



**THE ALLEN SACK NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:
ADVANCING INTEGRITY IN COLLEGE SPORT
Washington, D.C. – The National Press Club**
“Who is the College Athlete Who is Not Graduating?”
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 9:00-10:45am ET

A panel of former college athletes examines the reality of the athletics experience and reflects on the graduation statistics, demographics, and causative factors of college students participating in Division I revenue sports: e.g., 52 percent of all NCAA Division I men’s basketball players; 38 percent of all Division-I football players, and 38 percent of all Division I women’s basketball players who were full scholarship recipients and required to be full-time students did not graduate within six years. A clear majority of these athletes are students of color.



WILLIAM C. RHODEN, MODERATOR, *ESPN/Andscape*, former award-winning sports columnist for The New York Times, and author of *Forty Million Dollar Slaves*, *Third and a Mile*, and *The Crowd Goes Wild*; Emmy-winning writer of film *Breaking the Huddle*; writer-at-large for *Andscape*, a Black media platform dedicated to creating, highlighting, and uplifting the diverse stories of Black identity; Rhoden joined *Andscape*, formerly *The Undefeated*, in October 2016, after 34 years with The New York Times, 26 of them as the Sports of The Times columnist. In collaboration with *Andscape*, ESPN, and the Walt Disney Company; Rhoden established the Rhoden Fellowship, a one-year program that identifies and trains aspiring African-American journalists from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



BRENDAN COLE, Athletic Director at The Field School in Washington D.C. and a former three-time team captain and twice all-conference defensive back at Hampton University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Strategic Communications with a minor in Political Science and a master’s degree in Sports Administration; formerly, he was Assistant Athletic Director and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Christchurch School.



MAURICE CLARETT, former Ohio State Buckeyes football running back who also played professionally for the Omaha Nighthawks of the United Football League; as a freshman at Ohio State University in 2002, he helped lead the Buckeyes to a national championship; Clarett was drafted on the first day of the 2005 NFL Draft with the final pick of the 3rd round (#101 overall) by the Denver Broncos; Clarett is well known for unsuccessfully challenging the NFL's draft eligibility rules requiring a player to be three years removed from high school; he is the author of *One and Done: How My Life Started After My Football Career Ended*; he is a nationally celebrated public speaker, founder of a successful behavioral health agency in both Youngstown and Columbus, Ohio and co-host of *Business and Biceps*, a top-rated business podcast.



JACKSON MATTEO, Woodbury Forest School Head Football Coach; graduate of the University of Virginia, where he started 30 games at offensive line from 2012-2016, and served as team captain in 2016; he holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in higher education with a focus in athletic administration; he defended his dissertation this spring to complete his Doctorate in Education, where his research focused on the transition experiences of Black Division-I football players at a predominantly White institution; previously a graduate assistant coach at UVA under Bronco Mendenhall, working with the defensive backs in 2017 and the offensive line in 2018 and 2019; during his tenure as graduate assistant coach, Matteo helped Virginia achieve three consecutive bowl berths, winning the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coastal Division in 2019.



SHERILL BAKER, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach/Recruiting Coordinator, George Washington University; an All-American at Georgia, where she holds the single-season and career UGA records for steals; Baker was named All-American, All-SEC First Team, and National Defensive Player of the Year in 2006; named an SEC Legend at the 2014 SEC Women's Basketball Tournament; Baker was selected 12th overall in the 2006 WNBA draft by the New York Liberty, and spent four seasons playing professionally in New York, Los Angeles, Detroit and Indiana; her playing career also included overseas stops in Israel, Italy, France, Germany and Cyprus where she averaged double figures in scoring each year. Baker earned her degree in speech communication.