



CSS - ESPN
Charleston Classic Interview
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Broadcast Interview

Announcer: My pleasure now to be joined now by Terry Davenport, who is the Community Liaison Director for Select Health of South Carolina. Terry thanks for being with us.

Terry Davenport: Thank you, Frank, for having me.

Announcer: Tell us about Select Health a little bit, the job, the mission that you do in South Carolina, you really have helped a tremendous amount of people that are under-insured, provide good health and continue to have good health services.

Terry: We sure have and it's been our pleasure. Well Select Health is one of the largest health insurers in the state of South Carolina. We protect the lives of almost 200,000 members. Our mission is very simple. We help people get care, stay well and build healthy communities. And one of those initiatives is what we are going to talk about in a little bit, Healthy Hoops.

Announcer: Let's talk about Healthy Hoops, because this is a tremendous event that you guys are involved in. Basketball is such a part of the fabric of so much of our country and especially in this state, everyone loves college basketball. Healthy Hoops is something that was started in Philadelphia, one of the great basketball cities in the country, tell us a little bit about it.

Terry: Well under the leadership of Dan Hilferty and our corporate office of AmeriHealth Mercy, based on the growing need of children going to the ER with asthma or being inpatient hospital care with asthma, we developed this program to engage children and families on how to manage their asthma and play sports and live a very healthy and active lifestyle. In 2005, we brought it down here to South Carolina and immediately engaged nationally, almost internationally probably, recognized coaches, like Oliver Purnell from Clemson, Coach Horn who is with us today from USC along with Dawn Staley also from USC, and our very own Coach Bobby Cremins, and what we do is we bring the families together for a full day of basketball camp, we provide them with a health assessment, and we also screen them to make sure they are healthy enough to play, educate them about how to manage their asthma, and then run them through a full-days basketball course with the coaches.

Announcer: Is that something that's changed over the years, because it used to be when you think of basketball, obviously it requires great conditioning, but if you're a parent, and I have five children, if you have a youngster with asthma, you might think, well, they can't play basketball, that's something that's really changed over the years.

Terry: Absolutely, and that's what this program is about, it's about teaching children and families that the kids can play when they have asthma as long as the asthma is properly managed, so if we educate them about how to manage the asthma, then they can play sports and have an active lifestyle just like other kids.

Announcer: What are the coaches, this seems like something the coaches have embraced. You mentioned Dawn Staley, who's from Philadelphia, the program started in Philadelphia, we've got two teams from Pennsylvania here in this tournament, it seems like the coaches have really embraced it.

Terry: I just can't even explain how excited the coaches get when they come out and see these kids, because the children are generally ages 7 to 15 that participate in this program, and they come out and get to have a day of camp with coaches, again, Oliver Purnell, Clemson, Darrin Horn, USC, Dawn Staley, Coach Bobby Cremins, nationally known coaches, and they get to play on the court with them and receive instruction from them, and they love it as much as the kids do, they have a great time.

Announcer: How do the youngsters and parents find out about this, do you have a Web site where they can go to?

Terry: Oh absolutely, www.selectthehealthofsc.com, and we actually perform this program in four regions. We're in the Upstate which includes the Greenville area, Columbia, Charleston and also in Florence. It rotates on an annual basis, last year we had ten programs, we screened more than 400 children, and probably over 800 kids participated in the camp, and for the whole program we've probably touched the lives of about 2,000 families.

Announcer: Now it's your mission of providing good health care for everyone and healthy lifestyles, college athletics is an important role model for that, isn't it? To see athletes and to see what can happen in college athletics?

Terry: Sure, because who's to say that some of these kids who participate in Healthy Hoops can't go on to play NCAA basketball and be right here on the court like these kids are today.

Announcer: Terry, we appreciate the time, thanks very much.

Terry: We appreciate ESPN and all that you've done to help support the program.

Announcer: Well ESPN is very happy to be involved as well, thanks for being with us.