

DON'T BET ON IT

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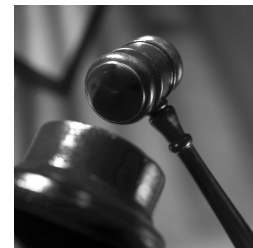


Greetings from the NCAA Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities staff. As we begin to close out another academic year, our staff would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who has made 2008-09 a tremendous year for spreading the NCAA stance on sports wagering. Without your assistance and support, the impact of this education upon student-athletes, coaches and administrators would be greatly decreased.

In this month's edition, we take a look back at this year's NCAA tournament and examine an issue which has garnered much attention in the state of Delaware. As always, your feedback on the newsletter and NCAA sports wagering programs is both welcomed and appreciated.

Hot Topic #1 – Delaware House Committee Creates Sports Wagering Bill

In an attempt to generate millions of dollars for new state revenue, the Delaware House Gaming Committee voted 5-4 to release a bill that would reauthorize sports gambling in that state. Existing casinos would get exclusive rights to offer sports betting, with no competition from new casinos or sports bars. An estimated \$55 million dollars in additional state revenue could be generated in the first year alone if the proposal is approved.



Hot Topic #2 – Wagering on the NCAA Tournament: By the Numbers

The Nevada Gaming Commission estimates up to \$90 million dollars was legally wagered during this year's NCAA Tournament. When factoring in illegal wagers such as online betting and office pools, more than \$7 billion changed hands according to gambling analysts.

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 article written by NCAA President Myles Brand regarding Delaware's proposed legislation that would legalize sports wagering in that state. This article was originally published in The News Herald on April 5, 2009.

Sports wagering is the wrong bet



By MYLES BRAND

This week, one of the most exciting sporting events in the world takes place. What makes the Final Four so special is the fact that it is university students, not professional athletes, competing for the national title in college basketball. There is also a darker side to this great event ... the gambling that goes on behind the scenes, both legal and illegal. The state of Delaware has a decision to make regarding whether or not sports wagering will be a part of its identity.

Those in support of sports wagering try to characterize it as harmless fun that would line state budget coffers, but that is both naive and misguided. Any state winnings from the addition of sports wagering do not come free and clear. On the contrary; there is a cost and it carries a hefty price tag. Sports wagering is a serious problem, not a solution. It threatens the well-being of student-athletes and at worst can corrupt athletic contests or at best create the appearance of corruption.

Simply stated, the NCAA believes that sports should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participating and watching, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of a game. The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Association rules do not allow student-athletes, coaches and administrators to engage in sports wagering at any level. The rules apply to any practice or competition, whether it is intercollegiate, amateur or professional, in any NCAA-sanctioned sport.

Student-athletes who gamble on sports are jeopardizing their eligibility to compete at the college level, as well as their athletic scholarships.

An opportunity to compete at the college level while earning a degree isn't the only thing at stake for these student-athletes. Young people that get caught up in betting lines and with bookmakers can quickly find themselves pulled into a world that poses a threat to their physical and financial well-being.

When student-athletes become indebted to bookies and can't pay off their credit lines, alternative methods of payment are introduced that threaten their safety or undermine an athletic contest -- such as point shaving.

As part of a comprehensive study conducted in 2003, the NCAA looked at how many student-athletes participated in extreme gambling behaviors. These behaviors often resulted in being threatened or harmed because of sports wagering, taking money to play poorly in a game, knowing a teammate who did so, or being asked for, or actually provided, inside information. Of the 388 men's basketball student-athletes surveyed, 17 admitted to at least one of these behaviors. Of 2,000 football student-athletes, 102 were affected. For those that want to characterize sports wagering as inoffensive, easy money, it is difficult to do so in light of this data.

Simply excluding Delaware schools from the state plan is not the answer either. This research was also a clear indication that no campus -- regardless of size, division, or geographic location -- is immune from the dangers of sports wagering. About 35 percent of male students and 10 percent of female students reported wagering on sporting events in the past year.

Contrary to popular belief, sports wagering isn't just limited to football and basketball, but is also present in other less high-profile sports, such as golf.

Since this study was conducted, the NCAA has dedicated a great deal of resources towards increased education, prevention and awareness programs for student-athletes. In cooperation with our member conferences and schools, we are taking a leadership role at the national level to address the issue of sports wagering before it reaches crisis proportions.

Campus-level educational programs have been implemented across the country. The NCAA educates student-athletes and coaches on the dangers of sports wagering by producing information materials for them; conducting locker room visits during the regular season; holding informational sessions at annual compliance seminars; creating an interactive educational Web site; and providing on-campus compliance officers with sports wagering educational resources.

Also, the explosive growth of sports wagering has caused a noticeable increase in the number of sports wagering-related cases processed by the Association. We continue to investigate and punish those who break the sports wagering rules.

We are working hard to protect student-athletes and guard their well-being and are asking assistance from the greater Delaware community. There is little doubt that state sanctioning of open sports books desensitizes all to the dangers that accompany sports wagering.

NCAA sounds anti-wagering call at regionals



By GREG JOHNSON

When NCAA Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Director Rachel Newman Baker talked to the Michigan State men's basketball team about how much information on individual players odds-makers use to formulate betting lines, even coach Tom Izzo raised his brows.

Last year, more than \$228 million was wagered legally in Las Vegas during the Division I men's and women's tournaments, according to the American Gaming Organization – not to mention the near \$2.5 billion wagered *illegally* online.

Izzo and his now-Final Four-bound Spartans were among the 32 Division I men's and women's regional semifinalists to hear warnings about sports-wagering behavior from the NCAA's Newman Baker, who allowed The NCAA News to sit in on presentations to the four teams at the men's regional in Indianapolis March 26. Besides Michigan State, Newman Baker also presented to Louisville, Arizona and Kansas.

Newman Baker told the teams, which included the head and assistant coaches, that members of her staff spend time in Nevada watching how the odds-makers set the line on tournament games – a process that includes sophisticated analysis of individual statistics. Many student-athletes during the presentations were surprised to learn that their games are available for wagering in the Las Vegas sports books.

Newman Baker's staff previously waited until the Final Fours to talk about the dangers of gambling, but they moved the message sessions earlier in the tournament beginning in 2006.

“The Final Fours are almost too late for these presentations,” Newman Baker said, “because if something was going to happen, it probably would’ve happened before that point. The other benefit of moving them to the regionals was to reach more student-athletes.”

Her presentations typically last 10-15 minutes, and the information she shares captivates the audience each time. For example, she said an interesting development this year came with the news that North Carolina point guard Ty Lawson would not play in the first round, leading to an adjustment in the previous line.

Newman Baker also informed the teams that if a student-athlete is found to have gambled on teams at his or her own institution, he or she could forfeit all remaining athletics eligibility. She also updated them about the ongoing FBI investigation of a possible point-shaving scandal in men’s basketball and football at Toledo and noted that the Las Vegas sports books closely monitor individual and team performances to see if any red flags should be raised.

Each of the four presentations in Indianapolis also included a question about former NBA referee Tim Donaghy. Newman Baker asked if anyone knew why Donaghy was sentenced to 15 months in prison. Most of the players assumed it was for making corrupted calls during games, not knowing that Donaghy had actually provided gamblers with inside information about NBA games, such as which officials were assigned to call certain contests.

Each of the four coaches participated in the presentations. Kansas’ Bill Self asked his team how many bookies they thought were on the Jayhawks’ campus. He also warned them about a scenario in which someone may come up to them and offer to buy them lunch, and then in the middle of the conversation start asking questions about one of their teammate’s injuries.

Arizona’s Russ Pennell told his team about Stevin “Hedake” Smith, who was involved in a point-shaving scandal at Arizona State in 1994. Pennell told the Wildcats that Smith ruined a chance at an NBA career by falling into the gambling scene.

Newman Baker said the presentations almost always hit home with the players and coaches, and she’s pleased that the NCAA has a chance to go one-on-one with the teams with this important message.

“This is a chance for us to be active on the front end as opposed to sitting across a table and interviewing a kid about something he or she may have already done,” Newman Baker said. “In the middle of one of these presentations a couple of years ago, an athletic trainer showed us a text message he received from guys who were going to place a bet on this team. They wanted to know how the team was feeling, had they been delayed in their travel or had anybody gotten sick. It was a great example of how people try to get inside information.”

For more information, see Newman Baker on “[Mondays with Myles and Friends](#).” Also, a multimedia presentation on NCAA anti-gambling efforts is available by clicking [here](#).

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 Marcus Wilson at mwilson@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 Marcus Wilson at mwilson@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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