



**Contacts:** Tommie Loudy  
423-360-2441  
[tommie.loudy@hck12.net](mailto:tommie.loudy@hck12.net)

**Cherokee High School Receives National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School Award**  
*Program recognizes high schools that help to keep young athletes safe*

Rogersville – Cherokee High School is the recipient of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School award. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes. The award reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment.

Junior Tiffany Cook, CHS HOSA President-Elect and dedicated Athletic Training Assistant said, "As a future health professional, I feel confident in knowing Cherokee athletes are safer now than before. By educating coaches and scheduling CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid certification classes, the majority of our coaching staff is trained to respond to emergencies. Another important step in this endeavor involved obtaining a mobile AED (automated external defibrillator) for the Athletic Trainer, Marissa McKie. Cherokee currently has 2 AEDs; one in the main building and a second in the gym lobby. Through the help and support of industry partners, Hawkins County EMS and Wellmont Holston Valley Trauma Services, we were able to obtain expert input for the Emergency Action Plans as well as develop and print educational materials for coaches, athletes, parents, and spectators. Principal Floyd and Principal Kenner assisted by meeting with us regularly throughout the project and also obtained safety vests and whistles for our faculty and staff. "Cherokee is honored to receive this 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team recognition from NATA, and we remain committed to keeping our student athletes safe during physical education classes, team practices and games so they can accomplish their own goals of great competition, winning records, fair sportsmanship and good health. Our goal is to lead our athletics program to the highest safety standards for our players. We appreciate everyone from administration to industry partners who made this application process happen. Students of the Rehabilitative Therapies class took on a huge project and spent an enormous amount of time in the planning and execution phases," said Tommie Loudy, RN, CTE Health Science Teacher.

"We remain committed to the health and welfare of young athletes in competitive sports," says NATA President Scott Sailor, EdD, ATC. "This award recognizes the contributions and commitment of schools across the country that are implementing safe sports policies and best practices to ensure athletes can do what they love best and have the appropriate care in place to prevent, manage and treat injuries should they occur."

In order to achieve Safe Sport School status, as Cherokee High School did, athletic programs must do the following:

- Create a positive athletic health care administrative system
- Provide or coordinate pre-participation physical examinations

- Promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities
- Plan for selection, fit function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment
- Provide a permanent, appropriately equipped area to evaluate and treat injured athletes
- Develop injury and illness prevention strategies, including protocols for environmental conditions
- Provide or facilitate injury intervention
- Create and rehearse a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan
- Provide or facilitate psychosocial consultation and nutritional counseling/education
- Be sure athletes and parents are educated of the potential benefits and risks in sports as well as their responsibilities

For more information please visit: [www.athletictrainers.org](http://www.athletictrainers.org).

**About NATA: National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) – Health Care for Life & Sport**

*Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. They prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 39,000 members of the athletic training profession. Visit [www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org).*

###