

*The Drake Group Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics  
Hosted by 2aDays.com*

**“BRAIN TRAUMA – Are We Doing Enough to Protect College Athletes?”**

**Thursday, October 20, 2022 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST**

Thanks to science, we know far more now than years ago about the devastating effects concussions and sub concussive head impacts can have on the human brain. Helmets have changed, some sport rules have changed, but human physiology hasn't. The brain smashing against the skull can cause lifelong damage. For the college athlete who tears a tendon or sprains an ankle, the athlete can still read and study. But a brain injury is significantly different. And it's not just about football. Panelists examine sports at highest risk, sex differences in risk and recovery, rules regarding contact practices, sufficiency of insurance coverage and more -- all through the lens of answering the question of “are we doing enough?”



**MODERATOR – KATIE LEVER, B.A., M.A.**, a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication, where she studies NCAA discourse in the field of rhetoric and language; her research focuses on athlete rights, issues in intercollegiate athletics, and college sports reform; her work has been featured in *Tropics of Meta*, *FanSided*, *Extra Points*, and *Forbes*; author of *Surviving the Second Tier*; a former Division I athlete and two-time Sun Belt Conference champion in indoor and outdoor track and field.



**SAMANTHA BUREAU, Ph.D., Director of Programs, Concussion Legacy Foundation.** Dr. Bureau is the former Assistant Executive Director and Senior Director of International Research at the Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada; completed her Ph.D. in neuroscience from Carleton University; former dual sport NCAA athlete who captained her Franklin Pierce University ice hockey team and competed in track as a 400m specialist.



**CHRISTIAN DOTSON-PIERSON, Ph.D.**, is a co-author of *CTE, Media, and the NFL: Framing a Public Health Crisis as a Football Epidemic*, and a contributing author to *American Sport in the Shadow of a Pandemic: Communicative Insights*; her dissertation topic focused on grassroots efforts of concussion education and why media advocacy is needed; her research interests include media studies (pop culture), sports and health communication, and issues related to race and gender.



**ANNIE WELCH, Division I soccer player at Yale University** where she is pursuing a degree in Architecture. A committed teammate and a passionate athlete, Annie started 7 games her freshman year and enjoyed every minute of her first season. She suffered a major concussion during the off-season and chose to medically withdraw and take a semester off of school; Annie is a former intern and current freelancer at 2aDays.com.