

## The Problem with Unpaid College Football Athletes by Nick Muir

The average professional football player makes \$2 million every year. The average college football player makes nothing every year. Per NCAA rules, college athletes are not allowed to be paid for what they do. Normally, they receive some gifts and money if they qualify for the postseason. However, a large portion of teams are left out of the postseason, so they receive nothing all year. College football players work just as hard as professional players, and in turn deserve a good salary.

College football players practice and train to get better every day. Normally, they have practice in the morning and at night. That is around 4-5 hours of practice every day. They dedicate everything, outside of school, to performing at a higher level on the field. They work as hard as the pros, but professionals don't have to go to school most days, as well. Many college players are just as skilled as NFL players who rake in millions of dollars every year.

In college football, recruiting violations are a very common occurrence. College athletic departments are frequently offering high school kids large sums of money to come play for them. Usually, they are caught. In the last decade, the NCAA has punished about half of all college athletic departments for recruiting violations. These punishments include large fines, loss of scholarships, and a ban from the postseason for several years. This problem could be eliminated if high school athletes going into college knew that they were going to get paid wherever they went. Also, the playing field would be more balanced in two ways: one team wouldn't be overly stacked with good players, and every team would be eligible for the postseason.

The NCAA states that, because they are amateurs, college athletes cannot be paid. A lot of people agree with that statement. I do not think that matters. They sacrifice their body all year, and they receive no compensation. Also, eighteen is considered being a legal adult nowadays, and a majority of college athletes are between the ages of 18 and 21. How are they amateurs if they are technically legal adults? Even if they were amateurs, they participate in a program that requires massive amounts of commitment and devotion. You get paid when you get your first job when you're fifteen, right? Their reasoning does not make sense.

Some people probably do not care about this issue at all. Well, it may not matter to them, but the recent college football playoff became the most watched program on cable TV ever. Obviously, this is an issue that matters to a lot of people. College football players need to get paid because they deserve it, and it would cut down on recruiting violations. This is something that definitely has to happen sometime, but the sooner the better.

### **Works Cited**

Gonchar, M. (2014). Should College Football Players Get Paid? *The New York Times*.

Lederman, D. (2011). Half of Big-Time NCAA Programs Had Major Violations. *USA Today*.

Manfred, T. (2013). Two Charts That Expose How Badly NFL Players Get Paid. *Business Insider*.