



**THE DRAKE GROUP
EDUCATION FUND**

Realizing The Promise
Of College Athletics

2023 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics

EVAN GERIKE

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Sports Media Major

Recognizing the print, video, or multimedia work of a graduate or undergraduate college student journalist for exceptional substantive investigative reporting on intercollegiate athletics. The work must address an issue related to the protection of college athletes, financial excess, academic integrity, ethical conduct, racist or sexist practices, treatment of a whistleblower, or similar significant concern.

for

“The program is doomed’: Players say Indiana volleyball coach Steve Aird created a culture of fear

May 9, 2022 -- *Indiana Daily Student*

(<https://specials.idsnews.com/Indiana-volleyball-teve-aird-culture-fear/index.html>)

Mr. Gerike’s reporting on Indiana University’s volleyball team sheds light on the critical role of coaches in protecting the emotional well-being of student-athletes. In Mr. Gerike’s deeply reported article, former players spoke in detail about ways in which their coach allegedly abused his position of power by making inappropriate comments to players and discounting mental health concerns. Players transferred out of the volleyball program and some quit the sport. How do we ensure that college athletes receive the support they deserve?