## Fair Play: Why College Athletes Deserve to Be Paid

Imagine a world where someone works hard but doesn't get paid. Wouldn't that be unfair? Hi my name is Noah and today I will talk about why college athletes should be paid for playing their sport. College students deserve to get paid, because their position is not very different from the position of a professional athlete in terms of their effort and financial needs. First I will tell you about how college athletes train as hard as professional athletes. After that, I will tell you about how college students face difficulties because they are not getting paid. Finally, I will discuss how we can help the college athletes get paid to be in a better environment.

To begin with, college athletes risk their future careers to play in the college and university leagues. This is because when they play they can get hurt. Why would someone want to risk their body without even getting paid? When they get hurt their careers can be ruined. Zachary Kerr, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Center for the Study of Retired Athletes, argued that injuries in such an age could affect the college athlete's future life and career. This would mean their chances of being recruited will significantly decrease, compared to healthy individuals, providing a reason why their efforts in committing to college sports should not be overlooked. Not only that, college athletes spend as much time as professionals training for their sports. When estimated, college students practice about 32 hours a week, whereas professionals spend 36 hours. There is only a 4 hour difference between professional and college athletes. In other words they only have a minimal amount of difference in time and effort spent, but one gets paid while the other doesn't. Don't you think it is a bit unfair?

Finally, college athletes need to get a job to pay for tuition fees. However, when they are playing for their school's sports team, they use their time and energy to play instead of getting a job.. A lack of time is not the only issue, because when athletes finish training, they won't have the energy either to make money. Because they do not have enough money, it will make it harder for them to attend college.

However, there are problems with college athletes getting paid.

To begin with, the schools do not have enough money to pay all the athletes. If they are to pay the athletes, they would have to either increase the tuition, which would be unfair for other students of the school, or collect money from other departments of the school, which could lower the education quality of the school, which could lead to chaos within the students.

In addition, if the colleges pay the athletes, the athletes can get discouraged from studying. If the colleges pay the athletes to play for their school, they will focus more on making money rather than studying for their grades. This would defeat the purpose of being in college. So what is the point? It is also unfair for the other students that are in college. You can ask how is it unfair? It will be unfair because the other people in the school will not get paid but only the college athletes will get paid. That means some people might come to the college athlete team and get paid which means they might focus more on the college athlete team than studying. For solutions, if schools were able to adjust the payments and make sure they don't come from tuitions, it wouldn't be unfair(you have to think of what the rules are and where they can get this money to pay the athletes). People can help by fundraising and pay them by that which can improve. Every month, college athletes should get paid about 30 - 50 dollars for all the hard work.

In conclusion, because college athletes risk their career to play, and train as hard as pro leagues, and need the money for the tuition fees, they should be rewarded. However in the status quo the college athletes do not get paid/rewarded due to the lack of money of colleges and due to the

possibilities of college athletes not focusing on their academics and it is unfairness against normal students. To fix this we can pay them through sponsorship ,set minimum academic conditions to join the team, and offer opportunities for other talents. By doing so we can serve justice for the college athletes and give them what they deserve.