Pay to Play: The Case for Paying the Athletes

By "Coach Vance" Trefethen

***Resolved: NCAA student athletes ought to be recognized as employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.***

NCAA student athletes are banned from receiving payment for their athletic competition. But athletes, who devote full-time hours to training and competing (in addition to supposedly being full time college students) bring in millions of dollars to their schools. They get a scholarship and nothing more, and the door is open to scandals and under-the-table cash. Treating the athletes as employees would remove the exploitation and eliminate the incentives for all the recruiting and academic scandals that keep plaguing college sports.

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Pay to Play: The Case for Paying the Athletes

Student athletes make millions of dollars for their colleges, and their treatment by their masters (we wanted to say employers) meets the classic economic definition of exploitation. That's why we're affirming that NCAA student athletes ought to be recognized as employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Contention 1. The Exploitation

People are exploited when someone can extract economic value from them and compensate them less than they would get in a free market. It happens where there are artificial barriers to free labor markets or when coercion or violence is involved (like blackmail or slavery). Conditions are ripe for this in big-time college sports because…

NCAA bans paying college athletes

Prof. Phillip Miller 2016 (professor and chair of the department of economics at Minnesota State University, Mankato) 16 March 2016 WASHINGTON POST “Are amateurism rules corrupting college athletes?” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/03/16/are-amateurism-rules-corrupting-college-athletes/?utm_term=.f220f7baafbf>

In professional sports leagues with free agency, teams woo players with[salary offers](http://wtop.com/mlb/2016/03/free-agents-signings-55/),[signing bonuses](http://smallbusiness.chron.com/sports-signing-bonuses-work-18065.html) and[other forms of compensation](http://www.therichest.com/sports/he-gets-what-12-unusual-provisions-in-sports-contracts/?view=all). But due to so-called amateurism rules, these forms of payment are not allowed in college athletics.

END QUOTE. This is exactly the scenario of interference in free markets that makes exploitation possible. The numbers are really shocking, as Joe Nocera and Ben Strauss point out in 2016, when they tell us that…

Student athletes are generating billions of dollars and getting only a scholarship in return

Joe Nocera & Ben Strauss 2016 (Nocera – business journalist. Strauss – journalist with the NY Times) FORTUNE magazine 27 Feb 2016 Here’s How The NCAA Hurts College Athletes <http://fortune.com/2016/02/27/how-ncaa-hurts-college-players/> (the word “get” in brackets was added due to typographical error in original)

But with the NCAA now generating over $900 million in annual revenue; with athletic conferences owning their own lucrative all-sports cable networks; with coaches making $5 million (Jim Harbaugh, Michigan football) or $7 million (Nick Saban, Alabama football) or even $10 million (Mike Krzyzewski, Duke basketball); and with ESPN paying $7.3 billion over 12 years for the rights to the new college football playoff, the idea that the players who make all this possible should not [get] much more than a scholarship isn’t just hypocritical. It’s offensive.

END QUOTE. But it gets worse. Not only are they not getting a piece of the pie they earn for their colleges, but the Boston Globe reports in 2016 that…

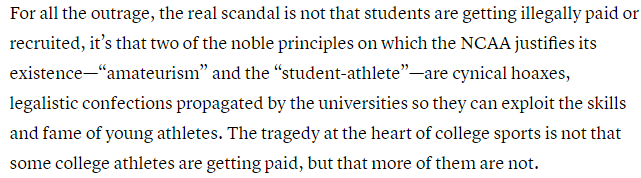
Current rules leave student athletes uneducated, hungry and injured

BOSTON GLOBE 2016 (journalist Nick Romeo) 22 Feb 2016 “Does the NCAA exploit student-athletes?“ <https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2016/02/21/does-ncaa-exploit-student-athletes/OnIF5KDFbt6oYACJlBBsSP/story.html>

Scholarships often fail to cover the full cost of books and other living expenses, and the NCAA’s draconian rules sometimes prevent athletes from eating food not supplied by the university dining hall. Something is deeply wrong when the star of the wildly lucrative Final Four basketball tournament complains of going to bed hungry, as happened in 2014. For a number of complex reasons, including the time commitment required of athletes and insufficient academic preparedness and support, graduation rates for Division 1 basketball and football players are low. Further only around 5 percent of these athletes will go on to professional careers in the NBA or NFL. A much higher percentage will, however, suffer chronic and expensive medical problems from old injuries.

END QUOTE. And the exploitation absolutely justifies paying the athletes. While the headlines are full of people worried about scandals involving athletes getting paid secretly, Taylor Branch in 2011 points out…

The real scandal in college sports is that athletes are NOT getting paid

*Taylor Branch 2011 (Masters in Public Administration; former assistant editor at Washington Monthly) The Shame of College Sports, THE ATLANTIC Oct 2011* [*https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/10/the-shame-of-college-sports/308643/*](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/10/the-shame-of-college-sports/308643/)

Contention 2. The Solution

The US Department of Labor in 2016 explains how…

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act sets the ground rules for paying most U.S. workers

US Dept of Labor 2016 " Handy Reference Guide to the Fair Labor Standards Act" revised Sept 2016 <https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/hrg.htm>

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) establishes minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor standards affecting full-time and part-time workers in the private sector and in Federal, State, and local governments.

END QUOTE. In 2014, players from the Northwestern University football team filed a complaint with the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB. While his decision was later over-ruled, the Regional Director pointed out the obvious exploitation and the obvious solution, which was to bring the players under the FLSA. Attorney Michelle Piasecki explained in 2016 how

Control over players lives justifies treating them as employees

Michelle Pieasecki 2016 (attorney specializing in US collegiate sports) Law Review: Are College Athletes Employees? AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION "INSIGHTS ON LAW AND SOCIETY" Vol 16 Issue 3 <https://www.americanbar.org/publications/insights_on_law_andsociety/16/spring-2016/law-review--are-college-athletes-employees-.html> (brackets in original)

Northwestern controlled nearly every aspect of the players’ personal lives as well. Players were required to obtain a coaches permission before they could: “(1) make their living arrangements; (2) apply for outside employment; (3) drive personal vehicles; (4) travel off campus; (5) post items on the Internet; (6) speak to the media; (7) use alcohol and drugs; [or] (8) engage in gambling.” When taken together, the Regional Director surmised that these factors supported a finding that the players were employees of Northwestern.

END QUOTE. And the Director was right. Steve Siebold in 2015 points out that fairness demands that since..

Everyone else is making money off of them, the players deserve to make some too

Steve Siebold 2015 (critical thinking expert, former professional tennis player) 26 Mar 2015 HUFFINGTON POST College Sports Programs Compensate Coaches Well - And Now it is Time to Pay the Players <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-siebold/college-sports-programs-c_b_6944176.html>

Let’s be clear. Many college athletes come from low-income families. Most of those college athletes will not make the pros. They are generating huge profits, huge money and huge salaries for everyone involved. It is just not fair that the coaches, the colleges, the universities, the TV networks and the local communities make a ton of money while the players themselves make nothing. It has to stop. The players need to start making a salary or they should go on strike.

END QUOTE. And finally, paying the players not only solves the exploitation but it also reduces the temptations and scandals involving under-the-table cash that become completely unnecessary when all the money is out in the open and legitimate. Kevin Owens in 2012 explains how…

The money’s there and paying the players solves the problems

Kevin Owens 2012 (former college basketball player, seven-year veteran of overseas professional basketball ) Paying College Athletes: A Solution to the Problems Facing the NCAA 19 Apr 2012 <https://philly.sbnation.com/2012/4/19/2960207/paying-college-athletes-a-solution-to-the-problems-facing-the-ncaa> (ellipses in original)

The annual revenue of college athletics overall is $10.6 billion. [Although the NCAA website tries to justify this number with rhetoric about distribution and fairness](http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Answers/Nine+points+to+consider_one), $10.6 billion for a $120,000 scholarship seems a tad off balance. With so much money floating around, how can the NCAA still try to maintain this amateur façade? How can they continue to exploit athletes who perform their trade in front of a sold out arena? These games broadcasted to a nationally televised audience, with advertisers paying millions for a thirty second spot? How can we limit student-athletes, who come from underprivileged backgrounds, from resorting to drug distribution, or deals with tattoo parlors, or money from boosters? The solution is simple...pay student-athletes for their services. This would go a long way in solving some of the issues plaguing college athletics.

PRO-AT: The Case for Paying the Athletes

EXPLOITATION

All Division-1A basketball players are being exploited economically, at big and small schools

Prof. David Berri 2014 (prof. of economics at Southern Utah University) 14 Nov 2014 Exploitation Is Everywhere in Men's College Basketball <http://time.com/3586037/exploitation-is-everywhere-in-mens-college-basketball/> (brackets added)

So the most productive players at NCC [North Carolina Central University] are producing at least six times more revenue for the school then the value of their education. And that suggests exploitation is likely everywhere in Division I-A college basketball. We don't have to investigate the quality of education the players receive to see that at both big and small schools there are players generating more revenue than they are being "paid."

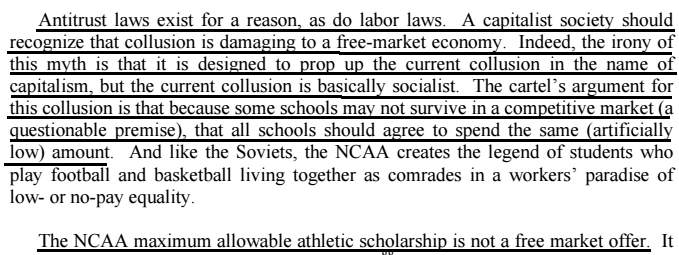
Quantification of exploitation: UNC basketball players get $50,000 worth of education but should have gotten $650,000

Prof. David Berri 2014 (prof. of economics at Southern Utah University) 14 Nov 2014 Exploitation Is Everywhere in Men's College Basketball <http://time.com/3586037/exploitation-is-everywhere-in-mens-college-basketball/>

During my testimony I was asked if football players were "exploited." I responded that I thought they were, and my argument began with the standard definition of "exploitation": A worker is exploited if the wage the worker received is less than their economic contribution to the firm. In terms of college sports, an athlete is "exploited" if the athlete generates more revenue than he/she is paid in terms of his/her scholarship and housing at the school. Let's illustrate this point by looking at the men's basketball players at the University of North Carolina in 2012-13 (another group that was supposedly impacted by the UNC scandal). [According to numbers reported by North Carolina University to the Department of Education, the men's basketball program generated $20.9 million in revenue in 2012-13 (this is the last year the Department of Education reports)](http://ope.ed.gov/athletics/Index.aspx). Currently the NCAA restricts the payment of athletes to essentially the cost of attending the institution. But in a typical labor market, the payment to workers is unrestricted. If the North Carolina Tar Heels had to hire workers in such a market, how much of this $20.9 million would the players receive? For an answer, let's look at professional sports leagues in North America. [Major League Baseball and the National Football League tend to pay about 50% of their revenue to their players](http://www.soccernomics-agency.com/?p=639). A similar story is [told in the NBA](http://espn.go.com/nba/story/_/page/CBA-111128/how-new-nba-deal-compares-last-one) and [the NHL](http://espn.go.com/nhl/story/_/id/9044917/nhl-nhlpa-agree-change-escrow-rate-20-percent-according-sources). One should note, though, that each of these leagues has labor markets restrictions (i.e. reverse order drafts, reserve clauses, luxury taxes, salary caps, etc...) that do not exist outside of sports. As we see in European sports, [without these restrictions players are paid more than 75% of league revenues](http://www.soccernomics-agency.com/?p=639). So the 50% figure we see in North America sports is likely not what we would see in a completely free market. Nevertheless, let's imagine that in a free market the Tar Heel basketball players received 50% of the revenue the program generates. If this was the case, the players would have received $10.45 million in 2012-13. [And with 16 players on the roster](http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/schools/north-carolina/2013.html), and equal split of this money would give about $650,000 to each player. [North Carolina says the out-of-state cost of attendance in 2014-15 is about $50,000](http://admissions.unc.edu/afford/cost-of-attendance/). If this represents the value of the education North Carolina is providing its players — and given what we have heard about this program, this might be an exaggeration — this means that even if the players are receiving all the education they were promised, the players are still very clearly exploited.

A/T “It’s a free market, no one’s forcing them.” – It’s NOT a free market, that’s exactly the problem

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



A/T “It’s should just be for love of the game” – Then why are the coaches paid? Why does the college profit?

Steve Siebold 2015(critical thinking expert, former college and professional tennis) USA TODAY Stop the rip-off, pay college athletes: Opposing view 13 Jan 2015 (ellipses in original) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/01/13/ezekiel-elliott-cardale-jones-college-ncaa-steve-siebold-editorials-debates/21719499/>

NCAA President Mark Emmert said, "These individuals are not professionals. People come to watch ... because it's college sports, with college athletes." If that's the case, why sell tickets, or merchandise? Why pay the coaches? Why let anyone profit?

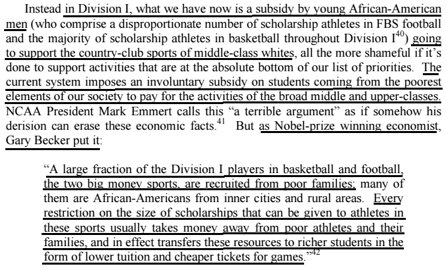
A/T “They’re getting a free education as their pay” – Way too little, they need and deserve more

Steve Siebold 2014 (critical thinking expert, former college and professional tennis player ) 13 Aug 2014 HUFFINGTON POST “It’s Time to Pay College Athletes“ <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-siebold/its-time-to-pay-college-athletes_b_5672988.html>

The problem with the free education argument is that from a monetary standpoint, these athletes deserve a lot more than that free education. So yes, they save $150,000 over the course of four years, but they walk away with a piece of paper. There’s nothing wrong with a college degree, but a college degree on its own isn’t going to make them successful. So what happens to the college kids who might be superstars in the NCAA, but don’t have the talent to make it to the NFL or NBA? Then what? What happens next? Where do they go? Paying college athletes now is the right thing to do because it will give those who fail to be recruited by the pros a chance to buy some time, and hopefully figure out how they are going to get by with the rest of their lives and give them a little savings in the bank to work with.

Poor student athletes are used to subsidize the rich

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



A/T “They’ll get compensated in the NBA or NFL” – Only 5% of them go on to the pros

Joe Nocera & Ben Strauss 2016 (Nocera – business journalist. Strauss – journalist with the NY Times) FORTUNE magazine 27 Feb 2016 Here’s How The NCAA Hurts College Athletes <http://fortune.com/2016/02/27/how-ncaa-hurts-college-players/>

But while the college sports establishment squeezes every last dollar out of their marquee athletes—weekday night games, schools jumping from conference to conference, and a rash of corporate sponsors—they must remain amateurs, while a little more than 5% of them go on to careers in the NBA or NFL.

CHEATING & SCANDALS

Status Quo creates incentives for cheating and scandals that will never go away

Prof. Phillip Miller 2016 (professor and chair of the department of economics at Minnesota State University, Mankato) 16 March 2016 WASHINGTON POST “Are amateurism rules corrupting college athletes?” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/03/16/are-amateurism-rules-corrupting-college-athletes/?utm_term=.f220f7baafbf>

On the other side of the line are under-the-table payments of money or goods and services, as well as the bribing of influential adults in the lives of elite athletes, such as parents or high school coaches. These are impermissible, and the promise of easy classes and programs, which can be used to attract elite athletes who place little value on getting an education, lead to academic scandals. Even so, impermissible benefits and academic scandals pockmark the college sports landscape like craters on the moon. For the third time in his career and with as many programs, Hall of Fame basketball coach Larry Brown of Southern Methodist University has been penalized by the NCAA for academic misconduct — [an administrative assistant was found completing coursework for a student-athlete](http://espn.go.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/14789981/larry-brown-smu-mustangs-sanctions-penalty-fit-crime). The University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Louisville basketball programs have self-imposed bans from postseason play this year for rules violations committed in those programs. But none of these schools will be taking down the nets in Houston this year. The [Syracuse University men’s basketball program](http://auburnpub.com/news/local/updated-syracuse-coach-jim-boeheim-s--game-suspension-upheld/article_3cef2a66-99e0-11e5-91bb-17af7bb3ca66.html) had to vacate more than 100 wins and head coach Jim Boeheim was suspended for nine games because of various NCAA violations. Even the venerable University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was put on probation by its accrediting agency for the academic scandal that enveloped its basketball program recently. These scandals were embarrassing. But at the margin, if violating an NCAA rule is more beneficial than it is costly (including the expected cost of getting caught), then the rule, whatever it is, will be violated.

As long as NCAA’s amateurism rule exists, scandals will continue

Prof. Phillip Miller 2016 (professor and chair of the department of economics at Minnesota State University, Mankato) 16 March 2016 WASHINGTON POST “Are amateurism rules corrupting college athletes?” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/03/16/are-amateurism-rules-corrupting-college-athletes/?utm_term=.f220f7baafbf>

There is little doubt that there are many college sports fans, especially alumni, who care deeply about the integrity of their favorite colleges and universities. But given the NCAA’s stance on amateurism, as long as fans care more about wins, losses and championships than how athletes are recruited or whether they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, scandals will continue to be a part of the college sports landscape.

NCAA “Amateurism” rule creates corruption. There’s nothing wrong with paying people to perform

Patrick Hruby 2011 (sports journalist, former adjunct professor at Georgetown Univ. ) THE ALTANTIC 6 Apr 2011 “Should College Athletes Get Paid? Ending the Debate, Once and for All” <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/04/should-college-athletes-get-paid-ending-the-debate-once-and-for-all/236809/>

It's often said that the War on Drugs—like Prohibition before it—takes a preexisting drug problem and adds a crime problem. Amateurism creates a similar dilemma for college sports. Except there is no initial drug problem. There's nothing inherently wrong about people paying other people to perform—otherwise, we should outlaw American Idol.

Corruption: College athletes are sometimes already being paid – it’s just under the table and illegal

Patrick Hruby 2011 (sports journalist, former adjunct professor at Georgetown Univ. ) THE ALTANTIC 6 Apr 2011 “Should College Athletes Get Paid? Ending the Debate, Once and for All” <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/04/should-college-athletes-get-paid-ending-the-debate-once-and-for-all/236809/>

The father of former Auburn University quarterback Cam Newton allegedly solicited $180,000 from a second school in exchange for his son's Heisman Trophy-winning services. Football players at Ohio State recently were suspended for selling memorabilia and receiving discounted tattoos. Just last week, five other former Auburn players said that they were given sexual favors—shades of Spike Lee's He Got Game—and cash while being recruited by and playing for the school, including post-game "money handshakes" from friends of the program. Of course, none of this is new: from early 20th century Ivy League football to John Wooden-era UCLA super-booster Sam Gilbert to former USC running back Reggie Bush returning his Heisman statuette in the wake of a cash 'n' agents scandal, college sports long have featured an underground economy, because talented young athletes forever have been worth more than the above-board value of a scholarship. And since underground economies by definition involve corruption and rule breaking, almost everyone in the pay-for-play debate agrees that money handshakes are a problem.

PAY IS THE SOLUTION

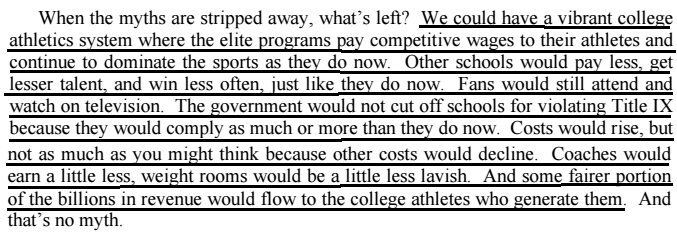
All or nothing is the only fair solution. Open it up and let them get paid

Steve Siebold 2015(critical thinking expert, former college and professional tennis player) USA TODAY Stop the rip-off, pay college athletes: Opposing view 13 Jan 2015 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/01/13/ezekiel-elliott-cardale-jones-college-ncaa-steve-siebold-editorials-debates/21719499/>

The only fair solution is an all-or-nothing system. Either everyone profits from college sports, especially the athletes, or no one does. It's time to offer college athletes the piece of the pie they have earned and so desperately deserve.

Paying athletes would produce a vibrant athletics system where a fairer portion of the money is given to those who earn it

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



A/T “Too hard to decide how much to pay” – No committee has to decide. Just make offers, let the market decide

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Myth 1: It’s too hard to figure out how to pay players fairly. This myth rests deeply in the assumption that if we deign to allow college players to be paid, there would have to be a nationwide agreement by all 345 Division I schools (or perhaps just the 122 in FBS, the football bowl subdivision) as to what each student would get, and it would be a nightmare, with committees meeting annually to review compensation to make sure it was fair to schools and athletes, and endless debates over the optimal pay level. It makes you wonder how the Software Industry Wage Committee ever decides how much to pay computer programmers and how the Law Firm Pay Commissariat decides on associate and partner compensation each year. The solution, of course, is just to pay them. There is no need for a central committee to make this decision. Since 1776, with the publication of Adam Smith’s “The Wealth of Nations,” we’ve understood that markets generally find their way to efficient outcomes without the need for a committee, NCAA or otherwise, acting as a wage politburo. No centralized commission or study group is needed to decide what we should pay the athletes. Let schools make offers, and let incoming high school athletes and their parents decide which to accept.

A/T “Schools can’t afford it” – Of course they can, they have millions and billions of dollars

Maxwell Strachan 2015 (journalist) HUFFINGTON POST “NCAA Schools Can Absolutely Afford To Pay College Athletes, Economists Say” 27 March 2015 <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/27/ncaa-pay-student-athletes_n_6940836.html>

But when The Huffington Post asked five sports economists whether the NCAA and its member institutions could afford to pay student-athletes, the response was quite different: a resounding yes. Some of the economists were almost surprised by the question; the answer seemed so obvious to them. “It’s pretty clear that they would be able to,” said David Berri, a professor of economics at Southern Utah University. “I don’t see any reason that they wouldn’t be able to, in fact.” As Rodney Fort, a sports economist and professor of sports management at the University of Michigan, succinctly put it, “The money is already there.” The NCAA alone [brought in nearly a billion dollars](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/11/ncaa-revenue-2014_n_6851286.html) in revenue in its most recent financial year, and [top-tier athletic programs regularly bring in](http://money.cnn.com/2015/03/16/news/companies/ncaa-most-profitable/) tens of millions of dollars as well.

A/T “Schools are broke, no money for players” – Because they spend it all, not because there’s not enough money

Maxwell Strachan 2015 (journalist) HUFFINGTON POST “NCAA Schools Can Absolutely Afford To Pay College Athletes, Economists Say” 27 March 2015 <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/27/ncaa-pay-student-athletes_n_6940836.html> (brackets added)

Sure, you might say, there’s a lot of money coming in. But if the schools are still losing money or only breaking even on their sports programs, won’t additional labor costs hurt those programs and the schools? “That’s a silly argument,” [Economics Professor David] Berri said. “They’re nonprofits, and their incentive is to spend every cent that comes in.” “That doesn’t mean they aren’t making money,” he added. “That just means they spent all of it.”

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES

A/T “Lost values / student-athlete principle”

Golden Age that never was, it’s just hypocrisy. Athletes have always been expected to put sports first before academics

Joe Nocera & Ben Strauss 2016 (Nocera – business journalist. Strauss – journalist with the NY Times) FORTUNE magazine 27 Feb 2016 Here’s How The NCAA Hurts College Athletes <http://fortune.com/2016/02/27/how-ncaa-hurts-college-players/>

The NCAA’s long-standing insistence that amateurism is the “core value” of college sports has always been more than a little hypocritical— as has the idea that the NCAA was somehow preventing (as opposed to enabling) their exploitation. Has there ever really been a time when the athletes in the so‑called revenue sports—football and men’s basketball— that are the focus of our book Indentured weren’t expected to put their sport first and their studies a distant second, while helping to bring glory and money to their school? Has there ever been a time when college athletes weren’t at some level exploited?

A/T “Hurts competition”

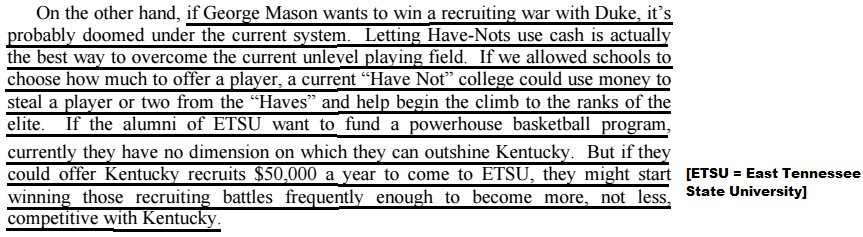
Paying players would make college sports more competitive

Steve Siebold 2014 (critical thinking expert, former professional tennis player ) 13 Aug 2014 HUFFINGTON POST “It’s Time to Pay College Athletes“ <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-siebold/its-time-to-pay-college-athletes_b_5672988.html>

The NCAA has defended its no-pay rules on many different grounds. One of particular interest is it claims that compensating student-athletes would destroy competitive balance in college sports. There’s absolutely no logic to this statement. As a former professional athlete and someone who coaches many professional athletes, we’re all on different pay scales. Corporate executives earn different amounts of money; pro athletes earn different amounts of money. If anything, waving greenbacks in front of the athletes would be more motivation and increase that competitive spirit. The athlete has a shift in thinking that says, “The harder I play and the better my performance, the more compensation I can receive.” There’s certainly no destruction of competitive balance in that logic. This is America. This is the basic premise of free enterprise and capitalism. It teaches these kids to equate making money with performance.

A/T “Haves vs Have-nots / Disparities between rich and poor” – Non unique, happens now. Turn: Pay would do more to level the playing field than SQ

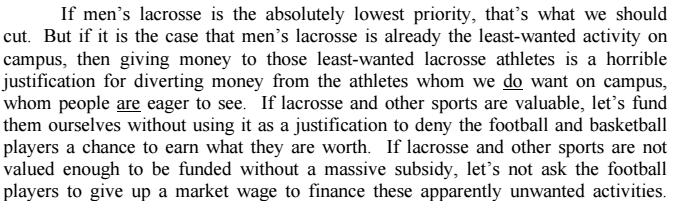
Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view> (brackets added)



A/T “Schools cut other sports to pay athletes”

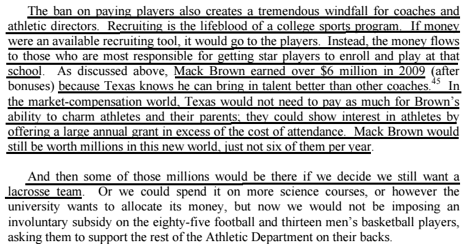
Doesn’t justify harming the football players

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



Coaching salaries would get cut, and that money could be used for other sports

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



A/T “Team Cohesion / Jealousy among players over differences in pay”

Not happening now even with differences in scholarships

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>

I wonder how many of these commentators have ever watched the college baseball world series, or NCAA hockey, or most any other college sport, including football at the Division I FCS level. Under NCAA scholarship rules, most schools provide very unequal compensation to their athletes in most sports. In most NCAA teams, some of the athletes are on “full-rides,” some on are on half or quarter-scholarships, and some get no scholarships at all. These teams very rarely dissolve into chaos because some players are earning four or more times what others are getting. Even in football and basketball, scholarship and non-scholarship players work together cohesively to win games and championships.

Not a problem: Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl with huge income disparities

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>

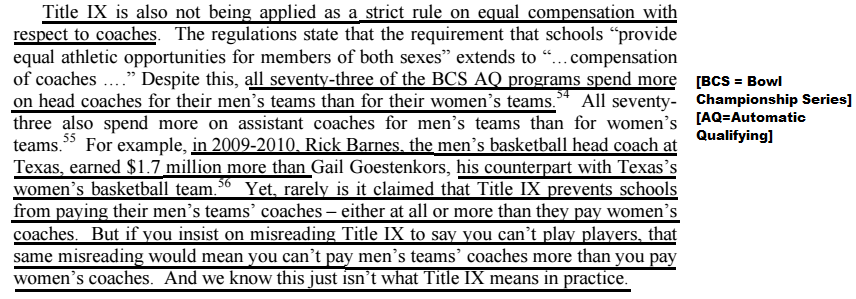
This ability of teams to cooperate successfully despite different levels of pay shouldn’t be surprising, since professional sports teams have succeeded since the nineteenth century with pay that varies among the players on a team. Dirk Nowitski earned over $17 million this year, J.J. Barea earned a little more than 10% of that, and Ian Mahinmi earned less than half of what Barea earned.16 Yet somehow the Mavericks were able to gel as a team and win this year’s NBA championship despite Nowitski earning almost twenty-three times Mahinmi’s salary. Aaron Rodgers threw nine completions to Jordy Nelson in the 2011 Super Bowl, despite the fact that Rodgers was earning $6 million to Nelson’s $475,000, and Rogers was able to hand the ball to James Starks, Green Bay’s leading rusher, despite the fact that Starks earned only 5.3% of Rodgers salary. Somehow the Packers overcame this income disparity to win the Super Bowl.

A/T “Title IX problems” (equal treatment of men’s and women’s college sports under federal law)

1. **It’s not a problem because it doesn’t apply to paying the athletes. 2)) Non-unique. Status Quo sports programs aren’t following Title IX literally, and the world hasn’t ended. 3) Even if Title IX did apply and we followed it, it would work fine and would be a good thing not a bad thing.**

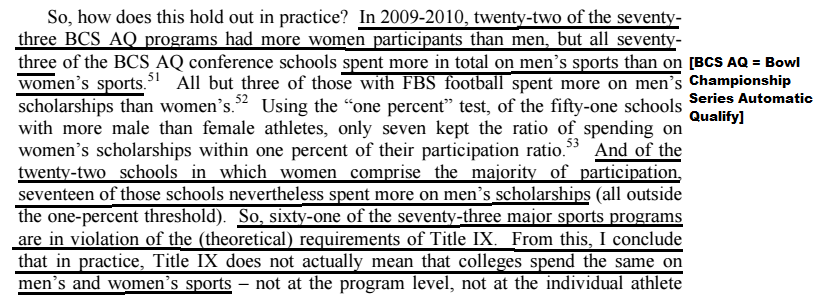
Not a problem: Title IX doesn’t block pay for coaches, so it wouldn’t block it for students either

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view> (brackets added)



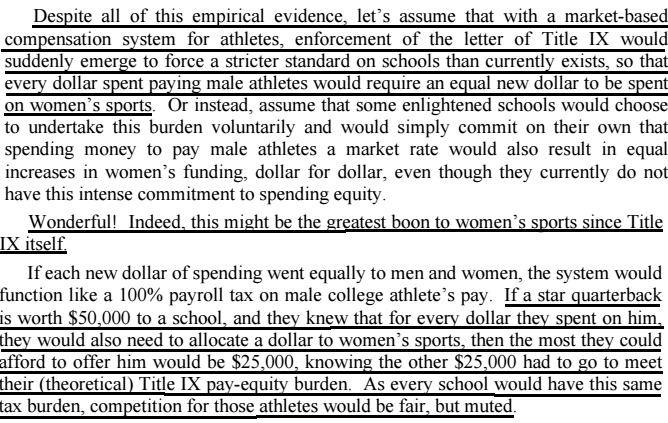
Not a problem or Non-Unique: Title IX doesn’t require equal spending, and if it does the Status Quo is violating it already

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view> (brackets added)



Turn: Title IX would be good. If Title IX applied, which it doesn’t, it would inject more money into women’s sports

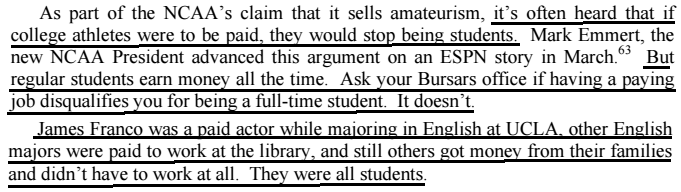
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A/T “Mercenaries / Athletes stop being students if they get paid”

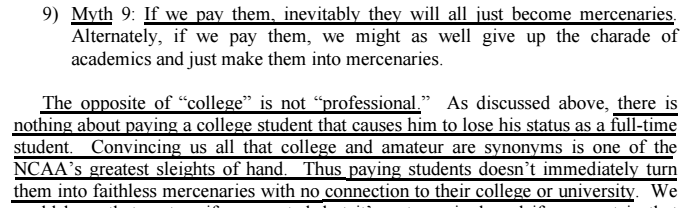
No other students are disqualified when they get paid, athletes are no different

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



Paying doesn’t make them mercenaries: They still have to be full-time students at the college they play for

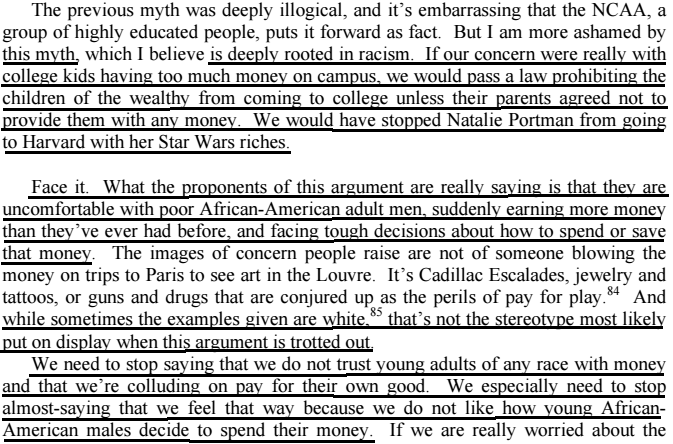
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A/T “Athletes will waste the money – not good for them to get rich that young”

Racist myth. We have no right to tell any adult how to manage his money. Doesn’t justify denying money they’ve earned

Andy Schwarz 2011 (consultant and trial expert in economic litigation cases involving economics of sports; M.B.A. from UCLA) 8 Sept 2011 “EXCUSES, NOT REASONS: 13 MYTHS ABOUT (NOT) PAYING COLLEGE ATHLETES <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxM4wdtZ5uI-OWFhNGE1ZTItZTllYS00YmVlLTk0YmItYTM4ZDUyY2MwNTE2/view>



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