



Top 10 Reasons Why College Athletes Should Not Be Paid

A List that Tells You Why We Shouldn't Pay College Athletes

Damon Salvadore, Yahoo Contributor Network | Feb 19, 2013

This debate never gets old does it?

Every year people scream and complain that college athletes should be "compensated" for their work on the field. We hear that because college athletes generate money to the university they should get money back. Maybe we should pay high school athletes too... they generate money. College athletes in major universities don't pay for transportation, tuition or team facilities. On top of a free ride the school should pay them, as well? Not a chance.

So here's the top 10 reasons we shouldn't pay college athletes:

10. Contract Disputes

You think 30 year old NFL players complain a lot? You haven't seen anything yet.

Signing bonuses, multi-year deals, and salary would be a never ending settlement. Imagine a player not being able to leave college because it's in his contract? The controversy surrounding 18-22 year olds with contracts and performance would be a game in itself.

9. Sends a bad message

Is this what we want elementary and middle school students to see? As soon as they see this they will be demanding pay at the high-school level. The message College Sports would be sending is "it's ok to hold out for more money and it's ok to only pay some athletes but not others." Every kid will grow up wanting to join the football team just regardless of talent.

8. Recruiting won't exist

If college football (legally) paid their athletes it wouldn't last.

The recruiting process would be no more. It would result in one dominant conference for each sport and about two handfuls of dominant teams. The smaller schools in smaller markets would not be able to compete with the big universities resulting in loss of programs for many schools.

7. What level or division does it end?

Most "pay college athletes" groups favor paying Division one athletes.

Why not pay division two and three athletes? Do female athletes get paid as well? How about community college athletes? You can't pay some, but not all... that would be hypocritical. All of those groups generate revenue.

6. It's not what college is about

College is a provided service by each state. College athletes are not professionals and therefore should not be paid. The purpose of going to college is to get the training so you can use it later. That's what the NCAA provides. Athletes play at the college level and they further use that experience at the professional level where they will be paid. Just like everybody else.

5. What about High School athletes?

"College athletes should be paid because they generate money for their schools."

That's the argument we hear constantly, and if that's the case high school athletes should be paid. Let me just say now and clarify, I don't believe high school athletes should be paid. I say that even though it is true that thousands of high schools depend on the athletic program to keep afloat.

4. Who's going to pay for it all?

I'm no economist, but it's pretty much common sense that if college athletes get paid, costs will go up. Football players will be paid the most obviously because of popularity. The question then would be, how much? If you're a college student going to a major university and you're not an athlete, odds are tuition is going to go through the roof.

3. Others don't get paid as well

This goes back to No. 6, regarding the college process.

Plenty of college students nationwide are not paid for their contribution everyday. The biggest example being internships. Many others must first start off as a non-paid employee to jump start their career. Why should we make exceptions for athletes?

2. Which athletes get paid?

This is easily the biggest dilemma of all and would bring many college protests.

If the football team gets paid, why not the tennis team or the volleyball team? They're athletes too, right? What about the golf players? They're all there on athletic scholarship. How about the chess team, as well? And who could forget about the rowing team? And female athletes?

It would never end because you've opened Pandora's box. Once you pay one athletic program, you would have to pay every program.

1. They already get paid

Major colleges provide the best services to their "student athletes."

As athletes, they are not held to the same standard as other students. The biggest universities give the athletes the best gyms to workout in, free health insurance for injuries, transportation, food, equipment and most importantly free tuition.

That in itself is a payment for three to four years. Would college athletes rather not be provided with such great services and be paid a salary? I think not.

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Source: <http://voices.yahoo.com/top-10-reasons-why-college-athletes-not-be-12022203.html?cat=14>