

ATHLETES: alone on their team.

ABS

Athlete Buddy System

Young athletes deal with a lot of issues on a daily basis. They need to balance the varied schedules of academics and athletics; train for strength and endurance; and deal with the stresses of competition both in the locker room with their peers and on the playing field.

Imagine dealing with all of that and also struggling with the growing realizations of a young gay athlete: the understanding that they're different somehow from their peers. With that difference comes uneasiness in their surrounding, detachment from their peers and growing questions—What if I'm discovered? Will I still be able to play the sport I love? Would my teammates laugh at me or, worse, turn against me if they knew?

GForce Sports has implemented **The Athlete Buddy System (ABS)** to help athletes through the issues of dealing with their sexuality. Whether an athlete wants to come out to his or her teammates, coaches and family, or just needs someone to talk to, The Athlete Buddy System can help.

The over arching philosophy of ABS is simply this: **the gay athlete is NOT alone, and doesn't need to be alone to deal with this.**

Our process is simple. GForce has a network of LGBT* athletes who have dealt personally with these issues. The struggling athlete need only contact us through a hot line number or e-mail address, and we will pair them with a GForce athlete in their geographic area. Contact is made solely at the athlete's discretion and on their terms—when he or she is in a safe place. Sometimes all they need to know is that they have someone to call, an ear that will listen, and a heart that will be open to them.

Do you know a teammate, coach, friend or relative that is struggling with these issues? If so, let them know that we're here.

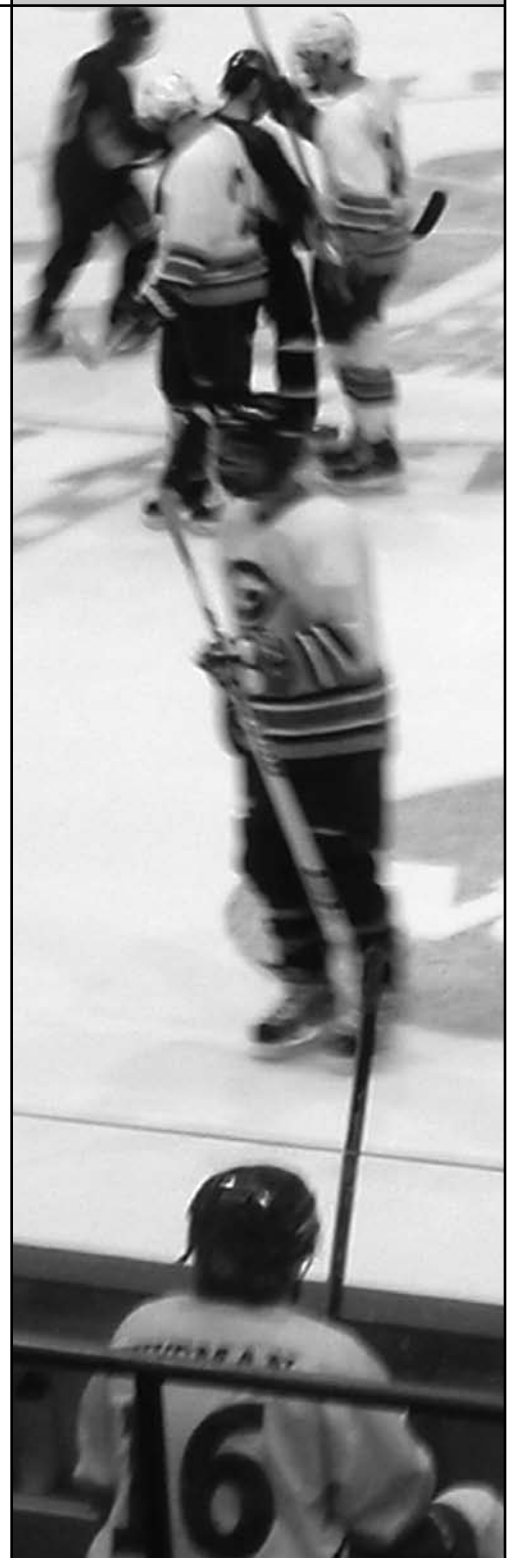
Call the hotline at 1-855-646-1ABS (1227). He/she will be matched with a GForce athlete. Note that any athlete of any age or gender can call—this is NOT just a young men's hockey program!

Our Mission: GForce Sports breaks down negative stereotypes about LGBT athletes through competitive play and educational outreach. By demonstrating competitiveness, teamwork, pride and courage on the playing field, and relating our diverse stories and experiences as LGBT athletes off the field, we create a dialogue that changes the perceived differences between gay and straight athletes. Our advocacy focuses on education of athletes, particularly youth, through panel discussions and interactive Q&A sessions. We strive to create a sports landscape where athletes and coaches are judged by the possibilities of their talent and effort rather than their sexual orientation.

*LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender



700 N. Colorado Blvd., Suite 108, Denver, CO 80206 • 303 292 0885 phone



WWW.GFORCESPORTS.ORG