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A new academic study has suggested a possible link between repeatedly heading football and getting dementia the work by researchers from University College London and Cardiff University is the very 1st of its kind previous anecdotal reports suggest that footballers might be more prone the other people to develop dementia in later life the study out today look to the brains of 6 deceased footballers who had dementia and discovered that 4 of them had a form of the disease which could be caused by repeated blows to the head this works on a small scale than a dozen conclusively prove a link but it has prompted calls for more research into a long suspected issue in the sport it also raises the question of course whether children who play football are at risk if they repeatedly head the ball we love your calls on this so 500 to 88 to 91 but I'm joined in the studio by Professor John Hardy the co author of the study Professor of neuroscience at University College London welcome the afternoon 9 you're you're you're reeling a bit from her sheer level of interest in this story

people are fascinated and perturbed by a you Yes they are Yes they are in your introduction got it exactly right good we think that you know we fit in this is the 1st study of Malta Paul brains from footballers these people who played football for 30 years probably practiced every single day you know we had multiple clock bang to the head as well as heading the ball so we can't really a sign it heading the ball but you know they have been professional football for 30 years and 4 of them had evidence of this syndrome called chronic traumatic encephalopathy which is CTE which is kind of a Mark of having a head injury during life look at their brains what do you see it you wouldn't see in the brain of a bus conductor or geography teacher how does it look different if he had repeated blows on the head so the pathologist who did this howling in pathologist that enough department there are two types of pathology she saw a which at

no characteristic of this one is caring of the white matter the white matter of wires between different nerve cells or those some caring of those and that's very unusual in the general population and the other is around who although tiny blood vessels in the brain while some of the tiny blood vessels in the brain as evidence of tearing round the blood vessels becoz U brain is like blancmange but your blood vessels within your brain are like little cheese wires and they kind of cut when you do wrote a have rotational injury that can cut through the adjacent tissue to see those two types of apology that's what she's law and you know that when you see that that is the route to that is the link with dementia when you see those cuts and those those those severance is in the brain you you know that the been met on the set of that is dimensions it well there are many reasons for dementia about that is characteristic of this CTE form of dementia indeed does this continue although research into boxing

trainer has been extensive and although conclusions that have been come to boxing which are convincing and and are not just suggestive but verified is that right it as they are and that is exactly right these are essentially Milder forms of off of the findings of been made for many years in professional boxing so how is it then we wonder that of the 6 frames that you look a tad only 4 of them do show these changes even though all 6 of the now deceased footballers did suffer from debenture you know but sadly about 20 % of us who have only played occasional sport will get dementia by the age of 80 so some of this sum of course some dementia is for other reasons and a lot of a lot of us sadly will develop dementia for other reasons so you know of course football as well have typical dimensions as well you like what will when you 1st arrive tonight was cuisine you about this you you you said that for a definitive study into this situation

he link between heading the ball football and dementor you you describe exactly what you have to do to really get a handle on this and I'll be much more look at the brains of 6 sees footballers and it is Yes that's right what you what you really want to do is you really want to compare the if you like clinical outcome all professional footballers with a clinical outcome of uf the general population and see what diseases are different between the two populations that's called an epidemiological study and see exactly how much more dimension of the is in the X football's and that would take a long time a lot of money that would take a lot of time and money I should say that the FA the professional footballers Association a just announcing a donor it's actually announced yet but they are just in the process of Putin that type of study together an an an an with him many people might think it's high time that the this well it was looked into a more extensive detail and and more convincingly and of the across listen more remembered very

fondly heading the ball themselves both girls and boys no member summer holidays entire summer summer holidays spent with a Co-operative wall nice football and heading the ball time time time and time again be wondering should they tell children and grandchildren not to do any more you know we have to react remember fondly when I was a young teenager on playing fields just outside Burnley scoring particular goal from a corner very unusual for me it was a very bad at all but I remember it vividly III would hate to take that away from the kids of today in turn into carrots potatoes but I'd definitely would not encourage kids or people to keep practising heading over and over and over and over again you know I think that is a difference between occasional heading and and that type of of behaviour orders to take things away from kids in internment camps but take just give us the script then that every parent or grandparent good news on

a football mad child or grandchild which says do carry on playing but don't do as much heading as you did before what would you actually say to them that we convince does her the do just 10 during the game but the other thing I'd say is if there is any no indication that they're suffering from seeing stars and and so on they should really take medical advice and a mate you know this is for at every level of the sport any indication of concussion they should definitely leave the pitch and goings on and discuss it with their doctor thank you very much indeed Professor John Hardy appreciate the your adjoining is is in a rush of Knox's in such great demand because of the extreme popularity in fascination with this particular study let me go into my next guest Niki Truman Nicky is the daughter of Chesterfield all-time top scorer only Moss and and Nikki Hello good afternoon to you there I'm here you could describe a your dad now he's 67 years old and Unfortunately really is in the grips of a very serious dimension is anti yet here Unfortunately Kent's at home cared

for by myself but then my mom blessed sister Sarah who in a moment bear the brunt of it obviously she's safe care 21st 7 and but if a now he's still with this film them we just we just do what we can committed life feed PM tell us what what any was like in his prime what kind of man kind of a gentleman what he end that way while everybody said he was a gentleman and a thing to you then have a parked wound in his entire career and is a gentle giant is very articulate very intelligent and great balance just think well he's my hero you know if I'm here is a fantastic dad fantastic man they had many friends and nobody has all the support that we have had to have been amazing

date you know the words of kindness that people have said to read a circuit to see this happen Curia made it to the heartbreak weekend and today of course we're talking about this this suggestion by this small scale study that they could be a link between heading the ball as a footballer and then dementia later on an anti you into your family this does not seem surprising the tall American sure they're an onion it's taken it took about 10 years to get that a proper diagnosis and in which time out we could read of this study is a firm Don as still hoof fought tirelessly so her dad her dad Jeff after he died 15 years ago and it's and Amanda Cup pool her dad you have been Frank played Manchester United that you both sadly passed away with dimentia air and we read things and he never shows

we start noticing things in that behaviour and and then it became apparent an army was told he had dementia was the the kind of demented affect the front of the brain is not the back could you out of the bail out fund that does and the Kosi river and a with the renowned header of the ball that was his and it is of they are allowed to dock really as far as you're concerned you you you would see a very very clear link between he is his pass on his great skill heading the ball and now this dimension which has has has pretty much obliterated almost all of his personality and ability to look after himself or what do you think the football Association could or should have done about it if anything them I think they're in denial about everything in an act out an early enough and think how America have an appropriate gear and day children are allowed to

head the ball now note up to the age of 10 so lacking protection of children is very important and put people it out they declined to make they need to be aware of the rest and Nick so we can minimise the risks area cannot stop people doing things to you need to be aware understood days you know how it's affected like the don't know that for how it affected on the top of their the the population of the footballers and you know Si King barons fear and say Yes this is actually happening and an email it it 8 to get in the way that they're making people aware of what's happening in on Nicky thank you so much for talking to us we wish to Daniel mum I'll family of course well here is it is a great pleasure to talk to this afternoon thank you very much indeed lovely listen if you listen to this and thinking hang on a minute wait a 2nd and you can see a link we have always known as a link or you're worried about the link if you think there is one you could give us a call on a 500 to 88 to