



## **Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics**

### **What is the Role of the Press in Covering College Sports?**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST**

#### **MEET THE PANELISTS**

Student reporters and accomplished sports journalists who were judges in this year's *The Drake Group Education Fund Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics* participate in a wide-ranging conversation about college sports and the role of investigative journalism. Student journalists from Northwestern University and Quinnipiac University, winners of this year's sports journalism contest speak about their prize-winning reporting. Winning entries include stories about Northwestern University football player hazing and the suspension of their prominent coach, the questionable firing of the Quinnipiac women's lacrosse coach for playing an injured athlete, and unsafe and unfair conditions, including a culture of body shaming, experienced by Northwestern University cheerleaders.



**MARK HYMAN, Moderator, George Solomon Endowed Chair in Sports Journalism, Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland,** directs the college's Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism; teaches sports journalism classes; Hyman spent four decades as a sports journalist at *Businessweek*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Baltimore News American*, *Dallas Times Herald*, *The Bulletin* (Philadelphia) and *The Ledger-Star* (Norfolk, Virginia); former Professor of Sport Management, The George Washington University School of Business; winner of *Associated Press Sports Editors Awards* for investigative reporting and news writing.



**LIZ CLARKE is a recently retired sports reporter focusing on enterprise stories, Olympics, and tennis.** During her 22 years as a sportswriter for *The Washington Post*, Liz Clarke spent eight seasons covering the Washington's NFL team, as well as nine Olympic Games. She also covered three World Cups and has written extensively about college sports, tennis, and auto racing. She is also a frequent contributor to "The Tony Kornheiser Show" podcast. Honors and Awards: Society for Features Journalism, sports feature, 2017; Associated Press Sports Editors, game story, 2009; National Motorsports Writer of the Year, 1996, 1998.



**MICHAEL FLETCHER** is a Senior Writer with ESPN's enterprise/investigative team. Before that, he wrote for ESPN's The Undeclared, focusing on politics, criminal justice, and social issues. Fletcher spent 21 years at The Washington Post, where his beats included the national economy, the White House, and race relations. He is co-author of "Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas," a critically acclaimed biography published by Doubleday in 2007. His work also has appeared as chapters in the books "Being a Black Man: At the Corner of Progress and Peril," "Sex, Race and Merit: Debating Affirmative Action in Education and Employment," as well as "The Wire: Truth be Told," a collection of essays based on the celebrated television series.



**SHANNON SCOVEL**, Assistant Professor of Sports Communication at the University of Tennessee. Scovel is an experienced journalist with a particular focus on women's sports, college wrestling, and the Olympic Games; former Division I student-athlete and Fulbright Scholar; reporter for @NCAAWrestling; earned her doctoral degree at journalism at the University of Maryland, master's degree in gender studies at the University of Stirling, and her undergraduate degree in journalism at American University.

2024 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics



**WINNERS of 2024 The Drake Group Education Fund Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics. FIRST PLACE:** Reporters: **Nicole Markus, Alyce Brown, Cole Reynolds, Divya Bhardwaj**, "Former NU football player details hazing allegations after coach suspension" and "Former NU players describe racist environment in football program," *The Daily Northwestern*. **SECOND PLACE:** Reporter: **Catherine Murphy**, "What happened to TK?," *The Quinnipiac Chronicle*. **THIRD PLACE:** Reporter: **Charlotte Varnes**, "Northwestern cheerleaders allege unsafe conditions, unfair expectations," *The Daily Northwestern*.



FIRST PLACE WINNERS: (L to R) Alyce Brown, Nicole Markus, Divya Bhardwaj, and Cole Reynolds

\*The Drake Group Education Fund gives special thanks to **JON WILNER**, a Student Journalism Prize judge who was unable to join us for the webinar. Jon has been covering college sports for decades and is an AP top-25 football and basketball voter as well as a Heisman Trophy voter. He was named Beat Writer of the Year in 2013 by the Football Writers Association of America for his coverage of the Pac-12, won first place for feature writing in 2016 in the Associated Press Sports Editors writing contest and is a five-time APSE honoree.