

Show college athletes the money



DYLAN LEE
SPORTS EDITOR

It's about time we let the athletes see some of the fruit of their labor.

When this column appears in print, some of the world's finest athletes will be locked in competition in a 64-team, three week-long spectacle that will take place on an astronomical scale across the nation.

This extravaganza is the men's NCAA Basketball tournament, or March Madness, one of the finest sports events in the world. In TV advertising revenue alone, the event will generate more than a billion dollars. And theoretically, the athletes who put their bodies on the line and dedicate the entirety of themselves to this tournament for years will not see a single penny of the NCAA's revenue.

These athletes are just as motivated and dedicated to their craft as any of the NBA players who are signing multi-million dollar contracts, but when it comes to compensation, the NCAA does not permit them to receive anything besides a full ride and room and board to the university of their choice.

To most of us in Davis this may seem like a dream come true, but many athletes who are on the receiving end of these scholarships come from considerably less privileged backgrounds.

The examples of this can be shown prominently in countless instances.

Jameis Winston stole crab legs from a grocery store. A few years ago, West Virginia football players Darwin Cook and Terence Garvin were arrested for stealing three bottles of Gatorade and four bags of chips from a local convenience store. No college athlete should have to steal food.

Just last year, one of the best players in the country was Connecticut's Shabazz Napier, whose career accolades include ACC Player of the Year, NCAA Men's Player of the Tournament and two national championships. Napier, despite possessing talent that could rival some of the NBA's finest and becoming a brand himself that made millions for both his university and the NCAA, struggled to meet such basic human needs as regular meals.

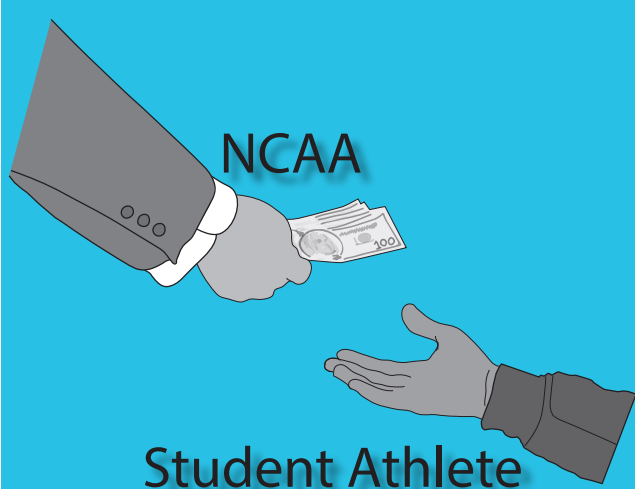
For an athlete who was under immense pressure, Napier could not even afford to feed himself for all his troubles. He reportedly went to sleep hungry due to financial struggles on a regular basis during his senior year at UConn.

Such a situation is unacceptable for anyone, but it only exaggerates the problem when you look at the immense profits that had been made off of his name over his illustrious and decorated four-year college career. The sad truth is that Napier is just one of thousands of athletes, both young men and women, who are exploited and used like slaves by the NCAA.

The NCAA, which is supposedly not for profit, rakes in more than \$6 billion per year, almost none of which could be possible without the contributions, varying in significance, of athletes from more than 1,281 schools.

College sports and the NCAA are a business as much as they are a game in today's world, and if I look at this from a business standpoint, it seems simply criminal to not compensate student-athletes for their contributions. From this perspective, the games are merely a show that is making a profit, and in a show, actors are paid a healthy amount of the profits, right?

The bottom line is that these players need to be looked at as people more than they currently are. With the money that is being made off of their labor, they ought to be compensated at least in some way simply due to their incredible value in this new sports world.



NCAA

Student Athlete



DANIELLE NEWMAN/HUB PHOTO

Rowing not allowed for ILS

By ELLEN FINN
HUB Staff

Independent Lifetime Sports (ILS), an independent class that can be taken in place of Physical Education by student athletes, no longer accepts River City Rowing Club (RCRC), rugby, cheerleading and gymnastics. Ever since ILS' beginning, student athletes have provided themselves with more time for their sport or schoolwork by enrolling in the time-saving course, but now many athletes are left out and they are not happy.

A group of rowers for RCRC think that the decision to remove their club from eligibility will have a negative effect on rowers and other excluded athletes.

Sophomore Suzy Vander Gheynst-Karagosian rows for River City and used it as her ILS sport this year.

"I am very disappointed that crew is not an option for alternative PE next year, as it's a very high-intensity sport and all of the rowers work very hard and train six days a week," Vander Gheynst-Karagosian said.

Crew is a demanding sport, and rowers are often pressed for time when their total transportation and rowing time each day can last from 3:30 to 7.

"Unfortunately the extra fifty minutes rowers will have to spend in a PE class could be spent doing homework outside of practice," senior rower Mikhayla Armstrong said.

Though there has been much speculation as to why ILS removed particular sports from its list of acceptable sports, the list of eligible sports has been determined based on the sport's connection to DHS (River City Rowing and Rugby are club sports) and the sports' ability to teach physical education in the state-required areas.

Armstrong recognizes that River City Rowing may have been removed because it is a club sport, but she thinks rowing has taught her more than any PE class could.

"I have learned so many important life lessons through crew that I'll continue to use for the rest of my life," Armstrong said. "Rowing has improved my confidence in achieving goals I have set for myself."

Armstrong even set a goal for herself to run a half marathon, and in Fall of 2014 she did.

"I know I never would have been able to do it without the mental strength I have learned from rowing," Armstrong said.

Older rowers were upset when they learned that their

freshmen counterparts would not have the same opportunities for flexibility that they had. There is a large number of DHS freshmen on the rowing team, and none of them will be able to use ILS next year as a way to make more time for themselves.

"Rowing for RCRC is definitely a better alternative to traditional PE because it makes you stronger and more fit," VanderGheynst-Kara said. "But also it teaches you more about the importance of teamwork than any PE class ever has."

Junior Mychiah Teach agreed, and said that the first thing rowers learn is how to exercise properly. RCRC rowers practice two hours a day, six days a week.

"In those precious few hours we learn how to safely lift weights, how to maximize a workout, and how to maintain a clean bill of health like avoiding injuries and sickness," Teach said. "But if that still wasn't enough lifetime skills we also discuss nutrition and how that can impact your abilities to focus at school as well as practice. Beyond that, crew is fun, the team is a family."

However Teach, who has never taken Independent Lifetime Sports herself, doesn't think the removal of rowing from its list will affect many dedicated rowers.

"We row because we love it, not because we want to get out of PE," Teach said.

Nevertheless, Teach still agrees that rowing deserves to be an ILS sport just like any other DHS sport. She said the sport showed her how much she loves working out.

"In PE [working out] seemed like a big waste of time," said Teach. "I couldn't tell you one thing my PE teachers taught me but I can tell you what my coach told me before a race two years ago. I can also tell you what exercise works what muscles and give you a few more to work that same group."

However, DHS PE teacher Julie Crawford told bluedevilhub.com that PE is a class and must follow state standards like every other class on campus.

"Physical education is a class that is done at school and just like every other class has state standards," Crawford said. "We enjoy teaching team and individual activities as well as teaching and encouraging students to develop healthy fitness habits that they will have for the rest of their lives."

But Teach still believes that she owes her athletic spirit to her coach and teammates, not physical education.

"I know every one of the people on my team is there to row," said Teach. "Not socialize, not to tan, but to row with one goal in mind - to win."

EDITOR'S PICKS

	Dylan Lee Sports Editor	Will Bodendorfer Reporter	Thomas Oide Editor-in-Chief	Sam Eaton Art Director
4/20 DAVIS vs. ELK GROVE BASEBALL	Elk Grove wins 10-1 "There is a high chance that Ray Young throws smoke through the helpless Elk Grove lineup."	Blue Devils win 4-2 "In a rematch of the heated series, Kris Prince pinch hits a walkoff two-run homer in the bottom of the 7th."	Elk Grove wins 5-2 "The Herd are one of the best teams in the section, but they haven't played like it yet. Expect them to show up against their rivals."	Blue Devils win 5-1 "I'll be blunt, Ian Miramontes is the best pitcher ever to come from West D. Elk Grove can't match our BDP."
4/9 DAVIS vs. GRANT MEN'S VOLLEYBALL	Blue Devils win 3-2 "The Bench Mob brings home a victory for the Blue Devils."	Blue Devils win 3-1 "Richard Lu has the game of life, recording 25 kills. The Blue Devils serve tough and win easily."	Blue Devils win 3-2 "The men's volleyball is a scrappy bunch and I expect them to beat the visiting Pacers in an absolute barn-burner."	Blue Devils win 3-0 "Shouts out to my boys Evbot, JoeFlow, Killer Mike, Milton, Richhomielu, and Owen Yancher."
3/31 DAVIS vs. MONTE VISTA WOMEN'S LACROSSE	Mustangs win 9-8 "Monte Vista, the team that knocked Davis out of the playoffs last year, is too much for the team to handle."	Mustangs win 6-4 "Sarah Bloise and company play tough, but the women's lacrosse team does not have Jake Hammond."	Mustangs win 15-11 "Sarah Bloise shakes off her rust from basketball season and tears up the Mustang defense, but Monte Vista proves to be too much."	Blue Devils win 15-4 "Elli Meinert drops six goals and Sarah Bloise leads them to victory."
4/20 DAVIS vs. FRANKLIN WOMEN'S SOCCER	Blue Devils win 4-0 "This is the best women's soccer team in the state right now. They are unstoppable."	Blue Devils win 5-0 "The Davis girls send a message to the rest of the league and win easily."	Blue Devils win 25-0 "I don't know if the women's soccer team could possibly lose a game."	Blue Devils win 3-0 "Franklin gets smoked by our girls. I plan on seeing Suleikha Sutter score all three goals."

Bring Blue Devil Pride to all spring sports



EMILY LUFBORROW/HUB PHOTO

Senior Brooke Rosenblum and a St. Francis player chase after a through ball. The women's soccer team is currently ranked number one in California by TopDrawerSoccer.com



DANIELLE NEWMAN/HUB PHOTO

Senior Sarah Bloise weaves her way through the San Ramon Valley defense during a game on Mar. 13. Bloise will attend Fresno State University to play lacrosse next fall



NATE CURTIS
HUB STAFF

Last year, 15 out of 16 DHS spring varsity sports made either playoffs or NorCals.

That's right, almost every single one of our school's spring sports performed well enough in their regular season to continue play in some way. The only outlier is women's rugby, which is the youngest spring sport at DHS. These teams

have talent, great coaching, and tons of Blue Devil pride, but they're missing ONE thing. Fans.

Take men's volleyball, for example. Last year they went 8-2 in league, which was one of the best records in DHS history. Although they lost in the first round of playoffs, almost no one attended the game to cheer them on. Women's lacrosse has a similar story. The lacrosse team is filled with stars and make it far into playoffs every year. Do they have large attendance? No.

Men's tennis lost in the section finals last year in a nail biter against Jesuit. Men's rugby went undefeated. Both swimming squads made it to sections, with the men winning and the women coming in second. Women's badminton made sections. The list of accomplishments goes on and on, while the student attendance hovers around zero.

Recently Student Government has been doing a great job attempting to give the less popular sports more fans. The

most recent example is Black Out Night for women's soccer, but this class has also experimented with events for women's basketball, women's softball and men's lacrosse to give these sports more attendance.

Although StudGov is trying its best to increase attendance, it is ultimately up to the students to go to the game. Going is simple! Just grab some friends, say "Hey, buds, let's go watch the track meet, I hear they have a stud pole vaulter," and go. I promise you'll have fun, and your friends on the team will be very happy you went.

As a member of the football team and last year's basketball team, I can personally tell you that winning in front of a home crowd is one of the best feelings ever. Every high school athlete deserves to feel the same at one point in their high school careers.

So put on your bluest shirt and show off your hashtag BDP this spring. Looking back, you'll be glad you did.

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ONE SEASON IN FOUR PHOTOS

Undefeated in league play, women's basketball makes it to playoffs



The Blue Devil bench intently watches their teammates play during their game against Franklin on Jan. 16. Depth was a huge strength for the team this year, with the bench playing a huge role in many Blue Devil wins.



Senior Caitlin Mazzoleni and junior Rachel Allison get pumped up for their matchup with Franklin on Jan. 16. Team chemistry held the team together during its undefeated run in the Delta League.



Although the women's basketball team was one of the best in Northern California, they struggled to bring fans to their games all season, including the first round of NorCals at home against Clayton Valley Charter.



The strategy and excellent coaching of Heather Highshoe, the Delta League Coach of the Year, led the team to the NorCal tournament, where the team suffered a heartbreaking loss to McClatchy in the second round.

DHS athletes forced to decide between sports

By DYLAN LEE AND WILL BODENDORFER
HUB Staff

DHS offers students a diverse pool of sports to play, and many DHS athletes take advantage of this by joining multiple sports teams. However, because some sports occur during the same sports season, students have to make a tough decision between two teams.

After playing golf last year, senior Joe Honig decided to try out for the volleyball team this spring instead. Although Honig said that he enjoyed his time on the golf team, he wanted to try something new and volleyball was the perfect fit for him.

"I chose volleyball because I wanted to truly be part of a team and build friendships with my teammates," he said. "Volleyball has given me that and more."

Although Honig has only been playing the sport for a few weeks, he is excited about the prospects for his future.

"This is my very first year playing competitive volleyball so I still have much to learn, but I'm excited to see where the season takes me. Who knows, maybe I will end up playing club in college."

However, sometimes the transition to another sport is not as smooth, or worse, isn't possible at all.

Junior Tommy Mctygue had considered trying to play rugby this year, but ultimately decided against it.

"My brother played rugby and I wanted to try it out this year, but I'm definitely more committed to basketball, so when I figured out I wouldn't be able to do both it was a no-brainer to stick with basketball."

Some DHS athletes, like cheerleaders, participate in year-round sports, which means they aren't allowed to play a second sport.

Junior Megan Klisiewicz decided to quit the cheerleading team last year so that she could play soccer. While soccer is just a spring sport, cheerleading is a year-round sport. Klisiewicz chose soccer because she wanted to play a sport



Senior Joe Honig, at left, observes the action during a home game against Elk Grove on 17 March. Honig played golf last spring, but decided to play for the volleyball team this year.

that she could possibly continue in college.

"The time commitment was a huge factor. I also had to take into account what sport I would be able to continue with after high school. I am also not a gymnast, so putting time and money into building that skill was another factor. Having a six-month concussion-related absence from cheer was a major factor as well," she said.

Klisiewicz believes that while it was a tough decision to quit cheerleading mid-season, she is happy with the choice she made.

"I am more than happy with my decision. Although I chose to continue soccer, I really did enjoy cheer when I did it. They're both intense and complex sports, but soccer is just my comfort zone."