



NCAA®

SPORTS WAGERING EDUCATION
FROM THE AGENT, GAMBLING AND
AMATEURISM ACTIVITIES STAFF

DON'T BET ON IT

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Greetings from the NCAA agent, gambling, and amateurism activities staff. The June/July newsletter highlights some of the latest news involving sports wagering, including a look at the federal lawsuit seeking to overturn the federal ban on sports wagering in 46 states. This month's guest column comes from former mob boss Michael Franzese, author of *Blood Covenant* and *I'll Make You an Offer You Can't Refuse*. Franzese is frequently featured on high profile media outlets as the only high ranking mafia member to ever walk away and survive. Finally, we share with you an anti-gambling initiative from Northern Illinois University. If you have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter, please contact Karen Donaldson at kdonaldson@ncaa.org.

Hot Topic – Lawsuit Seeks to Overturn Federal Sports Wagering Ban



On June 5, New Jersey governor Jon Corzine announced his support of a federal lawsuit seeking to overturn the federal ban on sports wagering in 46 states. Enacted in 1992, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PAPSA) forbids 46 states and individuals in those states from operating any gambling scheme based on “competitive games in which amateur or professional athletes participate.” However, PAPSA exempted states with existing casinos if lawmakers specifically authorized sports wagering within a one-year window. Delaware, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon were the only states to utilize this loophole.

In the midst of an economic crisis crippling key tourism destinations like Atlantic City, New Jersey legislators are calling the federal ban on sports wagering “a gross double standard which penalizes all but a handful of states.” In the words of New Jersey State Senator Raymond Lesniak, “states need to look to all untapped revenue streams in order to balance the books and provide the services that our citizens depend on.” While neighboring Delaware officials expect to bring in approximately \$50 million in revenue after reactivating legal sports wagering, New Jersey officials find themselves clamoring to save tourism dollars and ensure that “no state has an unfair advantage in generating revenue from sports wagering.” Groups like the Interactive Media Entertainment & Gaming Association have joined New Jersey lawmakers in a federal lawsuit hoping to “plug some of the revenue holes (New Jersey) is currently facing” by declaring PAPSA unconstitutional. Pennsylvania governor Edward Rendell says he's following the case with “keen interest,” suggesting that other Northeastern states may follow Delaware's lead if the ban is overturned.

While uninvolved in the litigation, professional and amateur sporting organizations remain vehemently opposed to any type of sports gambling. Representatives from the NHL, NBA, NFL, MLB, and the NCAA have come together to urge Congress to reject proposals seeking to legalize sports gambling. NFL spokesman Joe Browne raised concerns over the integrity of sporting events, stating that "if sports betting becomes more prevalent through state-promoted schemes, it will inevitably lead those gambling fans to question whether an erroneous officiating call or a dropped pass late in the game resulted from an honest mistake or an intentional act."

"Don't Bet On It!"
by Michael Franzese



Since I have addressed thousands of student-athletes, coaches, officials and NCAA staff members on the topic of gambling for over ten years now, I am going to assume that many of you reading this column will know who I am. For those of you whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting, allow me to introduce myself. I am Michael Franzese, former caporegime (captain) in the Colombo organized crime family. During my seventeen years in the mob, I was involved in major bookmaking operations that targeted players, officials and anyone else associated with a sport that might affect the outcome of a competition in a way that would benefit the mob's gambling business. A player, coach or official who got into gambling debt was a prime target to engage in a point shaving scheme. For that person, I might have been their worst nightmare. I left the mob, and now do my best to try and protect all of you involved in sports from falling victim to a gambling problem or to one of my former mob associates who would like to make gambling your problem. And in that regard, I have been quite busy lately.

I recently returned from the United Kingdom where I was invited to speak at Europe's "Play The Game Conference," on the topic of match fixing. In Europe and Asia, the authorities are waking up to the threat of match-fixing amid a steady stream of investigations in sports as diverse as football, tennis, horse-racing, cricket and snooker. For football, the emerging danger is the potential co-operation between criminal gangs in Asia and Britain who target players in Britain while placing their money in the Far Eastern gambling markets including the world men's governing body, the ATP, are using to stamp it out.

Between six and twelve players that are due to compete in the men's singles at Wimbledon are on a "watch list" of individuals under scrutiny by the game's authorities because of past involvement in matches where suspicious betting happened and match-fixing was suspected. The revelation comes from an investigation into corruption in tennis, and into the methods that the authorities are using to stamp it out. It is believed that the full "watch list" includes Russians, Argentines, Italians, Spaniards and players of other nationalities, including men from inside the top 50 as well as those at the lower reaches of the game. A senior source involved in the investigation said: "We have interests in the activities of certain players and there are players whose matches we follow closely. It would be ludicrous to think, with so much money involved in betting, that there is no malpractice. A few of [the players being watched] aren't the ones you'd necessarily suspect while others who've had unjustified rumors trotted out about them are not of concern."

What all of this means is that the issue of gambling and its potential to corrupt players, officials and anyone who might be in a position to compromise the outcome of a sporting event in which they participate has gone global. In the past ten years, I have communicated with a number of NCAA players in various sports who have struggled with gambling issues. Some of them have been tempted to shave points in a competition to make up for gambling losses. Others had been approached by gamblers to shave points, with a promise of a nice pay day if they agreed to do so. The threat is real. It's happening on our campuses, and in professional sports in the United States and across the world. And the governing bodies of these sports as well as law enforcement officials are paying close attention.

I have said it time and time again to thousands of players, coaches and officials at hundreds of colleges across the country. There is no upside whatsoever for a player to get involved in gambling of any kind while participating in sports. Don't be a sucker and become a target of professional gamblers and organized criminals who want to use and abuse you for their personal gain. In my experience, it always ends up bad for the player or the official. Just ask disgraced NBA referee, Tim Donaghy. Convicted of gambling related activities concerning his officiating of NBA games, he was recently released from prison where he was beat up by a person claiming to have ties to the mob in New York. His NBA career is over, his prospects of meaningful future employment are very low and he claims he is now living in fear of further retribution from the mob. All because he allowed his propensity to gamble to compromise his personal integrity as well as that of the sport in which he participated.

I recently wrote a book entitled, "I'll Make You An Offer You Can't Refuse." It's a book on business and does deal with the issue of gambling and how it can corrupt not only sports, but business as well. For a college athlete, coach, referee or anyone else involved in NCAA governed sports, refusing to engage in gambling of any kind is an offer that no one should refuse.

About Michael Franzese

Just a few years ago, *Vanity Fair* named mafia boss Michael Franzese one of the biggest money earners the mob had seen since Al Capone. At the age of 35, *Fortune Magazine* listed Franzese at number 18 on its list of the "Fifty Most Wealthy and Powerful Mafia Bosses", just five spots behind John Gotti. Avoiding traditional mob domains, Michael masterminded brilliant scams on the edge of the legitimate business world. From auto dealerships and union kickbacks, to financial services and the sports and entertainment industries, to a multi-billion dollar gasoline tax scheme, he earned millions in cash every week at his peak. Not surprisingly, Michael quickly became the target of Manhattan's famed federal prosecutor, Rudy Guiliani. After promising Michael one hundred years behind bars after indicting him on racketeering charges, Rudy only came up empty handed. Escaping four more indictments, it seemed Michael Franzese truly was invincible.

While producing *Knights of the City*, a break dance movie filmed in Florida, Michael met a beautiful dancer from Anaheim, California, named Camille Garcia, whose innocent beauty turned his world upside down. After falling in love and eventually marrying Cammy, she convinced Michael to take the rap on another racketeering charge. Franzese pled guilty, accepted a ten year prison sentence and vowed to do the unthinkable – walk away from the mob. Nobody of Franzese's rank had ever just walked away and lived. Until now.

Michael Franzese is the only high ranking official of a major crime family to ever walk away, without protective custodies, and survive. He is now a man on a mission. Determined to use

the compelling experiences of his former life for the benefit of at-risk youth, professional and student-athletes, corporate executives and for anyone seeking the inspiration to beat the odds and make positive changes in their lives, he has become a highly regarded motivator and a source of invaluable information. Franzese candidly describes how he survived dozens of grand jury appearances, five major racketeering indictments, five criminal trials, seven years in prison and a Mafia death sentence. He tells how he engaged bankers, corporate executives, union officials and professional and student-athletes in a wide variety of financial scams. His open and honest presentations are fresh and unique. Audiences are captivated by stories of his personal experiences in organized crime and genuinely affected by his powerful anti-crime messages and eye-opening revelations.

Michael's compelling story of fame, power, prestige, love and fear has been featured throughout the country on high profile media. Most recently, he was featured in *Life* magazine, *Fortune*, *Vanity Fair*, *Sports Illustrated*, *GQ*, the *L.A Times*, and on Fox News, 48 Hours, Sean Hannity's Great American Panel, The Today Show, Nightline, ABC Primetime, NBC Nightly News, ESPN, HBO Real Sports, and the Jim Rome Show. In his autobiography, *Blood Covenant*, Michael reveals answers to many mysteries surrounding his incredible journey. Walk the streets with him to find out how he has done what no one else has managed to do. His newest book, *I'll Make You An Offer You Can't Refuse*, was just released by Thomas Nelson, and contains insider business tips from the former mob boss.

Special Recognition- Northern Illinois University



The AGA staff continually looks to highlight institutions that have conducted creative programs for educating their student-athletes, coaches and administrators on the NCAA's stance pertaining to sports wagering or have maintained a consistent approach to spreading positive messages regarding the dangers of problem gambling. This month the AGA staff recognizes Northern Illinois University for a special *Don't Bet On It!* feature in their Student-Athlete Advisory Committee newsletter. Timed to educate student-athletes immediately prior to March Madness, the article explained NCAA bylaws and reminded student-athletes that even office or dorm pools are forbidden practices that jeopardize their eligibility. To nominate yourself or another institution for special recognition, please contact Karen Donaldson at kdonaldson@ncaa.org, and provide reasons why you believe this institution is worthy of recognition.

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 the NCAA's stance pertaining to sports wagering or have maintained a consistent approach to spreading positive messages regarding the dangers of problem gambling. 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!

AGA News



The AGA staff is very excited to welcome its newest member, Karen Donaldson. Karen joins the NCAA staff as a member of the 2009 NCAA Intern class. Karen received her juris doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law. While in law school, Karen served as graduate assistant for compliance where she focused her work on athlete agency, eligibility issues, and educational programming. Karen received her undergraduate degree from Georgia Institute of Technology, where she was a tutor for the athletics association and worked with Yellow Jacket baseball.

**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 you conference, please
contact the AGA staff.**

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