

^{*} It is recommended that someone with each team have Basic Life Saving skills.