

Greetings from the NCAA agent, gambling and amateurism activities group. The August edition will highlight some of the latest news involving sports wagering, including a look at the NCAA's stance on a lawsuit to prevent Delaware from offering single-game betting on professional and college sporting events. This month's guest columnist is Tom Oberweiser, Eastern District Supervisor of the Montana Department of Justice Gambling Investigation Bureau. His article warns college students about the dangers of campus bookies and the realities of sports wagering.

The AGA staff is also excited to announce a new educational initiative. Beginning in September, the *Don't Bet On It!* newsletter is expanding to include educational information regarding all post-enrollment amateurism concerns. Sports wagering will continue to be a primary focus of the AGA newsletter, yet readers will also find comprehensive coverage of other related amateurism activities, tools for compliance staff, and a new column for parents of student-athletes. As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter, please contact Karen Donaldson at kdonaldson@ncaa.org.

Hot Topic – NCAA joins professional sports leagues in lawsuit to stop Delaware from offering single-game sports wagering



On July 24, the NCAA joined the NFL, NBA, NHL, and the MLB in filing a lawsuit seeking to overturn the new Delaware law allowing for single-game sports wagering on college and professional games. “The NCAA's strong belief that sports wagering undermines the integrity of the game and negatively impacts NCAA student-athlete well being is the reason why the Association joined the NFL, MLB, NBA and the NHL in a suit against the state of Delaware. Delaware's plan to allow single-game wagering as part of its state lottery is not only illegal under federal law, but also has the potential to undermine collegiate competition and have a negative impact on NCAA student-athletes. The NCAA recognizes the economic challenges facing the state of Delaware; however, legalized betting on college games will provide more harm than good.”

Guest Columnist

Within each issue of this newsletter, the AGA department looks to have a columnist from outside our staff present his or her perspective on an issue related to sports wagering or sports wagering rules education. This month, we present an editorial written by Tom



Oberweiser, the Eastern District Supervisor for the Montana Department of Justice Gambling Control Division, Gambling Investigation Bureau (GIB). He has been a sworn law enforcement officer for 26 years and a criminal gambling investigator for more than 20 years. Mr. Oberweiser sits on the Advisory Council of the Montana State University-Billings Criminal Justice Degree Program, the Board of the Montana Council on Problem Gambling, and is a guest instructor at Rocky Mountain College in Billings teaching a football officiating class. He has been a football official for over 25 years. In 1998 Oberweiser was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence and was selected Montana

Department of Justice Employee of the Year. He has spoken on the topic of organized sports bookmaking around the country and has provided training to many law enforcement agencies and professional organizations, including the North American Gambling Regulators Association (Washington, D.C. 2009) and the Midwest Gambling Investigators & Regulators Association (March, 2007).

Stay Clear of Campus Bookies and Gamblers, Don't Give Out Information

In 2004, the Montana Department of Justice Gambling Investigation Bureau investigated an illegal sports bookmaking operation. The case resulted in the conviction of the bookie, and agents seized computers, cell phones, recording devices and tens of thousands of dollars all of which were forfeited to the state. While this was a large gambling enterprise by most standards, it was fairly routine in its conduct. What made it interesting is what it revealed about the lives of the individuals who wager on sporting events.

Bettors range from rank amateurs who know nothing about sports, to highly competitive ex-jocks who see sports gambling as a way to stay involved in the game, without having to get their ankles taped.

Many of those who bet have the means and the self-control not to run up large debts to their bookies or to become problem gamblers. But many more don't possess that self-control. Just as someone might become over-extended with credit cards, these individuals find themselves deep in the hole to a bookie, chasing bad bets and trying to win enough money to cover their losses. It's an old story that is retold all too often. And the consequences are potentially devastating.

In the 2004 Montana case, the Gambling Investigation Bureau learned of a 17-year-old high school senior who had lost nearly \$7,000 in one week gambling on NFL football games. (*See actual betting results for bettor #2000 below*). When our investigators called this young man into the office and confronted him, he still owed the bookie around \$600. He acknowledged his losses and admitted, in front of his shocked mother, that he had blown all of his savings from his after-school job by gambling on football. The remainder of his debt was forgiven, since under Montana's legal system, gambling debts are unenforceable.

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This young man has since mended his ways and no longer gambles. He is in his senior year in college in another state and has a great future ahead of him. But as a gambling investigator, what remains of serious concern to me is that, at the time this kid was gambling, his bookie was anxious for him to get to college the next year so he could become a campus recruiter and help run the illegal enterprise from the campus.

Gambling on college campuses is a major concern to all of us, but when it involves student-athletes or friends of student-athletes, it becomes a much larger problem with even more serious consequences. Athletes may not know their friends are gambling when they respond to friendly questions about upcoming games – and may inadvertently provide information that filters up to someone in an organized criminal gambling operation, who then uses that information to gain an edge. Such may have been the case at the University of Toledo where six athletes or former athletes have recently been indicted in a point-shaving scheme.

Another bettor in the 2004 Montana case, who was not much older than the 17-year-old, was reportedly down \$12,000 at the time we broke up the operation. He had no job and was trying to avoid a run-in with the bookie. When we finally located him and were able to take his statement and gather the additional evidence he could provide, we forgave his debt as well. He told investigators that, before we intervened, he had decided to go to his mother for the money he owed. The very thought of telling his mother he needed so much money – and why he needed it – was eating him up inside. Fortunately, he and his mom were spared that terrible ordeal.

But not all families are as lucky. Over the course of a few years, sports betting cost Sandi Snook of Dane County, Wisconsin, both of her two sons. As has been widely publicized, in June 2003 student Meng-Ju “Mark” Wu was distraught over a \$15,000 sports-betting debt. As a consequence, Wu shot and killed his friend Jason McGuigan and two others in Verona, Wisconsin, including Snook's son Dustin Wilson. In January 2005, shortly before his trial was to begin, Wu hung himself in his jail cell. A law enforcement official familiar with the case attributed the triple homicide to Wu's feelings of shame and embarrassment after his parents confronted him about gambling away his tuition and expense money with an online sports book.

But the ripples did not stop there. In November 2005, Dustin Wilson's death proved to be too much for his brother and best friend, David, to bear and he committed suicide. Five deaths – each attributable in part to illegal sports betting. "My advice to kids about gambling is don't do it, don't think about it, don't even be around anybody who does it," Dustin and David's mother Sandi Snook said in the USA Today.*

While not all gambling nightmares rise to this level, they occur with alarming frequency on our college campuses and elsewhere. It is increasingly important that our student-athletes are educated, aware and constantly on the alert for situations involving sports betting. They need to understand the importance of never giving out information about themselves, their teams, or anything else that might be valuable to someone involved in sports betting. And if our student-athletes find themselves in that situation, they need to know that they should immediately tell their coach or someone else in authority that can help them steer clear of trouble.

Sports – don't bet on it!

*[Gambling madness can snag court fans](#), by Michael McCarthy, March 28, 2007, USA TODAY

AGA Notes

Future Guest Columnists

Within each issue of this newsletter, the AGA department looks to have a columnist from outside our staff present his or her perspective on an issue related to sports wagering or sports wagering rules education. We are working on securing some exciting authors for future editions. If you wish to write a guest column or know of an individual that may be interested in being a part of this publication, please contact Karen Donaldson at kdonaldson@ncaa.org.

Nominate an Institution for Special Recognition

The AGA staff continually looks to highlight institutions that have conducted creative programs for educating their student-athletes, coaches and administrators on sports wagering issues. To nominate yourself or another institution, please contact Karen Donaldson at kdonaldson@ncaa.org, and provide reasons why you believe this institution is worthy of recognition. We look forward to learning about the different ways in which athletics departments throughout the country educate their student-athletes, coaches and staff on issues related to sports wagering. Thank you!

**For additional information
regarding any of the material in this
newsletter, if you have ideas that you would
like to share for a future newsletter or if you have any
questions or concerns regarding sports wagering on
your campus or within your conference, please
contact the AGA staff.**

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