TO MEDIA:

**CONTACT PERSON: Robin Jennings,** 

Marketing and Communications Excela Health 724-689-0206 TEL 724-516-4483 CELL

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EXCELA HEALTH ATHLETIC TRAINERS TAKE LEADING ROLE IN CREATING STATE MANDATED CONCUSSION EDUCATION

GREENSBURG, Pa, July 2, 2012 ... When coaches, athletes and their parents in District 7 of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association attend concussion education July 19 at Penn Trafford High School, they'll be learning in part from Excela Health athletic trainers who are helping ensure compliance with a new state law governing youth sports.

The Safety in Youth Sports Act which went into effect July 1 establishes standards for managing concussions and other head injuries. It also requires coaches to be trained annually and in turn educate students participating in any athletic activity and their parents on the nature and risk of concussion and traumatic brain injury

Jennifer Galando-Smith and Gina Linn, athletic trainers with Excela Health Orthopedics and Sports Medicine assigned to the Penn Trafford School District, were recently selected to represent the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) as liaisons to the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania. They were chosen for this role based on their work in helping to develop the concussion curriculum for coaches that will be offered free in all 12 PIAA districts during July and August. The program, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, serves as an alternative to online education offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations and PATS.

To attend the District 7 PIAA training, register at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/Concussion-Training-7">http://tinyurl.com/Concussion-Training-7</a>. The two-hour program will be held 6 to 8 p.m., July 19 at Penn Trafford High School.

To learn more about Excela Health Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, visit <a href="https://www.excelahealth.org">www.excelahealth.org</a>, or call 724-689-1970.