The Allen Sack National Symposium
Advancing Integrity in College Sport
Howard University – April 18, 2024

The College Athlete: More Than a Marketplace

Doug Lederman
Editor/Co-founder inside Higher Ed, formerly New York Times, USA Today

Jane McManus
Formerly ESPN, Deadspin, New York Daily News

David Steele
The Sporting News, Baltimore Sun, Newsday, San Francisco Chronicle

APPLY HERE for our one-day symposium to learn more about critical issues in college sport. Read below to learn more about the program and review questions and answers about policies related to free student tickets.
Why Our Donors/Sponsors Make It Possible for Students to Attend at No Charge

Conferences such as the Symposium are invaluable professional development activities for students. The Drake Group Education Fund is dedicated to removing financial barriers and making this enriching experience accessible to all students.

You get to hear and meet members of the national sports and higher education media, leaders and key influencers from national sports governance organizations and higher education organizations working in their chosen career field, and nationally recognized experts in the economic and legal aspects of college athletics. Up to one hundred sports management, sports law, and other currently enrolled students in sports-related majors from colleges and universities within 60 miles of Washington D.C. (with preference given to students from HBCUs and other low-resourced institutions) will attend at no charge thanks to sponsors and donors. We believe you are the future leaders who will ensure that college athletics is a safe and rewarding experience, free from race and sex discrimination, and delivering on the promise of receiving a meaningful education.

Student attendees will receive:

- a complimentary subscription to the TDGEF newsletter;
- a complimentary student membership in The Drake Group, our sister organization working directly with Congress on policy issues;
- issue summaries and research papers on all topics covered at the symposium; and
- the opportunity to participate in the closing cocktail/networking gathering that enables them to meet and interact with panelists and experts.

Event Overview

The purpose of the 2024 Allen Sack National Symposium is to examine the athlete abuse issues of hazing, bullying, and coach misconduct, the little-known fact that thousands of college athletes experience food and shelter insecurity, and depression and other mental health issues. Also addressed will be gambling in college sports, the dangers match fixing poses to college athletes, and the harm sports betting companies are causing the high-addiction-risk student population. Last, the precarious economic future of college athletics will be examined -- whether higher education will succeed in balancing commercialism and academic integrity.
PROGRAM DETAILS

The Thursday, April 18, 2023, one-day program at Howard University Blackburn Center in Washington D.C. features three national award-winning journalists, each moderating a 90-minute panel of experts with each panel examining a critical issue in college sport.

8:15-9:00am  REGISTRATION – COFFEE AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00-9:15am  WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

9:15-10:45am  PANEL SESSION 1: Beyond the Game: College Athlete Health and Well-Being

**Moderator:** David Steele, professional sports journalist. Steele has written for *The Sporting News*, the Baltimore *Sun*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Newsday*. He currently reports on legal and legislative matters in sports for *Law360*, and contributes to ESPN’s *Andscape*.

This panel session will explore the importance of the college athlete’s health and well-being. According to a recent national survey, nearly a quarter of Division I athletes experience food insecurity. More than one in ten experience homelessness. Statistics are similar for Divisions II and III. New stressors of coast-to-coast conference re-alignments, legalized sports gambling, and name, image, and likeness (NIL) activities are among pressures added to the lives of college athletes where time limits on athletics activities are largely not enforced at the institutional level. Meanwhile, college athletes report higher levels of stress and mental health struggles.

Invited panelists include a diverse group of experts, including college athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, and mental health professionals. Panelists will discuss the physical, mental, and emotional challenges faced by college athletes and strategies for supporting them to thrive both on and off the field.

11:00am-12:30pm  PANEL SESSION 2: The House Always Wins: The Impact of Sports Betting on College Athlete Well-Being

**Moderator:** Doug Lederman, editor and co-founder of *Inside Higher Ed*. Lederman, the former Managing Editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, speaks widely about higher education, including on C-Span and National Public Radio; his work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *USA Today*.

With the legalization of sports betting in the United States, gambling in college athletics has become more prevalent than ever before and has a significant impact on how people view, perceive, and participate in college athletics. With heavy advertising during competitions and gambling company partnerships and sponsorships with media companies and schools, the landscape is more blurred than ever. Despite studies showing college athletes are at a heightened risk for gambling exploitation, addiction, and other gambling-related problems, there has been a lack of consistent and clear education for college athletes on gambling risks. College athletes are
being punished for placing bets while the NCAA is permitting excessive promotion of bookmakers during broadcasts. Media outlets often feature college athletes and athletics, exposing a double standard and lack of clarity on rules and risks.

Panelists will discuss the risks that gambling poses to college athletes, including the potential for match-fixing, gambling addiction, and financial ruin. Experts will also explore the factors that contribute to this risk and discuss what can be done to protect college athletes.

**12:45-1:45pm  AWARDS LUNCHEON** featuring presentation of TDGEF national awards. TDGEF board members and national experts will be seated at student tables during lunch for informal discussion/Q&As. The awards program includes recipients of the TDGEF National Public Service Award, the TDGEF Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics, the TDGEF Hero Award, and TDGEF “Making A Difference” Award, among others.

**2:00-3:30pm  PANEL SESSION 3: For Love AND Money—Balancing Equity, Opportunity, and Compensation in College Sports**

**Moderator: Jane McManus, author, Editor of Year’s Best Sports Writing.** McManus has written for ESPN, Deadspin, The New York Daily News, served as the Executive Director of Seton Hall University Center for Sports Media, and has appeared on Good Morning America, CNN, and NPR’s Morning Edition.

College athletics is a multibillion-dollar industry with ever-increasing broadcast revenues being paid to the NCAA, conferences, and institutions while college athletes have historically been barred from compensation, and still lack sufficient medical protections. In recent years, there has been a growing movement to pay college athletes with many states passing laws allowing college athletes to profit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL) via employment outside their institutions. This panel session will explore the economics surrounding college athlete compensation including collective bargaining and employee status. Panelists will discuss the following questions:

- How does the legal landscape affect college athletes’ rights?
- What is the future of NCAA governance?
- What are the implications of collective bargaining or employee status?
- What is the future for NIL policy in college athletics?

Panelists will also discuss the future of college athletics and the ways the NCAA can ensure that college athletes are treated fairly and have the opportunity to succeed on and off the sports field.

**3:30-5:00pm NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES.** All attendees are invited to attend a post-symposium networking and cocktail reception.
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: How many tickets are available and how are applicants selected?

A1: Up to 100 students will be selected on a first come/first served basis from each of two groups of colleges and universities (lower-resourced institutions (Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and community colleges) and Other. There is a limit of one free ticket per applicant and no more than 4 students will be selected from the same school unless a school or alumnus sponsors a student table for their institution or additional openings become available due to late cancellations.

Q2: How soon will I know whether my application is successful?

A2: Student selections/notifications begin on March 1, 2024, and all applicants will be notified of their selection by no later than April 10, 2024.

Q3: Will I be able to sit with my classmates?

A3: There is a notes field in the application where you can request seating with others. We will try to accommodate such requests but cannot guarantee that we can do so.

Q4: How will tickets be received?

A4: Your ticket will be waiting for you at the Armour J. Blackburn University Center Ballroom, 2397 6th Street NW, Washington, D.C. on the day of the event (Thursday, April 18, 2024). Please bring photo ID.

Q5: What is the appropriate dress for the event?

A5: Business attire.

Q6: Will food be available, or do we leave for lunch?

A6: A continental breakfast (coffee, tea, muffins, Danish, bagels and cream cheese) and a buffet lunch are provided at no charge. There is no need to leave the venue once you arrive. There is no food at the post-symposium networking/cocktail reception, but you will be provided with a ticket for a free beverage.

Additional questions? Email: CollegeSportsSymposium@gmail.com