

December 17, 2008 - Seattle, Washington

Search Advanced Search

- NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT OUTDOORS OPINION YOUNEWS MARKETPLACE KOMO 4 TV KOMO Newsradio
- Local & Regional National & World Business Election Health Technology Consumer Boeing Problem Solvers



Link between cancer, artificial turf questioned



- SAVE THIS
- EMAIL THIS
- PRINT THIS
- MOST POPULAR
- YouNews™

Story Published: Dec 16, 2008 at 5:16 PM PST
 Story Updated: Dec 16, 2008 at 5:31 PM PST

By [Keith Eldridge](#)
[Watch the story](#)

TACOMA, Wash. -- A high school soccer star's dream of playing college soccer has been blocked by cancer, and his situation has rekindled the debate over whether artificial turf is somehow responsible.

Luke Beardemphl was a 4-year letterman on the varsity soccer team at Tacoma's Stadium High School sought after by the likes of Oregon State and the Air Force Academy before settling on the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

"I mean, I thought it would be an awesome place to go to school and to play soccer," he said.

But instead of the islands, Beardemphl is heading to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for treatment of Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was diagnosed last summer.

"I didn't know what to think at the time. I'd never been diagnosed with cancer before," he said.

But Beardemphl's parents soon found out that other soccer players had been diagnosed.

"His keeper coach knows eight," said his mother, Stephanie Beardemphl, "eight players that he has personally worked with who now have cancer."

They now wonder if it could have something to do with the artificial turf they play on.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control has recommended that some artificial turf athletic fields be tested for lead.

And there's concern about the little granules of ground up tires that contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that could be getting into the players' systems.

Beardemphl says the granules stick to the ball.

"I'll catch it. It'll stop the ball but not the pellets. They'll go into my face, go into my eyes, my mouth," said Luke.

But just this last summer the Consumer Product Safety Commission took a hard look at artificial turf and determined that it was safe.

The makers of FieldTurf say the digestive system is not powerful enough to extract the chemical components from the rubber.

That's little consolation for a young soccer star who'll celebrate Christmas early because he goes in for four months of treatment two days before the holiday,

Current Weather



Overcast and Breezy

- Today's forecast
- 7 day planner
- Weather blog
- Share your weather photos & videos

Traffic

Travel Times
 Powered by [BeatTheTraffic.com](#)

Everett to Seattle (I-5)
 Travel Time: 28 Min
 Delay Time: 1 Min

- Winter weather info**
- Road closures and slowdowns
 - School closures and delays
 - Mountain passes
 - Radar loop
 - Statewide traffic cams
 - Seattle traffic cams
 - Wash. ski report

- Incident reports
- Live cams

On Demand

Watch ABC Shows
 Catch up with your favorite shows online.

- Live Police & Fire Scanner
- Listen Live - KOMO Newsradio
- Audio Center - KOMO Newsradio
- Podcasts - KOMO Newsradio
- Video on Demand

DtvAnswers

Resources and info you need to prepare for the switch to DTV.

- Converter box details
- Get converter box coupons
- DTV Transition 101

Stay Connected

- News Alerts
- Mobile News
- RSS Feeds

YouNews

I need **affordable** Auto Insurance.
 My age is...

16-19 years old	20-24 years old	25-29 years old	30-34 years old
35-39 years old	40-44 years old	45-49 years old	50+ years old

[RateMarketplace](#) find out **MORE**>>

School delays & closures

- More snow on the way
- Video reveals cause of death at ATM
- Drivers prepare for rough commutes
- Current temperatures map
- Snow day for many kids as second arctic blast arrives
- Mt. Rainier puts on a show!
- Dozens rescued from Whistler gondola cars
- Tough morning drive just the beginning
- Father of Ore. bank bombing suspect arrested

NETFLIX

WIDESCREEN EDITION
 THE DARK KNIGHT

[Click here](#)

wondering if the sport he loves so much is doing him harm.


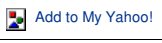




A recent effort to ban the artificial turf at Bainbridge High School failed, and efforts in several other states to ban the turf have also failed.

[Hide Comments](#)
[Show comments](#)

Comments (10)

- [This blog post](#)
- [All blog posts](#)

Subscribe to this blog post's comments through...

-
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-


 [RSS Feed](#)

[Follow the discussion](#)

[Login](#)

[Login](#) or [signup](#) now to comment.

Sort by: [Date](#) [Rating](#) [Last Activity](#)

 Logging you in...

[Close](#) [Login to an existing account](#)

Username or Email:

Password:

[Use OpenID!](#)

[Forgot login?](#) [Login](#)

[Close](#) [Login with your OpenID](#)

OpenID URL:

[Back](#)

[Login](#)

[Dashboard](#) | [Edit profile](#) | [Logout](#)

- Logged in as

- -3
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[hobbs](#) • 63p

This is a sad story but even sadder if it is caused by something that could have been avoided.

[Report](#) Post reply

[» 17 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- +2
- [Vote up](#)

you news tv

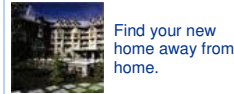
Next Round Local News Photo



The citizens come through
by ricktakagi

Show your photos & videos

Vacation Homes



Find your new home away from home.

Monroe Save The Squirrels

Changing shocks at 50,000 miles helps more than just vehicle safety
www.monroesavethesquirrels.com

Ads by Google

Today's Hot Deals


Wednesday, 12/17/08

- **\$105 & up -- Seattle Flight Deals Over Next 30 Days (R/T)***
Orbitz
- **\$99 & up -- Fly into Gunnison, CO in Peak Ski Season***
Delta
- **\$549 & up -- 7 Night Alaska Cruises on Sale**
American Express Travel
- **\$49 & up -- Winter Fare Sale Just Extended***
Northwest Airlines

Listed by Travelzoo. *Some taxes, fees additional

Any small business can look more professional

with email marketing by Constant Contact.



- [Vote down](#)



[bman204](#) • 45p

Seriously what doesn't cause cancer.

[Report](#) Post reply

» [17 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- -2
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[PassingGass](#) • 73p

True - maybe.

But, a good number of cancers are caused by things we do or use - and knowing that they do allows us to find safer ways of living. We KNOW that smoking causes lung cancer (among other kinds), and so we can reduce the risk simply by stopping smoking.

That's why this needs to be studied, to see if it really does cause any illnesses. Just giving up and not taking precautions is not a rational act.

[Report](#) Post reply

» [16 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- +1
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[sharkbait](#) • 56p

When you see a cluster of cancer cases such as this and their connection to playing soccer on a chemical-laden surface, it should be investigated by several different agencies to get a comprehensive determination of possible carcinogens.

[Report](#) Post reply

» [15 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- +2
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[Sunny83](#) • 1p

Honestly, there are a number of different things that cause cancer. I am a 13 year survivor of childhood Hodgkin's Disease, and I will most likely never know what caused my cancer (environment, genetics, etc.) The good news is Hodgkin's is about the most treatable form of cancer. My advice to this young man and his family is to focus on treating the disease, not what caused it. The reality is you're probably never going to know.

[Report](#) Post reply

» [15 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

Thread active 13 hours ago [Collapse thread](#)

- 0

- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[nowisthetime](#) • 35p

This comment has been deleted by the administrator.

[Report](#)

» [15 hours ago](#)

- 0
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[rp91](#) • 48p

Not funny. I highly doubt that of the millions that use artificial turf daily that a few people getting cancer is compelling enough to write an article. That said I feel bad for anyone stricken with cancer regardless. Good luck in your recovery

[Report](#) Post reply

» [15 hours ago](#)

- -1
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[soccermum](#) • 1p

Not funny at all... I know this young man personally... He is a fighter, and if you are so cruel keep your comments to yourself. nowisthetime, i dare you to walk in his shoes for two moons... I would bet your attitude changes,.... Fight on Luke. You are in our prayers constantly...

Donations can be made at any Key Bank under "Kickin it with Team Lukestrong" (Available 12-5-08)

[Report](#) Post reply

» [13 hours ago](#)

This comment has 2 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- 0
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[cp11](#) • 1p

My husband was diagnosed with CML Leukemia just 2 weeks ago at age 40. I wouldn't have thought much of this being a link before, but my husband is the third player on our adult rec soccer team to develop some form of Leukemia. Just a strange coincidence? Yeah, probably, but we are certainly starting to wonder. We've all been avid players (2-4 games/week) for years, so as far as we know, that's our only common thread if it could be related to some sort of exposure.

[Report](#) Post reply

» [3 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- +1
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[SPB1469](#) • 1p

I was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma (Disease) 8 months ago and have just recently finished treatment. Stay positive you can get through this, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. My Oncologist also stated that Hodgkins Disease is one of the most treatable cancers. God Bless...

[Report](#) Post reply

[» 2 hours ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

- +1
- [Vote up](#)
- [Vote down](#)



[Chilstone](#) • 59p

The shark lawyer's are moving in for the kill.

[Report](#) Post reply

[» 1 hour ago](#)

This comment has 0 hidden replies. [Show them!](#)

[Go to IntenseDebate](#)

His IQ is
125
Are You Smarter
than
Barack Obama?
[Take the IQ Test Here!](#)

[www.intest.com](#)

Feedback - Ads by Google



fisher interactive network

140 Fourth Ave. North, Suite 370, Seattle, WA 98109

[Contact Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Public Filing Report](#) | [DTV Report](#) | [ABC](#)
Copyright © 2008 Fisher Communications, Inc.

Powered by Broadcast Interactive Media.