



# BP Educational Consultation

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**The American Athlete**

Episode #2416

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Participants: **Natasha Watley – Softball Coach**

**Merril Hoge – Former NFL Player**

**Cole Houshmand – Competitive Surfer, WSL**

## General Synopsis for Episode #2416

In this episode committed and talented ‘American Athletes’ share their stories of success and challenges. Each guest shares their personal side of their journey seeking a professional career to reaching their goals and beyond. **Natasha Watley** is a 2X Olympian, retired softball player and softball coach. Her Olympic experiences made her feel like a professional athlete, it was a honor to represent the country. Natasha loves the game so much she wants it to grow and thrive and help the next generation of softball players. That is why she coaches and has created the Natasha Watley Foundation focusing that the sport can be for everyone. Loved sports and loved competing, **Merril Hoge** started his professional sport’s career as a NFL Running Back. He learned from Walter Payton how to deal with adversity from injuries and cancer, “I want it more than they do every day of the week, that’s how I played.” He has co-authored a book to help parents understand the safety in today’s sports and about head injuries called “Brainwashed: The Bad Science Behind CTE”. **Cole Houshmand** parents surfed and the family spent weekends at the beach. He moved from just surfing for fun into contests. He shares, “I like being in motion, you are in mother nature. You never surf the same way twice and that is what makes it fun.” His goal is to make the world tour, the biggest stage in surfing. He wants to keep improving, becoming a good surfer, a fun surfer to watch.

## Observation and Conclusion

In episode #2416 questions are asked between segments to challenge viewers to research and learn facts related to sports. Athletes provide encouragement and advice to their fans to work hard, define goals, and have fun in your chosen field. **Natasha Watley** states, “Pressure is a privilege. When you change your perception about pressure, you have the opportunity to change the game.” This episode inspires, educates, informs and empowers children 13 years of age and up.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Pierce, MA Ed.

Educational Consultant