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**College Athletes: Amateurs or Abused**

Since 1906, college students have had the opportunity to excel beyond the classroom and bring their talents to the playing field of sports. In “10 ways college athletes can get paid and remain eligible for their sport”, Jon Solomon explores ten ways that college athletes would be able to work around the fact that they are not able to be paid for their performances on either the field or the court. He aims his findings towards people of all demographics and utilizes logos to get his make his argument and try to explain that these students are able to still find a way to make money, even if not directly through their designated sports.

As a sports analyst for CBS, Jon Solomon describes ten possible ways which student athletes can get around the NCAA bylaws which govern student pay and amateurism. The article discusses how Muhammad Ali's grandson, a three-star college prospect was allowed to model while being a "student-athlete," and how it was completely legal because he signed the contract before he committed to a college. The article takes more of a pro-NCAA stance, and lists ten ways in which college students are already paid. The problem with this article and its argument that there are already significant ways in which students are paid is that the great majority of students may only be eligible for a few of the things brought up on this list. As reported by Solomon for example, a college football player is a player from the sport that draws in the most money for the majority of colleges and universities in the U.S. According to the article, the student receives a free education (not all the time), as well as sums of money depending on performance, team performance and academic excellence. The majority of awards for winning championships as well as bowl games are not only optional gifts, but the limit on them is a meager few hundred dollars, and the article had mentioned that students realistically can receive a maximum of three: academics, a national championship, and a bowl game. One player wins the Heisman trophy, which comes with an award of 325$, whereas schools such as Arizona and Florida State are grossing sixty-five million and ninety-one million dollars respectively. A player is limited to approximately sixty thousand dollars through compensation for playing their respective sport for their schools, through tuition, Pell grants, stipends, bowl gifts/postseason awards, and prize money for tournaments. The characterization that a student is able to live off of the two thousand-dollar stipend that many schools give to students is laughable. Yet, this article treats the incredible disparity between athletes "earnings" and schools earning with indifference. It is more of an informative article on simple ways to earn small sums of money as a student-athlete, and less a critique of the much larger problem that is the NCAA's exploitation of student athletes for the profit of its subsidiary schools and institutions. The idea that a student faces harsh consequences and even removal from a program for simply using his name as a football player for a specific institution is preposterous, since those very institutions can exploit the players name on billboards, flyers and other things such as merchandise to help boost their own income from these programs. It's a very skewed system that favors the schools and abuses the player's marketing potential. Although Solomon did a great job in informing his audience all the other ways that players can make money, he does not do an effective job in persuading his audience that athletes should get paid; he just shows how difficult it is and all the other places that they must search to make money because the organization refuses to give them any type of real income.

Like Jon Solomon, Tiffany Patterson also used logos to make her claims. In her article “Should College Athletes Be Paid?” she weighs out the pros and cons of why and why not these student athletes should be paid. She also utilizes a bit of pathos by bringing in the factor of their dedication as well as their standpoint in life and how they could benefit from being paid. She begins by explaining that with all the hard work they put into these sports, whether it be in practice or games, as well as all that they put on the line in terms of physical health, these players should be rightfully compensated. In addition, if these players were to receive stipend, they would learn how to make better financial decisions from a younger age and be prepared for either the professional league if they were to carry on, or even the real world if they decide to end their sports careers after college. In any circumstance, a salary given to these players would be beneficial to their development as human beings as well as show gratitude for what they risk to play these sports.

Logically, these students bring in massive revenue for the NCAA organization. The March Madness industry brings in tens of billions of dollars alone as mentioned by Patterson, and can be easily spread amongst the athletes rather than be spent on relatively frivolous things. It may be difficult however, fact to know how exactly how to split the costs; some believe that basketball players and football players would be deserving of a higher income, but most would believe that this would be unjust to all the other sports players. However, these players may be paid, though, it is no debate that with the massive amounts of money brought in by the organization, it would be no problem to fund them if the organization took into consideration paying their athletes. Patterson is effective in her arguments because she touches base on how one may believe that there is no need for these players to be paid, yet gives reasons why they are entitled to and should be receiving money for their effort, time, and devotion to their teams and their organization.

 Through the use of logos, both Jon Solomon and Tiffany Patterson were able to exemplify for their readers the animosity that college athletes must deal with in order to make as little money as they do through their performances. The articles differed in that Patterson touched based on both sides of the argument, where Solomon tried to show how difficult it is to work around not getting paid by the NCAA. In conjunction with one another, these two articles are a perfect pair to advocate for the fairness of college athletes being paid for the time and effort they voluntarily put into playing for the NCAA and representing their schools.

**Work Cited**

Jon Solomon @JonSolomonCBS Jun 21, 2016 • 7 min read. "10 ways college athletes can get paid and remain eligible for their sport." *CBSSports.com*. N.p., 21 June 2016. Web. 30 May 2017.

Patterson, Tiffany. "Should College Athletes Be Paid?" *SmartAsset*. N.p., 03 Feb. 2017. Web. 24 May 2017.