

**Mahercor Laboratories LLC – <http://www.mahercorlabs.com>**

## **News story**

If Marshfield dentist Dr. Gerald Maher is ever in the market for a spokeswoman for his Maher Mouth Guard, Marybeth Nixon would be an ideal candidate.

“It’s amazing,” said Nixon, mother of Duxbury High School football and lacrosse standout Chris Nixon. “If I read about it today, I’d say to myself, I want that.”

At the outset of the 2005 season Duxbury Coach Dave Maimaron had a real problem. His star players had been coming off the playing field, after a big hit, dizzy and out of focus. Although they were still functioning, the new standards on concussion clearly state that the player is not able to “return to play”. A problem prevalent in all contact sports, a coach is put in a position where he has to make a distracting “return to play” decision in the middle of the game.

After hearing about a mouth guard designed by Dr. Gerald Maher to aid in the prevention of concussion, Maimaron contacted Dr. Maher whose patented mouth guard has yielded, according to NFL statistics, the lowest concussion rates in the NFL.

Like many high school athletes, Chris Nixon has incurred several concussions over the course of his High School career. He had four prior to his senior year, including one during the Lacrosse Season that was so severe it caused him to black out. Too many concussions can lead to myriad medical problems, including long-term memory loss, which has been proven, affect his academic performance and ultimately his quality of life.

Because of his medical history, Nixon was an ideal candidate for the Maher Mouth Guard, a retainer-like product that replaces a traditional mouth guard and is designed to eliminate concussions that result from contact to the jaw. Nixon and six of his Duxbury teammates, including starters Ben Fuchs and Bobby Schnibbe, were provided with the Maher Mouth Guard after their first game. The result, a group that had 44 prior concussions according to the Duxbury training staff suffered none during season.

"It was a huge assurance," Marybeth Nixon said. "Every season, but especially football, all I worry about is injuries."

The Maher Mouth Guard is not new. Maher invented the hard plastic mold that fits over the back teeth in the mid 70's. As team dentist to the New England Patriots, Maher has been able to use his discovery on players such as Mike Haynes, John Hanna and former Patriot Lawyer Malloy. Many other players in the NFL use it today.

Dr. Maher's work with Duxbury marks his largest foray into the high school ranks and signals bigger things to come for Mahercor Laboratories, LLC, which manufactures and distributes the Maher Mouth Guard.

Dr. Kevin Guskewicz, the leading authority on concussion in the NCAA has proposed a study in the spring of 2006 to prove the effectiveness of this product. It has recently been found that blows to the jaw are the cause of a majority of concussions in football, Hockey and Lacrosse. The relation of the chin strap as the stabilizer, to the helmet is believed to play a role in causing trauma to the jaw, giving reason for further study. Mahercor Laboratories goal is to license and certify a network of qualified dentists across the Country making this product available in your community.

In part because of his work with the Green Dragons, Mahercor Laboratories has applied for a Center for Disease Control and Prevention grant. The grant would pay for Maher to outfit two high school teams with the mouth guard next season. Two other schools will be monitored with there regular boil and bite mouth guards and then concussion results will be compared. Studies such as this could lead to legislation to make this product mandatory and possibly paid for through insurance. Insurance already covers some similar costing athletic mouth guards, which do little to stabilize the jaw.

Duxbury head coach Dave Maimaron, who heard about the mouth guard through Mark Picot Vice President Mahercor Laboratories, led his team to a Division 2A Super Bowl title earlier this month and he believes a major reason for that was the fact the Dragons had no significant injuries.

"We have some heavy hitters on defense," Maimaron said, "and we did not lose one player to injury. That's a pretty amazing stat at that level of competition. We played 13 games and did not have one concussion (on the varsity)."

While the mouth guard did not directly contribute to Duxbury's Super Bowl season, it did provide an added benefit besides safety. Since it sits in the back of the mouth instead of the front like traditional mouth guards, it allows athletes to breathe and communicate normally. The pro players say it reduces stress in the face and neck resulting in them being more relaxed and focused late in the game. More importantly, it virtually eliminates the symptoms associated with a dysfunctional jaw, which are believed to be dizziness and sensation of seeing stars. Players with these symptoms are ideal candidates for this product.

"At (defensive) safety in football and defense in lacrosse, I have to tell people who to cover and stuff like that," Chris Nixon said. "It was a big pain having a mouth guard in, but now I don't even notice it. I keep it in after games."

After watching her son use a mouth guard that not only kept him injury free but helped him perform better, Marybeth Nixon hopes that other teams will follow Duxbury's lead and inquire about the mouth guards.

"I think if more people knew about them they'd want them," Nixon said. "I'm truly amazed more people haven't already".

Mahercor Laboratories intends to make this possible by certifying qualified dentists in your community. Please visit Mahercor Laboratories, LLC, website for more information @[www.mahercorlabs.com](http://www.mahercorlabs.com).