







For Immediate Release Contact: Randy Nathan President/CEO Project NextGen (973) 809-3223

> Coach Randy & Project NextGen are proud to announce a new partnership with

Chris Kluwe

Professional Football Player, Talented Musician & Outspoken Human Rights Advocate

Livingston, NJ - Randy Nathan (aka Coach Randy) President/CEO of Project NextGen is proud to announce and welcome Chris Kluwe as a partner and advocate raising awareness in parents, coaches and players to help stop bullying in sports. In recent months, news stories have focused on bully coaches (Rutgers University), bully players (Florence High School-South Jersey), and bully parents (Ontario Canada).

"Nearly 35 million youth in our country participate in athletics each year accounting for the second most attended activity next to school," says Nathan. For the past two years, Coach Randy has focused primarily on the bully culture that exists in sports and perpetuates various types of harassment, intimidation, discrimination and bullying. Nathan continues, "sports is a hotbed of bullying behavior that is often fostered and role modeled by the adults assigned to take care of these young players." The ability to raise awareness on this issue has been a challenge, "having a professional athlete such as Chris who is willing to acknowledge this issue and use his platform that he has created on other sports related issues is tremendous for this cause. Chris has been outspoken regarding gay professional football players and during our conversations realizes the significance of bullying that takes place and is a welcome addition to help address this overlooked source of bullying and bullying behavior," says Nathan

Chris Kluwe graduated from UCLA in 2005 and started his professional football career as an undrafted free agent with the Seattle Seahawks. For the past eight seasons he was the starting punter for the Minnesota Vikings and is currently a free agent. Mr. Kluwe has been an important voice within the National Football League on the inclusion of gay football players and has been a guest on The Colbert Report and Ellen Degeneres. Kluwe completely agrees on the bullying issue in sports, "it's one that ties into the underlying problem with homophobia." He continues, "There is a lack of empathy. People need to be able to put themselves in someone else's shoes, and understand that if they wouldn't want it happening to them, they shouldn't be doing it to someone else." Kluwe regularly tweets under the username @ChrisWarcraft and is a member of the band

1 of 2 5/24/13 8:22 PM Tripping Icarus out of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Randy Nathan (aka Coach Randy), President/CEO of Project NextGen has been involved with youth sports for over twenty years and is the mental training coach for the Rutgers-Newark baseball team. His first book, "Bullying in Sports: A Parents and Coaches Guide to Identifying the Injuries We Don't See" is being considered by a top ten publishing company and is expected to hit the book stands in the near future. Coach Randy (www.coachrandysays.com) offers keynote presentations, workshops and training for players, parents, coaches and teams throughout the country and seeks other like-minded individuals and organizations to voice their thoughts and join the crusade to help stop bullying in sports.

For more information, you can reach Coach Randy at <u>coachrandy@projectnextgen.com</u> or (973) 809-3223.

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