

GAME, GLORY, & GOLD CONTINUED...

A comprehensive report done by the National College Players Association called "The Price of Poverty in Big Time College Sports" reported that 86 percent of college athletes live below the poverty line, that the average out of pocket expenses for each full scholarship athlete was approximately \$3,222 per year during the 2010-11 school year, and that the fair market value of the average Division I football player was \$121,048.

According to the *Washington Times*, many college football players are valued at \$513,922 but may be living below the poverty line. The article continues in claiming that the situation in which many of these players find themselves is worse than indentured servitude — they are owned by the NCAA and the universities they attend. For example, a player holding an autograph signing event drawing in thousands of dollars cannot receive a single dime from the profits because the NCAA owns that player's name when he commits to play college football.

In order to fully understand the limitations college athletes are put under from the NCAA, here is a list of relevant restrictions from NCAA.org:

- a. You are not eligible for participation in a sport if you have ever:
- (1) Taken pay, or the promise of pay, for competing in that sport.
 - (2) Agreed (orally or in writing) to compete in professional athletics in that sport.
 - (3) Used your athletics skill for pay in any form in that sport.
- b. You are not eligible in a sport if you ever have accepted money, transportation or other benefits from an agent or agreed to have an agent market your athletics ability or reputation in that sport.
- c. You are not eligible in any sport if, after you become a student-athlete, you accept any pay for promoting a commercial product or service or allow your name or picture to be used for promoting a commercial product or service.
- d. You are not eligible in any sport if, because of your athletics ability, you were paid for work you did not perform, were paid at a rate higher than the going rate or were paid for the value an employer placed on your reputation, fame or personal following.

Not only have college football players been compared to indentured servants as said by the *Washington Times*, but they have also been called slaves to the NCAA.

"The plantation owners are the universities and the NCAA. All of them have a collective agreement to share the slaves and the revenue from them," Alabama Attorney Eric Guster said in a *Newsone* article. "The slaves, of course, are the football players. The minders or the handlers are the coaches. The merchants who go to the market to trade the slaves are the agents. The plantation owners get to make money off the labor of the slaves in various forms, including selling shirts and other officially licensed gear with the names, faces, and identification numbers of the slaves while prohibiting the slaves to earn any money at all. All plantation owners have to do is give the slaves a room to sleep, food to eat, and classes, while the owners earn millions. I guess the classes are a step up from the old plantations, but it is still a pretty good deal for the owners."

College athletes are beginning to see that they are being exploited for their talents, and others have also taken notice that universities do not treat all their students equally.

"The University of Alabama gives merit scholarships with a stipend of \$3,500 per year, including tuition and room and board," Guster said. "In other words, you get extra spending money just for being smart. Last time I checked, the merit scholars did not make millions for the universities, did not have their names and identification numbers for sale, and people did not pay lots of money to see them perform — yet they get paid for school."

As one can see, college athletes receive much harsher restrictions than other students on scholarships for their talents.

Another instance where football players felt exploited for their talents was when the NCAA Football video game developed by EA Sports only used numbers to identify players on collegiate teams rather than names because the players were not allowed to receive royalties from the video game.

**"I'M SO HAPPY TO BE DONE WITH THE NCAA AND THEIR RULES," JONES TWEETED. "THEY DO ANY AND EVERYTHING TO EXPLOIT COLLEGIATE ATHLETES."
-JONES TWEETED**

When these discrepancies between different students on scholarships are pointed out, people begin to view the idea of NCAA restrictions as too severe and unfair.

"It is only fair for college football players to receive royalties for their names being used on jerseys in a video game," Senior Daniel Marsh said.

Others have tried to come up with solutions about the issue of college athletes receiving pay.

"College athletes should be allowed to receive pay for autographs or pictures just as any other person can be for their talents which they entertain the world with, but I don't think the student-athletes should receive a salary from the school." Senior Emily Watson said.

However, another argument could be made that by allowing college athletes to receive payment based off their popularity, athletes of certain sports like football, which is one of the most widely watched sports in America, would be more apt to benefit from the lack of NCAA restrictions than, say, horse racing, bowling, and soccer, which are three of the least popular sports in America according to *TheRichest* news source.

While a solution may never be reached on this controversial subject, it does seem strange that the world of college football revolves around athletes who do not feel as though they receive fair compensation for the revenue they bring in to create the \$3.4 billion industry that is college football.

THIS MONTH IN SPORTS

BOYS SOCCER VS STARKVILLE!

On Dec. 5, the boys soccer team defeated the Starkville Yellow Jackets by a score of 2-1. Led by goalscorers Junior Banks Tolley and Senior Andrew Speetjens, the Saints were able to shutdown the Yellow Jackets. Junior goal keeper Evan Bowman came up with many clutch saves throughout the night to preserve the win. This victory was even more impressive because the Yellow Jackets are a 6A school while the Saints are 3A. In their next game the Saints played to a 1-1 draw against the Clinton Arrows. The Saints had one goal from Senior Anthony Bynoe, who after many games of hitting the post, was finally able to put one in the net. The Saints will look to get a win on Friday against our rivals the St. Joe Bruins.

GIRLS BASKETBALL VS ST. JOE!

The Lady Saints beat the St. Joe Bruins 41-19 at home during Thanksgiving break. By the end of the first quarter, the Saints were up 11-4, already gaining a substantial lead over our main rival. The second quarter consisted of the Saints gaining a lead of thirteen points. After half time, the ladies continued their aggressiveness into the second half of the game, and by the end of the third quarter, the Saints led the Bruins by a score of 28-13. At the end of the fourth quarter, the leading scorers included Sophomore Madison Klein with eleven points and Sophomore Hannah Clay King with fourteen points. The Saints will carry this impressive win with them into their next matchup.

BOYS BASKETBALL VS MRA!

St. Andrew's traveled to the house of the Patriots for Saturday's highly anticipated game between the unbeaten Saints and the top team in MAIS. The game was close the whole way, having over ten lead changes through the entire game. Part of the Patriots' success game off of second chance opportunities. MRA was able to pull ahead in the final minute after a stolen pass from Fletcher Clark scored a layup to put the Patriots ahead by two. From that point forth the Saints had to change their strategy to fouling in hopes of getting the ball back, but MRA made their key free throws from those fouls to put the game out of reach for the Saints. While the Saints would have preferred to win, the team has already moved on from the loss and started focusing on the upcoming month and the many challenges it holds.

GIRLS SOCCER VS THE WARRIORS!

The Lady Saints played Choctaw Central on Dec. 1 and won by an astounding five goals. The final score of the game was 9-4. Led by Freshman Toni Oluwatade, who scored three goals, the Saints finished the game strong. At half time the Saints were winning 5-0, so Coach Erik Snyder let the JV team get some playing time against a varsity team. With the experience the younger members of the team are receiving, the Lady Saints should just improve in the upcoming years. However, Seniors Tatjana Olynyk and Emily Watson plan to lead this year's team to great success.

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DESIGN EDITOR: ELIZABETH WANG

