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Scandals in Intercollegiate Athletics: ASU's Response

Major Athletics Scandals, 2010-2012



- Recent history (2003-2004) of “Pay-for-play” - Coach claimed not to know
- 6 players found to participate in “team memorabilia for tattoos or cash” - Coach initially claimed not to know, later admitted under pressure that he did know, but “didn’t know who to tell”.
- Ohio State coach fired; NCAA sanctions include ban from football post-season play after 2012 season; loss of four scholarships
- OSU FAR announces “it has been a great year for academics!”



- University of Miami investigated over “pay-for-play” violations dating back to 2002
- Long history, going back to at least 1989
- Booster accused of laundering \$2m. through a Ponzi scheme to pay coaches and players (“Schapiro Scandal”)
- NCAA required players and coaches to make restitution for reinstatement
- Voluntary ban from 2011 post-season/looking for Athletic Director
- FAR becomes president of the ACC/new far appointed in 2012
- Investigation continues



- Worst and most devastating scandal in intercollegiate athletics history
- Former Assistant Football Coach imprisoned for 30 years; Another Assistant Coach fired; Head Football Coach resigns in disgrace, later dies; University President under indictment; Athletic Director and University Vice-President under indictment for Obstruction of Justice
- NCAA metes out most severe punishment in history-\$60 m. fine, vacating all wins since 1998; reduction of 70 football scholarships
- Penn State FAR (2000-2010): "A child sex-abuse scandal was never on our radar" /highly critical of NCAA and sanctions



- Academic Fraud-fake classes, fake grades, spurred by allegations of improper gifts to athletes
- Department head and staff “retired”, head football coach fired (2011)
- 2011-NCAA cuts scholarships, vacates wins 2008-09, one-year post-season ban (gifts)
- 2012-Former UNC football player suspected of having fake transcript-NCAA launches new investigation, declared innocent of academic fraud-State of North Carolina continues investigation
- September, 2012-University chancellor and vice-chancellor resign

UNC FAR

- September, 2010-New FAR appointed in 2010-Investigates allegations
- January, 2011-Annouces completion of investigation-All facts known
- May, 2012-"I think that we have looked under, looked in lots of nooks and crannies to try and make the program stronger. I would be surprised if there if there is anything else lurking out there."
- October, 2012-"Several UNC players readily admitted to 'improper academic assistance' when being interviewed by NCAA investigators -- but we failed to clarify that this was not assistance received but assistance given" i.e. a misunderstanding

Analysis

- Prior to 2011, three of the four institutions named would have been considered in top 5 in terms of excellence in combining athletics and academics
- All four institutions made their reputations by establishing a reputable athletic program as a basis for their academic and social appeal
- Reputation/political capital and sanctions are related
- Role of the FAR highly variable across institutions

Arizona State



- Reputation in athletics established foundation for academic excellence
- ASU leads Division I athletic programs in number of major violations, 9 since 1953 (*USA Today*, 2/22/11)
- “Because of the major violations and the finding of a lack of institutional control, ASU again is subject to repeat violation penalties if another major violation occurs in the next five years.” - *Arizona Republic*, 11/4/11

Responses to a Potentially Very Serious Situation

Both the opportunity and danger of athletics is taken very seriously by the leadership if the university



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Policy Approaches

- NCAA 4-year report due 2013 (mandatory)
- ASU Legal Counsel visits players and coaches of all teams, as well as all Sun Devil Athletics staff annually (voluntary)
- ASU Student-Athletes are responsible for a Student-Athlete Code of Conduct in addition to the ASU Student Code of Conduct (voluntary)

Policy Approaches (con't)

- Dramatically enhanced Compliance staff , five full-time employees, led by an Executive Director (Steve Webb) as of 2011, who reports to the ASU Legal Counsel, not SDA (voluntary)
- Revamped and revised tutoring protocols on in the Office of Student-Athlete Development (OSAD) to make academic integrity a priority in a student-athlete's life.
- FAR reporting structure entirely independent of SDA

“We Make It Impossible Not to Know”

“ We can never establish human integrity by policy. What we can do, however, is make policy that makes it very difficult to violate the rules and achieve a level of transparency such that it becomes impossible not to know what’s going on.” -Jean Boyd, Senior Associate Athletic Director, SDA Office of Student-Athlete Development

Is It Enough?

