



The locker room at the Washington Redskins' training facility gets treated with a product that will help prevent staph infections for up to three years.

such as football and soccer, these athletes are at high risk of contracting these dangerous bacteria. The same holds true with wrestling, as the mats can provide a hospitable environment for bacteria, fungi and mold, and the athletes' cuts and abrasions provide the gateway.

CSG/SportsCoatings is the sports industry's leader in antimicrobial products and treatments, and they have developed an amazing, long-term solution to combating microbial contamination. Their SportsCoatings treatment bonds to a surface, such as synthetic turf or a wrestling mat, and creates a matrix of positively charged sword-shaped molecules. Upon direct contact, the membrane of the microbe is physically ruptured by a stabbing and electrocution action. Since the treatment is not consumed or dissipated, it remains continually active.

The Washington Redskins, which had been encountering problems with microbial contamination, was one of the first professional sports teams to use SportsCoatings. "With bacterial staph infections like MRSA becoming more prevalent outside of the hospital setting and becoming more of an issue in amateur and professional sports, we wanted to take an aggressive approach to protect our players," said Bubba Tyer, Redskins Director of Sports Medicine. "We are fortunate to have an owner in Dan Snyder and coach in Joe Gibbs that believe in being proactive when it comes to protecting the team."

At present, CSG/SportsCoatings has provided more than 250 professional teams, collegiate teams and high schools with long-term antimicrobial protection. The scientific research supporting this antimicrobial treatment system, as well as the ever-increasing testimonials of pleased customers, provide the extraordinary evidence to make anyone a true believer. **BS**

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It's been said that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. If your neighbor claims that his car gets 500 miles to the gallon, then you expect to see some proof. If a pharmaceutical company claims to have a pill that will enable you to lose 20 pounds in 20 days (and its major ingredient is not a tapeworm), you want to see some proof. And what about a treatment that will inhibit the growth of microbial contaminants such as bacteria, fungi and mold for up to three years? That's an extraordinary claim, but there is extraordinary evidence that it's true.

Penicillin was the drug of choice for treating staph infections for the past century. However, hospitals in the

1960s were finding that the bacteria were adapting to the antibiotic. These bacteria were called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA. Current estimates are that 1.2 million hospital patients suffer from infection by this drug-resistant bacteria. More alarmingly, it is believed that approximately 48,000 individuals have died in the past year of MRSA. Further, this so-called superbug is rapidly spreading to athletics.

Synthetic-turf football fields, which are constantly exposed to the sweat and blood of athletes, can be ideal breeding grounds for harmful bacteria and fungi. And with all the inevitable cuts and abrasions associated with field sports

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