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Talking Back: How To Not Develop The Athlete

James L. Sankovitz

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Talking Back

How To Not Develop The Athlete

To the editor:

Some years ago, when MU's Ed Block was involved with *Conversations*, I wrote a piece comparing the different ways in which Jesuit colleges and universities compensated athletic coaches. The disparity between them and faculty members was pronounced then, but nowhere to the extent it is today.

The "Developing the Athlete for Academic Excellence" article in the most recent *Conversations* does very little to address the persistent problem; indeed, it exacerbates the issue.

Those who would applaud the university for academically sheltering the athletes are matched by those who despair that equally hardworking non-athletes who work fulltime while attending Marquette seemingly don't obtain the same kind of concentrated assistance.

Nonetheless, the main issue is compensation for coaches and wrong-doing mainly at NCAA Div. 1 campuses. While the current flash point may be the University of Miami and what Donna Shalala does in response to the multiple allegations of gross wrong-doing, it doesn't take much to compare Miami's problems with Marquette's situation.

Coaches' compensation out of sorts with faculty norms and allegations of coddling athletes from civil/criminal penalties is not that distant from Miami's headaches. As you and your National Seminar of Jesuit Higher Education colleagues look to future seminars, I hope you devote at least some attention to this topic and find some way to suggest how Jesuit campuses might solve the problem. If it takes a robust Hutchins/University of Chicago solution, so be it.

*Jim Sankovitz, J'56,
Marquette University vice president
for government relations (ret.)*



The cover crew with a happier countenance, (l-r) *Conversations* editor, Raymond Schroth, S.J., Jose R. Guzman, Fordham Professor Gwenth Jackaway, sophomore Brendan O'Malley, Aidan Heaney, Thomas Heaney and Kerry Weber, associate editor of *America*.