

**April 20, 2015**



## **"THE VOICE OF THOSE IMPACTED BY REFORM"**

**SUNE AGBUKE  
TY DARLINGTON  
KYVEN GADSON  
RACHEL SCOTT**

THE MODERATOR: First, I'd like to thank those who are here at the National Press Club today, and I want to welcome those who are watching on campuses or in their offices on Campus Insiders and on Big12Sports.Com.

Let's start with introductions, and then we'll jump into a conversation.

Starting closest to me, we have Kyven Gadson. He's a three-year letterman for Iowa State University wrestling team. In 2015, he was an Academic All-Big 12 First Team member. He's an NCAA National Champion and Big 12 Champion in the 197-pound weight class. He's also the 2014-2015 Big 12 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president.

Next we have Rachel Scott, a junior at the University of Texas and an outfielder on the Longhorn's softball team. In 2013, she was named an NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete. And in the fall of 2012 and 2013 she was named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll. She's the Big 12 Conference representative for the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Then we have Sune Agbuke. She averaged nearly 20 minutes per game as a key member of the Baylor women's basketball team this past season. She completed her undergraduate degree program in August 2014 and is currently attending Baylor Law School. This year she was named a Second Team Senior CLASS All-American.

And finally we have Ty Darlington, a graduate student who plays football for the University of Oklahoma. In 2014, he was named the Capital One Academic All-America First Team. He started all 13 games at center for the Sooners

last season. And he was one of three Big 12 Conference student-athlete representatives who took part in the recent NCAA Autonomy Governance legislative session.

With that, let's get started. Let's begin by talking a little bit about the demands on student-athletes. Could each of you describe for me the time commitments that you have during this season, how you balance being both a student and an athlete. Why don't we start with you, Kyven.

KYVEN GADSON: That's fine. So balancing the time demands. It's difficult, but at Iowa State I've got a great coach in Kevin Jackson. And he's allowed me to really have some leeway. I don't think many coaches would, actually.

In January, I went to Texas at Austin and went to a black student-athlete conference dealing with issues regarding black student-athletes, male and female, and I missed two days of practice, came back and had to compete on Sunday.

So from a time demand standpoint, it's difficult at times. But it's more about how the coaches work with you and just getting the things done.

RACHEL SCOTT: Well, as you can imagine, the time demands for student-athletes are pretty tremendous. We do anything and everything from practice, to study groups, to us as leaders, we are missing class for days like today. But it's just a tremendous opportunity to be able to take part in discussions such as this.

And I mean to balance all of those things, I mean, there are lots of support systems in place. I know at Texas I have a Dr. Randa Ryan who does a lot for us as student-athletes, in terms of balancing your academic and athletic careers. So that helps a lot for us.

SUNE AGBUKE: I would agree with -- I would agree with that about support systems. I think that's what's essential to balancing it all. I think time commitments are tremendous, because as a student-athlete, you are so concerned about your school and your social life and your family and

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**April 20 Big 12 Forum Transcript  
(Student-Athletes Panel)**

things like that. But at the same time winning is such a big priority.

So you have to find a way to balance that to make it all gel, to make it all come together. And academic advisors and trainers and coaches that are willing to work with you, I think that's really the cornerstone of success, apart from your own desire to make it work.

But I mean, it is a significant amount of time to play a college sport. And it takes a toll on you sometimes. And there are a lot of student-athletes -- I would say all of us up here -- student-athletes across the country involved with SAAC that want to be more involved on campus, want to be more involved with the community and things like this, discussing issues that matter to us and trying to help people.

And I think that you can't do it all. I know you can't do it all. But sometimes your time commitments prevent you from being as active as you would want to be in the community or on campus, things like that.

But like I said, it's your support system and the people around you that make it work and your own drive to help you accomplish that.

TY DARLINGTON: I think you're exactly right. That's why time commitment is such a hot topic. And the challenge is not just getting from one thing to the other and getting through your days, it's really -- it's achieving excellence in all those areas, of being excellent in the classroom and on the field. But it doesn't just stop there.

Sometimes people get the misconception that that's where it ends, that it's really just the student and the athlete, when there's a lot of other hats that we're all involved, heavily involved in different on-campus organizations whether it be SAAC, or Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or different things and having a social life and being a healthy, functioning human being and being involved in the community.

And it's a lot more than just being a student and an athlete which is sometimes what people simplify it to. It's very difficult because you do have, as a football player, I'm going to have a workout in the morning. Then before I graduate -- I'm in grad school, my classes are at night -- but then I would have morning classes.

And then you're coming back and you're getting in the training room and trying to get your body healthy. Then you're going to meetings and then practice. It's a full day.

It feels like a full-time commitment. Usually going until 6:00 at night. Then you'll have

study hall and classes you'll have to study for and other outside commitments and things.

Another sort of what we've talked about a lot, just in our downtime here, is the misconception that it's just during the season. I think that we all think that the offseason is almost as much of a time commitment as the in-season is, because you don't get those on-the-field results without the offseason time commitment.

And that's one thing that I know we feel passionately about, too, is sort of breaking the myth that the student-athlete, the offseason is really off. We spent a lot of time continuing to do things with our teams as well as spending a lot of time on other things, too.

THE MODERATOR: I'm glad you brought up the offseason because obviously you have commitments to your sport during the offseason. I'm interested in how that impacts your time and whether you consider those offseason commitments voluntary, are they required? Is it mandatory that you spend time in the offseason, as much time in the offseason as you do in-season? Rachel, maybe you could talk about that.

RACHEL SCOTT: Well, like Ty said, to get the in-season results, you really have to be able to put in the time in the offseason.

I personally don't feel that those time commitments are, like, you have to do them. But they're sort of expected to be able to achieve the excellence that is expected, say, at the University of Texas or any of the Big 12 universities, you have to go to the weight room in the offseason.

You have to put in the extra swings and do a couple more fly balls here and there. So in terms of strictly athletics, it is just as busy. I mean, we don't necessarily have games on the weekends.

But we're taking, say, more class hours in the fall, on top of extra voluntary hours and other things along those lines.

THE MODERATOR: What's your view on that, Kyven?

KYVEN GADSON: For me it's a little bit different. With wrestling, you're kind of more individual-based. So coming into last season, I was kind of burnt out from wrestling and just the whole toll it takes on you.

So I spent the whole summer -- I did an internship. I finished up my undergraduate degree. Graduated in August. And I really didn't go in the wrestling room that much.

And it was something that really allowed me to come into the season much fresher, much more relaxed and really ready to really attack the six to eight months of season with what I needed to get to where I ended up in March.

But before that, it's kind of like you feel like you have to be there. You understand that if you're not there, someone else out there is passing you up.

So it's a balancing act. But at the same time it's basically mandatory, if you want to look at it like that, yeah, it's pretty much mandatory because you want to be the best. We don't come to our schools and things like that to take second place and things like that. So we're working to be the best. So it basically makes it mandatory.

THE MODERATOR: Amid the discussion about demands on student-athlete's time, one proposal that's emerged is the idea of limiting sports to one semester and not spreading out the season over both semesters.

And I'm interested what your views are on that and whether that would impact you for better or for worse. And Sune, your sport certainly covers both semesters. How would you feel about making that change?

SUNE AGBUKE: I didn't like it, I'm hearing this idea -- I think for me it changes a lot of the dynamics of the sport. I think there's a certain grit about starting in October, playing games in October and ending in April. And there's a mental toughness aspect. You're playing through seasons. And I think that there's something there that people really like about it, and as athletes that we like about it.

It adds an extra aspect to the game that if you take that away, if you put us in a semester, I guess that would only shorten a couple of games. Maybe you'd have to take out some of your non-conference.

But I think it would change the dynamics a little bit and kind of what we were talking about earlier, something that we did talk about earlier today was in-season demands. I think that as an athlete, you accept them. And you kind of live for them.

And it's not a big deal, games, it's things you like to do in-season. So I don't really think that it would help change so much for us. I know a benefit would be having a season, whether it was fall or spring, that things were more relaxed or maybe you'd get a chance to intern, because right now it's more of a year-round.

But honestly, just from the aspect of the game that I love to play, I think that it would change a lot of the dynamics just to have it in one semester. But other sports are doing it and have done it and it works.

THE MODERATOR: Right. And Ty, obviously your sport is more contained within one semester. With the exception of the bowl game that you want to go to obviously. What do you think about making that change?

TY DARLINGTON: It is perceived that it is contained in one semester, but it really is year-round. We just got done with spring practice on Thursday. You're not playing games, but you're still putting in every bit of the hours that you would be if it was an in-season practice time.

And we're going all through the summer. I know that we don't -- it would be absolutely impossible for me to have an internship in the summer or doing something like that. We're going all through summer and going through fall camp.

Even though we're not going through semesters, if you counted the summer as another semester, I mean we're really going pretty and hot and heavy from June -- we're really probably going four, five days a week from June all the way through until January when we finish up.

So it's definitely something -- I don't know how realistic it is or feasible to sort of turn back the clock, it's how it's been for so long, especially with a sport like basketball. So much revenue comes in from March Madness and we depend on that so much.

And to sort of restructure the entire, how the season works, I don't know if that's something that can happen. But it's definitely worth talking about.

THE MODERATOR: Now, a big topic in and around the NCAA at this point, centers around the use of an athlete's name and their likeness. And I wanted to talk a little bit about whether you feel the value of a scholarship is worth not being able to profit off your own name and your own likeness. And Kyven, I know you've had some real world experience about this question. Maybe you could talk a little bit about that.

KYVEN GADSON: Yeah, after NAAs -- I think some people are familiar with it, in the post match interview, I said I just want some ice cream, man. I just want some ice cream. I bolted out of the room.

And so the next day, or that Tuesday, my

mom's looking to buy the domain name kyvengadson.com for me so I could start my website, which I was planning on doing beforehand. Kind of procrastinated a little bit. And we go to buy the domain name and it's already purchased.

And the domain name got purchased the day after NCAAs. So that was something that I didn't really understand. I was like how can someone buy KyvenGadson.com. I don't know if there's any Kyven Gadsons out there other than myself. So I really didn't understand that.

So from that standpoint, I was thinking -- so as in college athletics, you're supposed to protect the athlete, their name, image, and likeness, but then you have someone who doesn't have anything to do with college athletics and that person buys up my domain name and then wants to charge me basically \$10,000 to buy it back. I don't have \$10,000.

And so it's a different concept, and it's very interesting.

THE MODERATOR: And Sune, I'm interested in what you think about legislation that would prohibit students from using their name and their sports reputation to earn money outside of their sports.

SUNE AGBUKE: You know, I think that it really affects -- it can affect a lot of like nonscholarship or partial scholarship athletes who there might be, you know, running cross-country, just running because you love it.

There's not a "I'm going to go professional after this," there's not too many motives besides I'm just in college, trying to survive, and if I'm really good at making videos or if I'm a very talented singer or things that if you weren't a college athlete, that, yeah, you could charge people or you can advertise and publicize your talents and not have any problems. But because you have the label of a student-athlete, you're not able to do that, regardless of how much money you're receiving.

So I think that sometimes -- it's a rule for a reason. It's there to protect a lot of -- protect the sport from a lot of people that would abuse those rules, but there are those people that do want to, that are doing it legitimately, that have legitimate purpose in taking their talents and just wanting to share that with the world and being able to profit from that. And I don't know if we can go into that now. But we've talked about, not even from a profit standpoint, but just wanting to do something

maybe as an organization or a program for someone else.

For example, a couple of years ago in West Texas, there was an explosion. And the day after a whole bunch of us, people on my team, and there were several athletes at Baylor that wanted to go out there and help. And we wanted to help as Baylor athletes, because you'd really bring a lot of smiles to people in the community. It would just be a nice thing to do instead of just going as a random person.

No, you come to watch us, you come to support us, we want to support you guys. And we received an e-mail from our compliance saying that we weren't able to go out there as groups, like staff couldn't take us, coaches couldn't take us, trainer, chaplain couldn't take us. And that really hurt us because in a moment like that, such a tragedy and you're looking for ways to really help, to really help people, to make a difference, and we felt we weren't able to do that in that situation.

But, you know, a couple of weeks later I went with the law school and we were able to go and help. And it was just funny to me, it's like I still was able to go and make a difference, but there was such a group of people that everyone in the community knew and everyone in the community has rallied around for years in Waco that we couldn't give back in that moment that they needed us.

THE MODERATOR: Rachel, have these prohibitions affected you?

RACHEL SCOTT: To some extent. Probably less than, say, Ty and Kyven's instance because softball isn't as much as a high priority sport. But like, I mean, one instance is, say, as a partial scholarship athlete, I wanted to make a little bit of money in the summer.

I can't use my own name. I can't say that I'm a student-athlete at the University of Texas, that I play softball and I'm there for -- I have the credentials to give a camp or give a lesson. So that's difficult.

Additionally, like in terms of just scholarships in general, this isn't so much name and likeness, but kind of a prohibition, if you will, there's just so many rules. I've had personal experience. Like as a partial scholarship athlete, say I wanted to round out my education, without taking out loans or ask my parents for more money to pay for the whole tuition, so I apply for scholarships online, and had to turn down several

because they weren't "okay" by the rules and the legislation that we have in place at this time.

And it wasn't anything that I was using my student-athlete status to get, like I mean, I'm a partial scholarship athlete. I'm not a high profile one like a football player. So I'm not using -- I'm not manipulating that image to my advantage in that situation. Yet, I still can't take those scholarships.

THE MODERATOR: Ty, I'm sure this is a big issue on the football team. So I'm interested to hear your thoughts.

TY DARLINGTON: I think like a big part of it is that we're using the term like "athletic reputation" and where do you draw the line from where you cross over from a person's "athletic reputation" and where it's their reputation as a human being. Sometimes we marginalize athletes saying they're only athletes.

Where I feel for some of us up here, any notoriety we've gained we've gained through other means that have nothing to do with our play on the field.

And sometimes I feel like as student-athletes we get restricted. You're not able to do some things that a normal student would be able to do.

Like sort of like Sune was saying, that there have been instances where, first of all, I'm not a proponent of signing autographs for money, of trying to make money off of even a lot of the hot topics, the TV revenues and that type of thing.

But I am very much a proponent of student-athletes being able to use their name, image, and likeness for other things and just not being restricted in such a way where I feel like I'm working, I'm having to work so much harder in organizations I'm involved in to try to make things happen because I feel I'm handcuffed as an athlete because I can't do the same things normal students would.

We have a group, every year we take a group of about 40, 45 students, can't say student-athletes, to Haiti, to a mission trip for Haiti called Sooners for Haiti. It's incredible every year. Best week of my year. And that requires a considerable fundraising effort to take all these student-athletes down there.

And we cannot -- I cannot tweet from my own Twitter account to raise money for something like that. We cannot in any way use our reputation to even in that way raise money for other people or to do something positive.

And even that, when I turn around, I see I can't tweet about raising money for Haiti, but I see the NCAA on their website had an article with my roommate Trevor Knight's face on it, talks about Sooners for Haiti. And those type of things are pretty frustrating.

We've had -- I know Sune talked about it -- people pursuing endeavors outside of their athletic careers as musical or whatever, they have other talents. And basically I think everyone tries to assume that, okay, they're only buying records or coming to your concert because you're an athlete, not because you're good at what you do.

We have a basketball player, D.J. Bennett, who is pursuing a musical career in hip hop rap. I know they've dealt with issues of not being able to promote concerts or promote his records that he's working on. They can't use his name. They have to use D.J. B. And he literally cannot use his own name to promote himself in a way that has nothing to do with his basketball ability.

So I do think while I am, like I said, I am not a proponent of trying to make money off of your likeness while you're in college and your athletic reputation. I think that there does need to be addressed where does that line of your athletic reputation cross over to your reputation in other things, in other endeavors.

THE MODERATOR: On the subject of money, certainly the debate about pay for play has intensified in recent months. And a court case has raised the specter of possibly paying each players \$5,000 above and beyond their scholarship or some other sum. I'd like to hear from each of you about what you think about the possibility of paying players beyond their scholarships. Maybe, Kyven, if you want to start.

KYVEN GADSON: I'll let Sune start with this one, because we had talked about this earlier, educating them --

SUNE AGBUKE: Something that me and Kyven were talking about is just that I don't know how to handle my money. I'm 22 years old. I'm pretty responsible, I would say, for a 22-year-old. I think my mother would agree with me.

I am very responsible. I'm in law school. I take care of my business. But I can say I don't know how to handle my money. You can give me a million dollars a month. At the end of the month, I don't know if the utility bill is about to get paid, because I really don't know how to handle it.

At 18 and 19 I definitely was -- I was even

worse. And so we've talked about all sorts of money issues. And I think that there are some student-athletes who are really trying to make ends meet and have concerns, that was not necessarily my case. I felt that all the resources were there. It was just how I wanted to use them or how I knew how to use them.

And so I think something me and Kyven were talking about it's more of an educating people on how to spend their money. And that was my experience.

But in terms of pay for play, I have an opinion, but it doesn't matter because I would not be in the class of athletes that would get paid. And I think that's an issue of if it's going to be revenue sports, and we have men's basketball and football.

And if that's how you're going to do it, then I do think automatically there's a disparity. If you want to say Title IX, if you want to say gender equality or want to say it's not fair to everybody, that we're all putting in the same amount of time and we've all dedicated the same number -- some of us more years. We've all been doing this, I would say, our entire lives or something that would prepare us for it.

And to say you're going to pay this group because people find them more likable or people like to watch football and men's basketball more, then I think that there's an issue aside from just paying them.

Just being a part of the class that's left out of it I feel like that's, like that would be wrong, because I mean I'm done playing now, but my teammates who are great and the program that I come from that is such a tradition for excellence, that you would leave us out, even though you know what we might have, be more winning, have a better record, have better credentials than other men's programs. And so that's my take. I think it's unfair.

KYVEN GADSON: Pay for play. It's different. I mean, I don't think I'd be in the class either of getting paid. Wrestling's a different sport. But I think it would definitely make some things unfair, but I also think there's some student-athletes that could basically, that bring in lots of revenue for their school, if they were able to go to the NBA or NFL directly out of high school or some things like that, they would be able to make money right away. And we're telling them they can't, they have to come to college because maybe the NBA making a rule like this or the NFL making a rule like this.

So I think it's a sticky situation. But I think some people -- I think some people should get paid. I know I wouldn't be one of them. But I would figure it out. But I do think some student-athletes should be able to get paid.

THE MODERATOR: Ty, should you be paid?

TY DARLINGTON: Asking me straight up. I could tell you this much, I don't think myself or anyone else on any of my team would turn down the money. But that's the thing, though, is I do believe in the value of an education, but I also do see some of the disparities between what the money that is made off of what we do on the field and what our experience is like.

But in the end, I could tell, as I've told these people up here, is we had a SAAC conference in Dallas in June. That's when I really first started getting my feet wet in all these issues.

I have an opinion. You can probably notice I'm probably a pretty opinionated person. But when I was there in Dallas, in June, I was pretty on the liberal side of things as far as pay for play and different other issues.

And as I've gotten more involved in it and sort of gotten to know the ins and outs and becoming more educated on it, I've definitely become much more conservative, because there's so many unintended consequences.

And that's one of the things I've had trouble coming to grips, with is the fact that I do think that paying players in a way that might be fair would ruin the collegiate model as we know it. And it would never be the same.

And when you're dealing with issues like gender equality, with those types of things, we had so many programs might get cut. Men's Olympic sports would take a hit for sure.

You would be -- sure, you'd be sweetening, enriching the experience for the few, and it would cost a lot of other people the experience of being a student-athlete at a university such as Oklahoma or such as Baylor.

And there are other issues I feel like that we are the most, the people up here, others of our peers, we're the most equipped, the most knowledgeable on these issues as students. And I can tell you right now -- sorry about that -- I do not want to deal with unionization, and I don't want to deal with taxes and Title IX and group licensing.

And these are the people that would have to deal with it, that we would have to sort -- if we

want it to happen, we'd have to be the representatives. And I don't think that that's something that we want to have to undertake as a whole.

I think that there are a lot of people that outcry for pay for play and everything, but I don't know how many of those people are willing to go through the necessary steps and really pay the price with your physical time and effort to do what it takes to make that happen.

THE MODERATOR: Rachel, what do you think about this?

RACHEL SCOTT: I had a quick addition. So like Ty, I first started getting my feet wet in June. And prior to that I had heard some of these issues being discussed.

But I was sort of under the impression that everyone else was similar to Texas. And obviously that is not the case. People don't have the same experiences that University of Texas student-athletes have.

And especially when I became the representative for the national SAAC, so there are 31 other members representatives of each of the other Division I conferences. And it is just -- I mean, now you see both sides. You see what student-athletes think at the universities at the institutional level, who don't necessarily know that in smaller conferences, like they can't afford stuff like this, and how are they supposed to remain competitive with the big Power Five conferences who can.

To that extent, I'm friends with many representatives on the national SAAC whose programs, some of their programs at their schools have already been cut because they're trying to figure out ways how to pay for full cost of attendance and figure out how to remain competitive with the big Power Five conferences.

So is a little extra money for those who, like, need it or necessarily should get it because it's fair worth the cost of a lost opportunity for another student-athlete. Just something to think about, and you have to see both sides of the equation.

TY DARLINGTON: That just reminded me. That's why like -- and I was there in January, like I said, I was able to vote on that. I expressed my views on the full cost of attendance there. But what I really believe that the full cost of attendance is a compromise.

That's why I was so behind it and energetic about supporting that, I think that's a way that we're able to give athletes enough money to

where they can have a healthy experience and aren't going from check to check and can pursue other things outside of their sport, without ruining the collegiate model and in a way that is still fair for everyone.

And there's still, even budget-wise, I understand it's going to be a challenge for a lot of places. Some of the negative consequences, more schools having to cut sports and everything. Those things are still going to happen. People will need to make decisions on what's important, whether they want to compete at the highest level, in the revenue-generating sports, or whether they want to have a wide array of sports for all their athletes.

So people are going to have to make decisions. I was very much a full proponent of the cost of attendance because I think it's a great compromise between full out pay for play, market value, that whole argument, and what we have had the last forever.

THE MODERATOR: Ty raised the specter of paying players only to see other programs cut. And that's certainly an argument that's been made a lot, that if we pay players in some of the sports, then we'll have to make cuts to other sports. And I saw you react to that, Kyven. What do you think about the possibility that your sport could be impacted, wrestling could take a hit so that other players could be paid?

KYVEN GADSON: I mean, it's scary. It's definitely scary, because I wouldn't have had the opportunity to follow in my dad's footsteps and continue on that Gadson legacy at Iowa State. So that would have just been off the table right there.

And I don't think it would have been fair to snatch the opportunity for someone, for myself and my other teammates and things like that, just to pay a couple different guys. But I mean, yeah -- ooh, yeah, ooh. It's just a slippery slope for sure. It's definitely a slippery slope.

THE MODERATOR: Sune, do you share those concerns?

SUNE AGBUKE: Definitely. If I spoke for women's basketball, yeah, I'm sure my program would be fine. Many schools in the Big 12 would be fine. But even to have a competitive league, yeah, they can wipe away programs completely, but even to have a competitive league I'd like there to be more than 15 teams to play against and things like that, to where if at some schools you might need to cut women's basketball. You might

need to cut softball and might need to cut wrestling.

And even for those programs that do stay intact, like what's the competition going to be like? It would change a lot for every other sport that's not getting that money. It would change.

And Ty was talking earlier about the value of an education, which I think a lot of this just boils down to that. If you value -- if it was valued like money, then we wouldn't really be complaining.

People ask me how my experience was. It was great. I got my degree. I'm working on another degree. I will have -- I have been set for life as far as I'm concerned with this opportunity.

But some people -- and rightfully so. I'm not judging that -- but some people look at education like lima beans: What am I going to do with a handful of lima beans? I didn't want lima beans, I didn't ask to be given lima beans. I'm not here for lima beans.

I know that sounds crazy, but that's the way I think about it. When you see some student-athletes obviously you're not here for an education. And that's the truth. You're not here for that. You're here to either go to the next level.

You're here to play professional at some point. And that's the truth. And so you can't really disguise it and say, well, oh, if you -- yeah, it's about money to them because they're not here to get this degree, you know what I mean, and that's just the truth about it. They look at it like you're paying them in vegetables, like what am I going to do with it; these aren't my goals; I don't need it.

And so I think that that's where a lot of this conversation comes in, a lot of the discussion comes in at, because it's not the same. I think all four of us up here really valued it and really -- and tried to get the most out of it.

But that's not everyone's experience, and that's not what everyone's coming from. So I think that's really where we really are talking about more money, more money, or things like that, or I want to get paid. Well, it's because you're not interested in being in college.

THE MODERATOR: Did you want to add to that, Kyven?

KYVEN GADSON: I was going to echo what Sune said. Up here, you have three graduate students that were still being athletes. She's going to be one next year. And so you're not really hearing from the people that maybe don't want to be in college for the education. So right now you're listening to people that value education,

valued playing their sport and had an opportunity to do both while getting some of it paid for.

So I think that's something that's obvious up here, is all of us loved getting our education and wanted to further it by going to masters school. Rachel gets to do it next year. That's really important to note as well.

SUNE AGBUKE: So I'm not going to say we're the exception, because I think that would be unfair to a lot of student-athletes who are very sincere in their commitment to both worlds. And like Ty said earlier about being a very holistic approach about just trying to be a good human, not just being a student-athlete, but trying to be a good human being.

But, you know, a lot of people would tell me I'm the exception, because I really did try to maximize that. And I would say that for all of us. But there's a lot of student-athletes that do want to maximize both of their experiences as a student and as an athlete. But like we were just saying, that that's not everybody's opinion and I don't really think that opinion is necessarily represented with the -- on this panel with the four of us. I don't think that.

THE MODERATOR: Did you want to jump in, Ty?

TY DARLINGTON: I do think that, like you're saying, that this is not completely representative of -- I think it's definitely a minority group. But for each and every person on this stage, our biggest asset is not what we do on the field.

Our futures are going to be determined by other characteristics and things that the education is valuable. But there are other people that the biggest thing that happened in their life is their athletic talent. And that's their biggest asset.

And sometimes we do prevent them from capitalizing on that in a meaningful way with the current model, but I don't think that's a reason to completely flip the model upside down; because, like you said, I think that the vast majority of student-athletes, there's, what, 450 at my school or however many there is, the vast majority of them are student-athletes and really do value an education and pursue an education, because in the end, that's where it's going to establish you in having long-term success as a person.

THE MODERATOR: On the subject of money, a lot of advocates for pay for play have asserted that part of the reason that athletic

programs have budget issues is because coaches' salaries are too high. I think we might hear that view voiced in the next panel discussion. So I'm interested in whether you think coaches' salaries are too high. Why don't we start with you, Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT: I was going to pass it off to someone else, actually.

THE MODERATOR: Ty, your coach is well paid. Is that fair?

TY DARLINGTON: I better be careful here. So I mean, I do realize that we live in a capitalist society and it's a competitive market.

And I don't think you can step back easily from the sort of the threshold we already crossed of the way we pay our coaches. I'm not saying it's completely unmerited. And I want to be a coach one day. So I'm speaking from that viewpoint also.

But I do think that some of the decisions are going to have to be made by individual coaches and athletic departments, that when we're faced with the budget issues we have, with the cost of attendance legislation coming through, with the food legislation that came through last year and there are going to be budget issues.

Maybe not as much as Oklahoma or Texas or things like that, but there will be places where budget is really going to be an issue. And it's simple really. You can either -- we have those issues: You can either increase revenue or you can cut your cost.

And it's going to be, when you start looking at where can we decrease our expenditures, one of the easiest places where a huge chunk of money goes is coaches' salaries that are sometimes exorbitant.

And I think that coaches are going to have to make a decision on an individual basis of: Do I want to -- if I want to be able to have the full cost of attendance for my team and be able to bring in the best of the best and have the best situation for my athletes, I might have to take a pay cut.

I think some people will have to look at that, decide whether their salaries are the most important thing or whether their student-athlete experience and -- because it is going to be somewhat of a recruiting tool.

Whether you say it is or not, we've argued back and forth on whether it's going to be used for recruiting. I can tell you that if I was looking between two schools and one of them had full cost of attendance, one of them didn't, that would be something that would be hard to ignore.

So I do think that's something that coaches will have to look at is maybe even voluntarily,

maybe not, I'm not sure, but if they want to get the best players and to have the best situation for their teams, then something's gotta give.

THE MODERATOR: Sune, what do you think about this question?

SUNE AGBUKE: You know, I agree with Ty, a lot of it. I do think that if the salaries were to change at all, it would have to be initiated by the coach or by their bosses. But the truth is these things are regulated. I mean, there are laws against putting a cap on that.

And, like he said, this is a capitalist society; this is what we want, and this is what drives a lot of us is, oh, I can make more money at X university. So I'm going to go there.

And it's the same with college students. I mean, you know, people get a student who is saying, well, this university is giving me this much, this university is going to give me this much more. It's just what we do.

And as athletes, I looked at -- my sister played college basketball, I say I look at her experience. I don't want her experience, I want a better one and I want a school that maybe has a little bit more money, or schools that do this and so I'm going to go there.

So, yeah, Kyven and I were talking about it earlier, and maybe I'm off, wrong for saying this, but I think it really has to be that desire, if I do want what's best for the student-athletes, if I do want to still bring in talent, the talent that I'm bringing in, or better talent, and then still provide full cost of attendance and other things like that, maybe do take a pay cut, if that's -- we were talking about earlier, I don't want to take -- hopefully Kyven isn't going to say it, about if you're an athletic director, take a pay cut to pay your employees more who do so much. There are other -- there are so many other pieces of the puzzle to college athletics than just coaches and players and ADs, there are so many other people that do so much to make it all happen.

So it's not just about us. It's also about them, too, and what would be best for them. And I think that if you have that mindset, then why not take a pay cut.

THE MODERATOR: We'll see how that works. Switching gears a little bit. Another issue that has been debated about student-athletes is whether they should have the ability to transfer what restrictions should be placed on that. And I'm interested in whether you think athletes should be

able to transfer and play immediately. Should they have to have a year of residency, or should they be restricted from transferring? Maybe, Rachel, we could start with you on this.

RACHEL SCOTT: Sure. I know a lot of talk and proposals have been going on lately, especially through the governance structure, about graduate transfers. I know this would apply to all of us. Say you finish your undergraduate degree. You say okay, great I still have some eligibility left, but the University of Texas just doesn't have the graduate program that I want.

But, like, if I still have that eligibility left, I have to sit out a year, if I want to go somewhere else. From the student-athlete point, it just feels unnecessary. Like, why should we have to sit out? I don't know.

Do you guys have any other points?

KYVEN GADSON: Well, for wrestling, you don't really see many transfers. So I can't really speak on it from a wrestling perspective.

From a basketball, football, where Iowa State might be transfer -- Coach Hoiberg, he does a great job of pulling in transfers and giving kids maybe second chances and another opportunity to prove themselves.

From that standpoint, I think it's great to have them give them an opportunity to have that second chance and establish themselves again, if they had issues or the school didn't work out at this place. And for them to have to sit out a year can actually, I think, be more detrimental to them as a student, which is what we're supposed to be here for, because then you don't have all the structure -- yeah, you've got to go to practice and stuff like that, but you're not practicing to play a game.

You're not putting in the hours in the weight room to go to March Madness. You're just there being a practice partner. And I think that can take a different type of stress toll on the athlete.

TY DARLINGTON: I think it's definitely a very relevant issue. I know with guys on my team, I have a lot of experience talking about this stuff. And I don't think there are many people that want like free agency, like every year we can go sign on with whoever has the hottest hand, whoever has an opening in our position.

But I think that there are definitely maybe reasons that maybe people should be given more exemptions, because the bottom line is people are -- as much as you can say you sign on to be a student at the university, we're recruited -- a lot of times we're recruited based on you are a good fit for our system, you're recruited by a certain coach

who has told you that you develop a relationship with that coach.

And, like I said, or you're a great fit. I know like my little brother plays quarterback at Nebraska. And he was recruited out of high school. And he's a dual threat quarterback, not the biggest guy, not really a pro-style quarterback. And they had a coaching staff change.

Now all of a sudden he's not the best fit for their system. Thankfully he loves Coach Riley. He's not going anywhere. But that's a situation where, if he felt like he needed to transfer for a fit, for something that was a better fit for him why should he not be able to?

And the same mindset, I know for a fact that coaches wait to leave until after signing day. If that doesn't hit you, just make you turn your head a little bit, there's something wrong with that, because they develop relationships with a player. And a lot of times firings, people wait -- in my time here, we've had coaches fired after signing day, because players come to play for a certain coach a lot of times.

And so when that coach leaves, if they can leave and there's no consequence for them, it's frustrating that a student-athlete cannot do the same thing, when you came for that coach.

I wouldn't say open it up completely, but maybe make something like coaches leaving that type of thing a new system as something that might be eligible for an exemption of some -- not just the head coach, assistant coach, because you develop a much more personal relationship with your position coach and that type of thing.

Another issue is I have a personal example. Baker Mayfield is competing for the QB job with us. He's a great player, great friend of mine.

He was at Texas Tech, a walk-on, was given no money at Texas Tech. He was there as a student that chose to participate on the football team and do everything they did. They had not given him a scholarship. And he transfers to Oklahoma. And he has to sit out a year.

And so they weren't willing to give him a scholarship. But then they can decide what schools he can transfer to. And then he has to sit out for a year. When he came to Oklahoma and was given -- now he's on scholarship. So we're punishing him for that, making him be able to sit out a year and not able to get the year of eligibility back, can't use it as a redshirt year.

There's something, as a person, that doesn't sit right with me. I think specifically with walk-ons, when you are volunteering your own time and money to be part of a program that you can't sort of leave on your own accord, and with specific instances with coaches, too.

THE MODERATOR: Going back to the issue of how you all spend your time and what the demands on your time are, you certainly spend a lot of time traveling. You play late night games. You have a lot of commitments for the sport. I'm interested in whether you think that major programs are putting an undue burden on student-athletes with the travel and the scheduling and the late night games. Maybe we could start with you, Sune.

SUNE AGBUKE: I said this earlier, I think a lot of us just live for that in-season feel. Some of those -- truly, like some of those moments that I don't think any of us would trade for anything. I'm not sitting there in March Madness getting the opportunity of a lifetime thinking about missed class yesterday.

Honestly, I love school. I really do. I'm a nerd like that. But that's just not where my mind's at. I'm loving it. And I'm loving the experience.

And so my feedback on that is out-of-season commitments. We're not asking for less games or less this, because we love all that, that's what makes it so worthwhile to do what we do.

But I mean, I think offseason is -- I would say for our -- sorry -- for my sport, for my team, our offseason commitments are greater than our in-season commitments. And it seems like in-season we're rested more and we get more breaks. Maybe because it's the perception of it is that it is in-season. You guys get tired, we'll give a break in the offseason, why do you need a break, it's offseason, you don't have a game tomorrow, don't have a game this week so we can do all of this.

And I think as you get older, as you become a junior and senior, you start to realize, you know, I don't need to be in the gym six days a week in June to stay in shape.

And I know as a freshman, sophomores need a lot of structure. And you come to appreciate that. And you need that system. But when you can look at some of our freshmen and you had 6:00 a.m. workouts today and then you have class, then we have pickup, and you might get a lift in with our strength coach, then you're going to have tutoring and all of a sudden you're

leaving the academic building at 7:00 p.m. And every day. That's a lot.

So that's what I think. And I think in in-season it's understood that we don't perform well when we're dead tired. And I think a lot of coaches -- I know my coach did, she does respect that in-season.

But I think out-of-season commitment can affect a lot of things, because especially out of season you might want to catch up on a certain class, maybe you need to take a lab or do a lot of things you couldn't do in season. And that's okay and that's understandable. But just the commitments out of season is probably what I would say could use some work.

THE MODERATOR: Kyven, is it too much sometimes?

KYVEN GADSON: Like three weeks before the NCAA Championships this year, I actually had to go in, talk to my professor, I felt like everything was over my head a little bit. I needed to be grounded.

But the Saturday of the NCAA Championships, I think that kind of helped me, because I was sitting in the hotel room and I was like, man, I got homework to do. I gotta do my homework.

I started doing my homework for grad school. And I like told myself I was like, I'm 22 years old and I'm about to wrestle for a National Championship, and I'm doing homework.

I can't lose. I can't lose. I'm grown. I'm actually doing what I'm supposed to be doing, right now I'm doing my homework. I'm not going to lose this match.

So I think it provides you some type of confidence, for me anyways, it provided me the confidence that this is just for me this is just seven minutes. This will just be seven minutes.

After this, you're going to be a young man that's pursuing a graduate degree and going to become more than just what you've shown in your wrestling career.

So I think it's helped me. But at the same time, just three weeks before that, I was stressed out. I was a little bit overwhelmed. And so I think it's something that coaches and academic support staff have to recognize with each individual athlete.

Again, the time commitment on them is maybe even greater than it is on us.

THE MODERATOR: On a related note, so the Big Ten Conference just released a paper and

it suggested that there's an imbalance in the student-athlete equation, especially in football and men's basketball, with too much emphasis on the athlete side. And the paper raises the possibility of requiring a year of readiness in football and men's basketball, basically saying that freshmen should spend a year focusing on academics and not start their college athletic careers until their sophomore year.

Ty, what would you think about a year of readiness before you got to start your football career?

TY DARLINGTON: I wouldn't like that at all. I think very, very few athletes would support something like that. I think that's stereotyping everyone and trying to say everyone's not ready. I think there are plenty of people that come in ready.

And you're farther -- and just to do that just to men's football and basketball, I feel like you're discriminating against that class of athletes, when that's undue, I feel like.

And especially with football, you've got three years and you're going to the NFL. With basketball they can go after one. And I understand I read that article. I think that would assume that that would be a pushback so you'd have to at least stay for two.

But I just think that when you're continuing to force athletes to do that, I don't think that -- I don't think that's something that would be supported by barely any athletes.

Go ahead and say what you want.

RACHEL SCOTT: I agree. I think a year of readiness doesn't make sense to me. But I think something could be said for the education of athletes. Like we were talking about earlier, financial literacy.

Now that we have full cost of attendance in the Power Five conferences, like what do we do with that? We're 18 to 21, 22 years old. Most of us probably haven't handled that kind of money before.

So I mean, there are other issues we could tackle as well, such as mental health. I mean, the issues surrounding that. Just the issues in general that collegiate athletics are talking about at that time.

Maybe not a year of readiness, maybe sort of a student-athlete freshmen orientation class that they have to go to to make them learn these type of things that we need to know.

TY DARLINGTON: I think you're assuming that -- like I feel like that would be punishing us as athletes for the values of society.

Like, society cares about men's football and basketball and it makes a lot of money, and that's where it comes from, what you're saying, the imbalance between the athlete and the student, are you really a student-athlete or athlete and student. And the bottom line is what drives the coaches' salaries and what drives the business is the fact that you make a lot of money. Throughout the nation, I mean March Madness is incredibly popular. The football playoff series is incredibly popular.

People in this nation really care about collegiate athletics. And that's where the pressure to be an athlete comes from, is from those values, is from the outside pressure.

And I think that would -- to say that we'd have to sit a year, I feel like would be a punishment on us for something that we did not -- we didn't create this. We didn't create that we want to call it the monster of revenue generating sports in America. We didn't make this happen -- we didn't make this happen. I think that would be punishing us and making us sit out from doing something that we love to do because of much larger issues than us as individuals.

THE MODERATOR: Kyven?

KYVEN GADSON: From a wrestling standpoint, I see when guys come in as true freshmen, and they don't take that year off, sometimes they're even more competitive than they would be if they take that year off, redshirt, and then have to -- because it takes you out of your routine.

When you come to college, you had a routine in high school, you did this, this, and this, and then you get to college and they're telling you, okay, you're redshirting, so you're not going to make weight every weekend, you're not going to compete every weekend.

So it takes you out of a routine. And like even this year, there was I think a true freshman in the NCAA Finals at 125. Another one at 197 pounds. The year before, there was a true freshman National Champion. And I think the thing that made them ready was that they didn't come out of a routine.

So I don't think the year of readiness would be supported either.

THE MODERATOR: I see you nodding vigorously, Sune. Is this a bad idea, the year of readiness?

SUNE AGBUKE: Yeah, I really don't think

that's the solution. But I think there's some sincerity to it, because in this student-athlete, I guess, paradigm, we're having these issues or whatever, and they need to be fixed.

And whether that's adding more students, whether that's taking away less athletes, I think that it's important to continue to look for solutions to how to make it work. Like, for example, a year of readiness I'm wondering what would be involved in that.

Do you still practice with the team? Are you still -- you know, can you go to the games? Can you still be part of your team, things like that, that I just don't know how that would work, because say you weren't able to practice or able to do anything and you're just a student, well, what about injuries or things like that, when all of a sudden you're coming back and you're expected to perform. I don't know -- I don't think any of us have taken, without being injured, taken a year off of what we do, you know. I don't know if you can really ask, if it would be fair to ask somebody to do that.

THE MODERATOR: So when the NCAA is taking polls of student-athletes asking them if their GPAs would be higher if they hadn't been athletes and had just been students, a majority usually say, yes, their GPAs would have been higher. So Kyven, I'm interested in whether you think your academic performance would have improved if you hadn't been squeezing in homework in a hotel, thinking about the National Championship match, would you have been a better student if not for being an athlete?

KYVEN GADSON: I came basically to Iowa State to wrestle. I understood that I needed to get an education with it, but the reason why I chose Iowa State was because of my coach and because I wanted to wrestle, not because of the academic standpoint.

But I understood I needed to get an education. But me personally, I struggled, I struggled right off the bat with school. And it took maybe some injuries and some other things going on in my life for me to really recognize that, okay, who am I going to be if I don't have wrestling? Who am I outside of sports? Who is Kyven without being labeled as a wrestler? Because so many times, Rachel will get labeled as a softball player. Ty as a football. Sune as a women's basketball player. And people don't think of who we are outside of our sport.

And so from an academic standpoint, I think me personally I would have had a much

tougher time without the support of our academic staff and my coaches because I wouldn't know what to do with my free time. I'm 18 years old. I get out of my dad and mom's house, I can do what I want, basically.

And so from that standpoint, I think I would have had a tougher time adjusting to school and things like that without sports.

RACHEL SCOTT: So similarly, I think another thing that needs to be taken into account for that question is are our student-athletes in majors that they would be if they weren't student-athletes.

As a member of the national SAAC, we actually took a poll just like on the spot at one of our last meetings of my team, a Big Ten football team and SEC baseball team, we just asked the team: Are you in the major you would be if you didn't play your sport?

Over half of each of our teams said no. So what does that say? We're not going to be professional softball players, most of us, probably. And even if we are, that only lasts a couple of years at most.

So you come out of that with a degree in something you care nothing about. So what do you do with that with the rest of your life? I think that's something that we really have to think about as we progress forward with these discussions of the collegiate model.

THE MODERATOR: So on that note, I'd ask you to look ahead to the future a little bit. If 10 years from now a friend or a family member asked you if they should participate in college athletics, would you tell them yes? And at that point do you think that you'll believe that this was a good decision to have participated in college sports. Maybe Sune, start with you.

SUNE AGBUKE: I would have a big yes. But I think there are some conditions that come with that. I was told as a freshman: Get more out of this experience than necessarily basketball can get out of you.

I don't want to leave my years at Baylor and say I played basketball. And it's not just about degrees for me. I've met people. I've had so many opportunities, experiences like this.

I got to meet some pretty cool people today. And that's what -- some of us got our book signed. And you have so many experiences. And you can't say -- none of us can be up here and saying if I didn't play the sport I played I'd be here

right now. So there is a value to it.

So, yeah, I would definitely say yes. But I think you have to be committed to getting something out of the experience and it's just not this free ride that I'm just here to play.

If you really invest in yourself and you really invest in your abilities, not just on the court or on the field or on the mat, then you can get so much out of this experience than an ordinary student really couldn't get.

So I'd say a big yes. I would say I'm a success story. I've been able to accomplish a lot because I played basketball at Baylor.

And I've made so many relationships and things like that because I played basketball at Baylor. I couldn't trade that experience and I wouldn't trade that experience. So that's what I would say.

TY DARLINGTON: Absolutely. I think that it goes, like Sune's saying, it has nothing to do with what I've done on the field. And now here's the thing, is I've developed lifelong relationships with those guys on that field because of what we've been through together, the struggles.

I mean, the two-a-day practices and the winter workouts, those are the things that bind us. But there's so much more like what the value is for me is the relationships, is I'm all about making relationships with people and the relationships I've built through athletics, the opportunities I've been afforded, goes so much beyond what I've done on the field.

Like recently, everyone knows what's happened at OU recently with racism and the chant that surfaced.

And even in a situation like that, I was blown away by what we realized is as an athlete that we have a voice and an influence that goes beyond the football field and even into our society and our value system.

And we were able to hopefully make a positive change in that aspect and that's just one -- it shows you one of the things of the influence of just being a student-athlete has and some of the doors that it can open and it can allow you, it can sort of open that window and allow you to be so much more and to make change and to influence change and to be positive, whether it's something like racism and equality or something else that we have the influence because of who we are, because of our athletic skills, we were given the platform.

And I know that we have made the most of our platform in our time in college. I hope that

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many more, people down the road, my kids, will be able to attend school and be an athlete and be able to understand that platform and the responsibility that comes with it.

THE MODERATOR: Kyven, would you advise someone to follow in your footsteps into college athletics.

KYVEN GADSON: If there's wrestling, yes. (Laughter).

THE MODERATOR: Fair point.

KYVEN GADSON: I've had a great experience. And one thing I've taken from my experience is who can I be outside of wrestling. And people have been asking me since I won Nationals, are you going to do the Olympics. I was like no, I'd rather eat right now. (Laughter)

So I really want to find out what I can be without someone saying, oh, he's a wrestler, how can I make a difference not being maybe the wrestler.

You get put in front of people. You have the platform of being the student-athlete, the wrestler, and things like that, and you're able to make a difference.

So how can I expand that to make a difference with people and show them that you don't have to just be one thing. Because growing up as a kid, you're not -- probably when someone asks you what you want to be, you don't know, you want to be a firefighter. You want to be a doctor. You want to be a lawyer. You want to be a football player. You want to be all those things.

And what people tend to do is become engulfed in one thing and not allow themselves to grow. And so I would definitely tell someone to do athletics. But also recognize that you can be more than just that athlete and kind of develop themselves in other areas.

RACHEL SCOTT: Yeah, for sure I would. Similarly. I think the two things that I've most gleaned from my experience as a student-athlete is a platform to grow my leadership skills and the discipline that comes with the sport.

I think that we can all say that athletics in general, not necessarily collegiate athletics, but athletics gives you the opportunity to become a leader on the field.

And a leadership within your team is able to form and is much more accelerated than I think it would be without athletics.

So I think for us -- I mean I hope I speak for everyone when I say we probably wouldn't be

the leaders we are today without athletics. Additionally, the discipline that comes with being a student-athlete, getting to class, like we talked about earlier, all the time demands that it takes, to be able to prioritize them in your head versus like, okay, I have an assignment due tomorrow but I have a paper due next week, what do I do now.

Obviously the assignment tomorrow, but then I need to start that paper. And so at the same time I have a game the next day. So I think those are two of the biggest things. And also the friendships and the relationships that you do build, like Sune was talking about, are ones that last a lifetime and just a great opportunity.

THE MODERATOR: Great. The clock is going to run out on us soon. So to wrap up with one final question. Kirk Schulz, Kansas State University president and chair of the NCAA Board of Governors is going to be on the next panel. So this is your chance to tell him one thing that you would like him to change about college athletics, whether it's rules, recruiting, money, what would you tell President Schulz?

KYVEN GADSON: I'll go first. For me, it would just, like me and Sune touched on earlier, just educating the student-athletes on financial literacy and understanding, okay, if you're going to get \$4,000 at the beginning of the semester, you need to make a budget, not go spend it.

When I got my first check, yeah, it was gone pretty quick and I was calling mom: Mom, I need some money. I thought you had some. So, yeah, just financial literacy and educating on how to handle money.

RACHEL SCOTT: I would say figure out a way -- I don't know if this is feasible, figure out a way to get the public involved in the discussions, because so much I feel like the PR battles that the NCAA is battling are just, it's just unbeatable.

I know a lot of student-athletes think that the full cost of attendance thing is either, the number is found out by the institution or the conference or the NCAA, when in all reality it's found out by the federal government.

So it's just the lack of education in terms of student-athletes and the general public, that it seems to me that we're fighting a losing battle here.

SUNE AGBUKE: I would definitely -- I definitely agree with Kyven with the education, but not just with financial literacy, but I think that a lot of times in the media you see these college athletes, high profile athletes that struggle with so many various issues that of course plague a lot of

college students and plague a lot of people just in society. But they're not on ESPN and they're not on the news, those athletes.

So I think things like we do do alcohol and drug awareness and educate in that way. But I definitely think we should step that up and step up sexual violence education, because so many people, women, men, in college athletics are getting caught up and everyone is affected by it.

Especially college athletes, like, we all know somebody or we all know -- and so if it can start with any group on campus, I think it would be great if it could start with the athletes and just education and educating them.

And then just the time commitments in the offseason. I think this year that's probably what I struggled with the most was I was in law school. It was my first year in law school. All my other classmates, they're barely -- they're barely alive doing what they're doing and I had basketball on top of it.

I really got to see, I'm thinking what's essential and what's not. Do I need to be here right now? On both sides. And so I think that's what I would want him to reevaluate in terms of how many -- not just in hours things, because hours can always be manipulated, but just actual time, like the time that we spend in the gym in the offseason, that I think it should be reduced a lot.

THE MODERATOR: You get the last word, Ty.

TY DARLINGTON: Of course. I think that probably the number one thing for me would be sort of the, like we talked about some of the restrictions placed on athletes, particularly with name, image, likeness and stuff. The rules are in place. I understand the way legislation works and politics sometimes you have to legislate for the worst possible scenario and for the people that are going to exploit the system and for the people that are going to try to find a loophole and do the, quote/unquote, bad things.

But that's what we've done. We've set up the system to prevent the worst thing from happening, but in the process we've prevented a lot of good things from happening. And we've tied athletes hands to the point where it makes it more difficult to do even things like community service or for things -- it makes things much more complicated, more difficult than they have to be.

And I think that that's pretty unnecessary. If there was just a way to maybe just not

completely overthrow the system but loosen up the rules a little bit and some exemptions for certain situations, whether it be with community service involvement, raising money for this and that, or whether it just be for not being able to use your own name and some things. So that would be probably my one thing.

THE MODERATOR: This has been a fantastic discussion. I hope that you'll join in thanking the student-athletes for offering their insights and being such an important voice in this debate.

With that, we will take a break and come back for the second part of our panel discussion.

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