Reviewer's report

Title: Can pre-season fitness measures predict time to injury in varsity athletes?: a retrospective case control study

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2011

Reviewer number: 2

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review "Can pre-season fitness measures predict time to injury in varsity athletes?: a retrospective case control study". This retrospective study aims to determine if there is a correlation between pre-season fitness measures and the change or sustained a sports injury. This research question is very interesting. The study is new and I am not aware of other studies on this specific topic. The study has strong methodology and the paper is well written. In my opinion this paper should be published after some revisions are made. Please find the comments and suggestions below.

Major revisions

Page 2 line 3-5. Please remove: "Although our study did not support the hypothesis that baseline performance measures predict time to injury, they should not be discounted for their utility in estimating the athletic performance of varsity athletes." from the abstract. This sentence is not the conclusion to the study, but rather an opinion from the authors.

Page 2 line 7: Please add "sports injury" to the key words.

Page 5 line 15: "all participants" please state how many were included in the study.

Page 6 line 7: please refer to the table (1) of the demographic information of the included subjects here. Please also included BMI as a variable.

Page 18 line 15-16: please remove the sentence: "Nevertheless, preseason measures may still be relevant for estimating the athletic performance of varsity athletes." This is not a conclusion, but an opinion of the authors. You can state this in the discussion section where it would be more appropriate.

Table 2: some of the data are not recorded for all subjects. Please explain the reason of the missing data in the "limitations" section of the paper.

Minor revisions

none
Discretionary revisions
none

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.