



Christopher Nowinski
Class of 1996
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Concussion Legacy Foundation

Chris Nowinski is frequently credited with being the person most responsible for bringing the concussion and CTE crisis to the forefront of global consciousness. Over a decade of his aggressive advocacy has reshaped how we understand, research, and treat the effects of brain trauma, and how we play sports, from professionals down to children.

Chris is the founding executive director of the Concussion Legacy Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to solving the sports concussion crisis. He also serves as the Outreach, Recruitment, Education, and Public Policy Leader at the BU CTE Center, which he co-founded.

After graduating from Hersey, Chris became All-Ivy defensive tackle for the Harvard University football team, where he graduated cum laude in 2000 with an A.B. in Sociology. He then became a professional wrestler with WWE, where he debuted on Monday Night RAW in 2002 as Christopher Harvard before post-concussion syndrome ended his career 2003. His challenging recovery from this syndrome led him to write the book *Head Games: Football's Concussion Crisis*, published in 2006, in an effort to educate the world about this serious public health issue. In 2012, the book was adapted for the documentary film *Head Games*, directed by Steve James.

Today Chris serves as an unpaid advisor to the NFL Players Association Mackey-White Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Committee, the Ivy League Multi-Sport Concussion Review Committee, and Major League Lacrosse. He also serves on the Positive Coaching Alliance National Advisory Board. He was a 2011 Eisenhower Fellow.

Chris and his team's work has been featured in print outlets such as the New York Times, USA Today, Time Magazine, and The New Yorker, and has been featured on television programs including 60 Minutes, PBS Frontline, ESPN Outside the Lines. His profile in May 2007 by HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel won the Emmy for Sports Journalism, and he has been featured in five subsequent episodes, a record for the show.

Chris has received the ETHOS Award from the Santa Clara University Institute of Sports Law and Ethics (ISLE), the United States Sports Academy Distinguished Service Award and the Sport at its Best Award as a Player Safety Advocate from Ralph Nader's League of Fans. He also received the Presidential Medallion from Western New England College, Patrick Brady Award from the Brain Injury Association of Illinois, the CoBI Award from the Council on Brain Injury, a Compassionate Action Award from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the Zach Lydstedt Angel Award from the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation, and Hockey News named him to the 40 Under 40 most powerful people in hockey.