
COMMENTARY

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Comments from the Associate Editor

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This is the first issue of the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport* not edited by R. Scott Kretchmar. Scott was not just the founding Editor of *JIS*, but he was also the first President of the Advisory Board responsible for organizing the NCAA Academic Colloquiums. In many ways, since the creation of the Board and the *Journal*, Scott has been the heart and soul of the organization, and his significance to this endeavor cannot be overstated. He worked extensively with the late Myles Brand, then-president of the NCAA, to create and establish the Board, the Academic Colloquium, and the *Journal*. He eloquently described the origins of all these events in the inaugural issue of *JIS*, where he articulated the historical minimization of the study of sport generally and study of intercollegiate sport specifically, and he then argued their scholarly and social significance (Kretchmar, 2008). It is a history worth revisiting as we move forward because the mere existence of this fifth volume of the *Journal* is a credit to Scott's leadership, hard work, and unflagging dedication. So as the organization enters its sixth year, on behalf of the Advisory Board and all those involved in the creation and production of this *Journal* since the beginning, thank you, Scott.

Perhaps the greatest testament to Scott's leadership is that the Advisory Board and *JIS* are continuing with the next generation of leadership. Simply creating an annual colloquium and a journal intended to promote high quality research focusing on intercollegiate sport is a daunting challenge. Creating that structure so that it is sustainable beyond one generation and capable of evolving over time is quite another. Scott, of course, did not work alone. Robert Simon, the Marjorie and Robert W. McEwen Professor of Philosophy at Hamilton College, served as the organization's first Vice President; similarly Jan Boxill, the Director of the Parr Center for Ethics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Packianathan Cheladurai, Professor of Sport Management at the Ohio State University, served as the inaugural *JIS* Associate Editors. Thanks to all of you as well as to all the past Board Members who contributed not just their time and efforts in their present but were prescient enough to plan for the future.

Allow me to briefly introduce the next generation of leadership. David K. Wiggins of George Mason University is the new President of the Advisory Board. He is currently a Professor and Assistant Dean of the School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism and is the past Editor of both *Quest* and the *Journal of Sport History*. He is one of the nation's leading scholars on race and sport in America and is an active fellow in the National Academy of Kinesiology. Ketra Armstrong of the University of Michigan is the new Vice-President. She is a Professor and Co-Director for the

Michigan Center for Sport Management. Her research and teaching focuses largely on issues of race, gender, and marketing of sport. George B. Cunningham of Texas A&M University is the new Editor of *JIS*. He is a Professor and the Director of the Laboratory for the Diversity in Sport as well as an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education and Human Development. His research focuses on diversity issues in sport, employee attitudes, and group processes. They, of course, work with the other members of the Advisory Board who also serve on the *JIS* Editorial Board, all of whom are listed on the back cover of this issue. All of us, like our predecessors, are committed to the mission of the Advisory Board: "To stimulate, encourage, and promote study, research, and writing related to intercollegiate athletics; to demonstrate the relevance of research for reform efforts in intercollegiate athletics; to support core values of higher education in relationship to intercollegiate sport; to organize and conduct an annual scholarly colloquium; to sponsor a scholarly journal; and to support and cooperate with local, national, and international organizations of similar purpose" (Kretchmar, 2008, p. 5).

State of the Advisory Board and *JIS* leadership aside, this issue of the *Journal* reflects the scholarship presented at the 5th Annual Scholarly Colloquium held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in conjunction with the 2012 NCAA National Convention. Jack Evans, Professor of Business Emeritus at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill served as the conference organizer, and the Colloquium itself focused on the theme: "NCAA Academic Reform: Progress, Problems and Prospects." As Jack explained in his opening remarks, the theme was selected intentionally. In 2004, the NCAA adopted academic reform measures like the Academic Progress Rate (APR), which computes academic performance on a team-by-team basis, and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), which calculates graduation rates accounting for transfers and those who depart in good academic standing. The Colloquium planners hoped that the reforms could be put in historical context, provide contemporary data, and open the door for a discussion of the future. As evidenced from the published invited speakers and reactors, these hopes were fulfilled.

The Colloquium began with Michael Oriard of Oregon State University discussing "NCAA Academic Reform: History, Context and Challenges" (Oriard, 2012). Oriard focused his remarks largely on the cultural history of college football reforms, arguing that without Division I football's many historical sins, academic reform might be less important than it is today. His analysis began with the second intercollegiate competition in 1852 and the immediate charges of cheating between the crew teams of Yale and Harvard. He then explored the various attempts at academic reform that evolved over the interceding 160 years concluding with the present. Ken Shropshire of the University of Pennsylvania and Ronald Smith of Penn State University commented on Oriard's keynote address (Shropshire, 2012; Smith, 2012).

Drs. Tom Petr and Todd Paskus, quantitative researchers at the NCAA, followed Professor Oriard. They presented a history of the NCAA's attitude towards and use of data, followed by a remarkable amount of the data collected under the present day reforms. Although their remarks were designated as a single keynote, we have published their work as two separate manuscripts (Paskus, 2012; Petr & McArdle, 2012). George Cunningham and I each commented on their remarks in aggregate (Cunningham, 2012; Fields, 2012). President Walt Harrison of the University of Hartford and the chair of the NCAA Committee on Academic Performance gave

the third keynote (Harrison, 2012), addressing the academic performance program and the current state of APR benchmark requirements and the penalties for failing to reach those. Camille O'Bryant of California Polytechnic State University and William J. Morgan of the University of Southern California commented on President Harrison's keynote (Morgan, 2012; O'Bryant, 2012).

The program concluded with a panel discussion of institutional experiences with academic reform. Jack Evans moderated the panel consisting of Sidney McPhee (President, Middle Tennessee State University), Carol Cartwright (President Emeritus, Bowling Green State University), Harvey Perlman (President, University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Kevin Anderson (Athletic Director, University of Maryland), and Mike Alden (Athletic Director, University of Missouri). Their comments and response to questions from the audience are reprinted in this issue (Evans, Alden, Anderson, Cartwright, McPhee, & Perlman, 2012).

In sum, these papers provide, I believe, a thorough and relatively balanced look at the history and current state of academic reform in college sport. The mix of new NCAA data and perspectives in conjunction with some more critical comments from other speakers provides a refreshing scholarly and data driven contribution to the broader societal debate about the role of academics in college sport.

To attempt to follow in Scott's large footsteps, I conclude by welcoming submissions to future issues of *JIS* and by encouraging readers to mark their calendars for the 2013 Scholarly Colloquium to be held in Grapevine, Texas, focusing on the topic "Economic Inequalities in College Sport."

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