CHILL PILL

Vikings lineman Korey Stringer died in 2001 when his core temperature topped 108\degree during practice. As the heat intensified, his body shut down—a problem that kills an estimated three athletes each year. It’s also hard to prevent because measuring tools are either inaccurate (skin patches) or awkward (rectal thermometers). Preventing heatstroke is essentially a guessing game. Now there’s a single-use pill, developed by Palmetto, Fla.-based HQ Inc., that transmits core temps to nearby handheld devices. The pills, which cost $40 a pop (in addition to $2,500 for the device), pass through the body in two days. Several NFL teams are testing the system, and at a recent Eagles practice trainers took a D-lineman with no signs of heat stress off the field because he had a CoreTemp reading of 105.7\degree. “He felt hot but didn’t have the central nervous system symptoms you’d expect,” says Sandra Fowkes-Godek, a sports-medicine consultant with the team. The player, whom the team would not name, is fine now, and Eagles trainers are happy to have taken some guesswork out of their job.

-BRITT ZARDO