

# Should college level athletes be paid?

*Are they worth the money?*

by Brandon Pizano



For many years, fans of college athletics have wondered if college athletes should be paid. This question applies to being compensated outside of tuition scholarships. While many scholarships are given out to top college athletes yearly, \$2.7 billion to be exact between Division I and II (worth noting that D-III schools do not give out athletic scholarships) schools according to the NCAA, we still find ourselves asking this question.

The main argument as to why college athletes should not be paid, is that college athletes are already being compensated in scholarships. As mentioned before, according to the NCAA, \$2.7 billion dollars is given out yearly to more than 150,000 student-athletes. While that may seem like a fairly large number, if divided equally, each student would be getting around \$18,000. \$18,000 is a substantial amount for in state college students, as that money could almost pay off almost two years tuition. However, for out of state students, that \$18,000 would not even match the \$23,000 on average that they pay according to the *College Board*.

Also, according to the NCAA, only 2% of high school athletes actually receive

athletic based financial aid. To put that into perspective, the NCAA reported that 7,800,000 high school athletes, 156,000 of them are receiving athletic scholarships.

Why should these athletes be compensated outside of scholarships? According to *Money Nation*, the NCAA makes about \$12,389,000,000 yearly across all collegiate sports. I understand that the NCAA needs to profit off of its business, but a college athlete does not need to make anything remotely close to what a professional athlete of that same sport would earn.

A college level athlete shouldn't be paid in the same way a professional is paid. If he or she was to be paid, he or she should be paid every month. It should be seen as more of a "thank you."

How can a big company like the NCAA make money off of these college athletes when they receive practically nothing in return? As shown before, not every D-I or D-II athlete received scholarships, let alone full rides. There are many student athletes that have family members who are struggling financially. How are families to support the college student, while, perhaps struggling to support their own families?

Obviously, if college athletes were paid it would not be a livable wage. However, if they were compensated, they use with that money however they wish. Whether it be used towards their schooling, their family, or themselves, the spending would be up to them.

In conclusion, I believe that college level athletes should be compensated outside of their scholarships. They should not be paid professional athlete wages, but they do deserve some sort of compensation.