

## College Dollar

In the past year, there has been uproar of discussion about letting college athletes get paid. Some say they shouldn't. Some say there's no reason. I say it's essential. College athletes not only dedicate most of their time to learning in the classroom, but spend countless hours on the gridiron being the best they can be. Therefore, they are entitled to pay, as a reward for their good work. After all, they are responsible for bringing in the paying fans, and possibly risking their futures.

Every sport in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, contributed close to a billion dollars last year produced by athletics. College basketball generated one billion dollars in all last year on just the NCAA tournament. In college football, most bowl game payouts range between \$400 K and \$1 million, with a few non-BCS yet marquee games such as the Cotton, and Chick-Fil-A bowl producing \$3-4 million to participating conferences. In addition, then of course \$18 million for the BCS games and \$22 million per participating conference for the championship game. (Patrick Rishe, Forbes magazine) Sports that aren't making that money should get what these sports are making so these athletes are getting higher pay while the other athletes are still getting payed for their time and effort. Without the athletes there would be no games and no revenue generated.

College sports call for a lot of time and dedication. These athletes have to miss parties, social time, and overall their four short years at college. They must participate in daily practices and games all over the country. It takes up a lot of their time. This is all going on while the "non- NCAA" athletes get more freedom and time. They get to really figure out what

they will be doing in life when they graduate college. It would be a nice feeling knowing that their hard work in college would benefit them in the stressful times after graduation by having a good amount of money to help support them.

Where there is a lot of success, means that there is a lot of risk. Injuries from college sports such as physical and mental injuries, may really hurt a young athlete down the road. Injuries that may even prevent these men and women from getting jobs! Let's face it, a man who played football in college and has suffered from many concussions, will not be as effective as a student that was a non-athlete. Keep in mind that not every college athlete will make it to the next level. Also, keep in mind that with the current recession and international competition, this is the hardest it's ever been to get jobs.

Opponents to this idea claim, "Why would we need to give them money when we give them luxuries already?" The colleges give them tutors, meals, and even pay for their college education. Well, so are others in the school who are non athletes. They give out academic scholarships, don't they? Where will those tutors and free meals be when they are graduated? It's up to these athletes to make money and live on their own. How do we get to see these teams play each other? The players make it happen. We pay to see the players. The players who physically and mentally drain themselves to rise to the top and become the best. As long as we keep going to college games, the colleges will be wanting what of course? Money. Money that is going where? Not to the players.

Paying College athletes being paid is in the best interest for athletes in any sport. It will attract more and more groups of high school athletes to participate at the next level. . All the hard work will have payed off as they will get a little bit back of the time they spent representing their school. Next time you visit a college sporting event please email the athletic

department and tell them how you enjoyed the event. With the help of everyone college athletes will be paid.

Works cited:

Forbes

The money behind the bcs championship

Forbes magazine

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