

Vanair Helps Athletes Beat the Heat

A product concept created by a University of Florida professor that is now manufactured and exclusively licensed by Jacksonville, Florida's Temperature Management System (TMS) is giving outdoor sports teams, especially football players, the opportunity to perform to their fullest potentials by helping them keep their cool on the sidelines.

The Core Cooler, an innovative system that can be used with Riddell or Douglas shoulder pads, features an intricate ventilation system, a sophisticated refrigerant process, and at the heart of the system, the Vanair Viper Custom, a compact, lightweight, and portable air compressor unit from Vanair Manufacturing.

“When temperatures soar during preseason and early season games or plummet during the playoffs, a player’s comfort can be that small advantage that pushes one team to advance over another,” stated Fred Williams, President, Williams Sports Group and Vice President, TMS Company. “To provide the on-demand air power to send a refreshing, 45°F chill or a 130°F warm wave of air into the pads, we needed a powerful, compact, ultra quiet, and most importantly, a portable air compressor that we can rely on.”

Williams explained that a Jacksonville-based air compressor manufacturer actually referred TMS to Vanair, knowing that Vanair's team could design a unit with the ability to deliver enough air power to meet their unique needs.

“The ability to be an integral part of this revolutionary system is an opportunity of a lifetime,” said Ralph Kokot, President/CEO, Vanair Manufacturing. “When we got the call from TMS, and they gave us an overview of the system and the air compressor criteria they required, we immediately knew that a customized Viper would handle the job.”

Recent statistics have indicated that approximately 175 deaths per year can be attributed to sports-related heat incidents. Williams explained that the Core Cooler is not a replacement for solid common sense, including proper hydration and sports conditioning. Additionally, the system doesn't bring the body core temperature down; it simply is a means to keep it in check, within the range of normal playing temperatures.

The Core Cooler, which debuted at the Clemson/Wake Forest football game on September 4, 2004, is sweeping the nation among pro and college football organizations, where coaches are reporting that fewer players are experiencing heat-related problems such as cramping, severe fluid loss, and fatigue.

Professional football teams that feature the Core Cooler, all powered by a Vanair air compressor, include Green Bay, St. Louis, Tampa Bay, Jacksonville, and Dallas. Other teams that have a Core Cooler on order include the Detroit Lions and the Indianapolis

Colts. On the collegiate level, universities including UCLA, Georgia Southern, Clemson, and the University of South Florida are proud to have the Core Cooler on their sidelines.

“We used the TMS system on approximately 20 of our players on a very warm day in Jacksonville. Our players loved it,” said Jon Scott, Equipment Supervisor of the Indianapolis Colts.

“We were the first team in the NFL to purchase the TMS system. Our players really love it,” stated Gordon Batty, Equipment Supervisor of the Green Bay Packers. According to Batty, Bubba Franks, Green Bay’s All-Pro tight end said “where has this been?” and Ahman Green commented that he felt more refreshed and energized throughout the game.

“Our medical staff is excited about the TMS system and it’s use in hot weather,” added Batty. “It cools better than anything we have ever tried!”

“We never imagined that Vanair would be a permanent member of a sports lineup,” concluded Kokot. “With Vanair on the sidelines, I guess you can say that we’ve got the toughest customers on the planet!”

For more information about Vanair's complete line of air compressors or details about the Core Cooler, contact Ralph Kokot, President and CEO, Vanair Manufacturing, 800-526-8817 or visit www.vanair.com.

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