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Why College Athletes Should Be Paid?

**Introduction**

College athletics is a rising multi-billion dollar business which every year recruits even more players (Goldman). Universities and participants have become more efficient as the decades go on for contributing to improved performance and producing more income. The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) was established in 1906 to keep young competitors from such manipulations because of the predominant insidious nature of the sports industry and since then has proceeded to enforce the law (Brown). The NCAA promotes both athletics and academic achievement and is assigned with the involvement of legislation and enforcement in professional sports. Financial payment is among the college sports industry's frequently discussed topics. Such sports are perpetually generating income on an increasing level attempting to force the NCAA to tackle the issue of paying athletes for their engagement in sports like soccer, baseball, and basketball. As stated in an article on Elite Daily, the NCAA recorded approximately $845 million in funding revenue throughout the previous decade, yet according to the regulations of the NCAA, student athletes are not allowed to obtain financial compensation as they are classified armor (Johnson and Acquaviva). The controversy on agreeing to pay student athletes has been at the focal point of headlines for some decades but now continues to expand, thanks to the higher revenues produced by the professional athletes for their colleges as well as the percentage of economic development seen in the business sector as a whole. Even when the mean football stipend is valued $20,000 annually, still the college earns $70,000 annually profits per scholarship athlete (remember that this statistic is only an approximation-the exact number could genuinely be greater), the college will earn $50,000 annually, per scholarship athlete, or $200,000 throughout a four-year span (Brown). The evidence put forward by NCAA that the participants earn grants as reimbursement has not yet been restructured as per the contract formed at the beginning of their career makes it difficult for students to be compensated (Schneider). In case of attempting to solve this issue, several perspectives, claims and approaches are suggested. Since college students are confronted with almost the same degree of risk injury as elite athletes, it allows the discussion of being paid quite realistic as grants itself cannot compensate for this. In this paper, we would discuss the ethical concerns associated with not paying the college athletes. It is for their involvement to be compensated since the condition that occurred a century ago is not quite the same anymore. The college athletics atmosphere should progress as the general sports market evolves through period.

**Discussion**

The first and foremost reason why athletes should be compensated is that they generate large income for the college, but in effect they do not get how much they deserve. It is true, NCAA alone earns nearly $10.8 per year. Although the scholarship could probably be worth $25,000 annually, plus a successful profession following school worth $1 million. In turn, college-athletes earn all sorts of benefits while in school, such as living in luxury hotels, getting watched on national television, and all the fame that comes of being a star player (Goldman). Putting a value mark on all of this is complicated. However if you look at the evidence regarding stipends, you might be giving your opinion differently. College-athletes that receive scholarships constitute only one out of three athletes. Most of the athletes have reported that they are only able to recompense for half of their expenses (Parent). This is because they are not receiving enough money from their efforts and the larger sum of the money that is coming from the tournaments are actually benefiting NCAA. They are not compensated with an extra money for fulfilling their needs. According to the business insider an average FBS football player makes about 137,357 dollars annually while and average basketball athlete earns about 289,081 dollars annually (Schott). However, an average college athlete makes about an average of $289,031 annually in a stipend. It is quite clear that the student athlete is not getting even a sixth of what they should actually be receiving. The amount an athlete is paid mainly depends upon the area occupied by the school and the number of athletes that they have (Johnson and Acquaviva).

Second reason that students be compensated is because in order to excel at the sports, most of their time is spent on the grounds instead of classrooms (Goldman). They put too much dedication and effort into it but this remains inconsiderable. They bring themselves into sports with all the time and energy. Student athletes should be compensated monetarily instead of considering them students as their first obligation is to participate in sports for the college, before they get an education (Goldman). However, while the NCAA asserts that student athletes are only students, the NCAA's own championship timelines compel student athletes to skip classes for playoff games which introduce income. Some of the studies have shown concerns in this regard, that due to the consistent hours of practicing and playing on the time, they should be considered full time employees (Brown). However, NCAA has claimed that they are not the legal employees thus they can’t be compensated. According to the studies an average hours that an athlete gives to a football field while training, practicing and playing is 43.3 hours per week. Taking into account the 40 workweek hours standard, playing sports is justified as a full time employment (Johnson and Acquaviva). Considering that, company earns large profits makes it clear that although that it is beneficial for the organization but not the student athlete. This is evident that the college sport should not be taken for granted neither the efforts of a college athlete. This is as serious as any other job and because of that college students should be compensated.

Another reason I am going to give for why college athletes should get paid is because it is benefiting coaches more than college athletes (Parent). I am not saying that coaches should be paid less, I am just saying that college athletes should be deem equal to the coaches since they are doing this at a cost of their education. However, coaches have an actual profession and they are able to earn more bonuses according to the performance of the team and the athletes. According to the college express, it is considered that the only people working extremely hard in this scenario are college athletes. Coaches might be considered as a driving force for the athletes but it is actually upon the athletes how they fulfil the people expectations. Coaches receive money privileges on the number of occasions such as record breaks, off season reaches, big games victory yet, not a small of it is received by the college athlete considering that fact that they were behind all of these accomplishments (Brown). According to the Gale, organizations are generating double standards for the team. He quotes that “Forbes states that the average compensation of a head coach in a high rated college sports team was 2 million in 2019. While several coaches have claimed the double of the same figure” (Schneider). This indicates the creation of double standards according to which a head coach is deemed superiors while the other athletes are not acknowledged according to their efforts.

Setting a specific value to precisely how much participant is valuable to an institution is quite complicated. Not only will a star receiver improve selling tickets, but it would also add a lot of sponsorships (Johnson and Acquaviva). A NCCA would not authorize colleges to advertise a club soccer uniform with the identity of a participant on it, but they might offer the uniform with the rating of the athlete on it. In regional and sometimes national industries, this is easily recognizable. The popular institutions raise vast amounts of money on the above category of product itself, but college athletes whose number is utilized to promote the brand apparently can't see a penny of revenue. Saying that in this case the student athlete is not being manipulated is an exaggeration. This is not it. It extends much further than that. Through television and advertisements agreements, college athletic projects make millions of dollars (Goldman). They are also raking in millions of dollars in athletic sponsor donations. Sure, compensation must be charged to administrators and coaches, not to overlook the college players ' transportation and other expenses. This is actually great considering the major athletic programs such as basketball and football help fund profits for the minor athletic programs since they does not generate the same amount of money. Still it does not justify the fact that college athletes are paid much less than they should be.

Another fact that makes it interesting is that the on the game day, athlete might spend the quarter of total time selling tickets of game which is considered as well-organized (Schott). Yet, all of that money earned as a result directly goes into the pockets of the directors of NCAA. The major portion of college athlete salary is spent on marketing and advertisement which should be a job of directors of coaches.Yet, instead of getting the money earned from those purchases, it is lost in the way of advertisement. So, the point to ponder here is that the as the coaches are able to make a huge amount of money through all of these benefits, shouldn’t college athletes be deemed worthy of sharing those benefits in the reasonable terms? This does not mean that they should be compensated large sums of money, it should just be a little extra than the amount they are actually receiving so they fulfil their household needs as well apart from the academic needs.

 There are counter arguments which gives the proper reasons why college athletes should not be paid (Schneider). A biggest reason which is quite debatable from the start is that college athletes receive enough money as a scholarship to get through college (Goldman). These Scholarships are worth almost fifteen thousand to twenty thousand dollars. It further provides an opportunity in the form of good career which could generate millions of dollars later in lifetime. Moreover, they get all types of privileges in college as compared to the non-athlete students such as staying at the luxurious facilities, been recognized as a star on the television and the fame that comes with being a star.

Another reason given for why athlete should not be compensated is because they are not regarded as professionals (Brown). College serves as a means of making them a professional. They are not compensated because they have not yet achieved the level of excellency that they desire. As they are part of the institution, they should just be paid enough so they are able to make it through college. According to the views depicted by the writer Maurice Reed jones they should only be paid to play necessary game (Goldman) .

It is said that college athletics serve as means of giving experience for which an athlete should be grateful. Moreover, it is thought that if college athletes are paid more than enough, they would take sports more seriously and leave their studies behind (Johnson and Acquaviva). Since the degree education is a foremost purpose of college or school, they should be focusing more on it without worrying about the sports. The money is thought to make them careless and irresponsible in their coming years. The extra money should instead be paid to the college photographers or doctors, so they facilitate their education by providing necessary benefits. However, counter arguments regarding this issue has also been discussed. Some people think that providing them with a little extra money will serve as a means of teaching them how to save money (Johnson and Acquaviva). For young generation, they merely have any motivation to save money neither do they do the importance of savings. Extra money would encourage them to save money if they don’t want to spend it on something other than the basic education.

**Conclusion**

Although, almost every other person has different opinions regarding athletes to be compensated or not.But according to what I have concurred from my research on NCAA and related literature it is certain that college athletes should be compensated more than what they are. Throughout the years, NCAA has evolved and based on the new figures they generate greater profits but in turn pay not enough to the college athletes who spend their energy and time into these sports (Brown). They should be considered full time employees as the time they give to the sports is equal to the full-time employment. It would be beneficial for the athlete in many ways including the uplifting of morale, encouragement to save money and making a good career out of it.

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