A G E N D A

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Division I Amateurism Cabinet

Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
Indianapolis February 16-17, 2012

1. Opening remarks and review of schedule. [Supplement No. 1]

2. Panel discussion – agent issues. (NCAA and professional coaches, agents and other professionals)

3. Review of September 28-29, 2011, NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet meeting report. [Supplement No. 2]

4. Review of November 30, 2011, NCAA Division I Communications and Coordination Committee report. [Supplement No. 3]

5. NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.

6. Guiding principles and guiding principles discussion. [Supplement No. 4] (Marcus Wilson)

7. Legal update. (Naima Stevenson)

8. Enforcement Working Group update. (Laura Wurtz)

9. NCAA Eligibility Center update. (Geoff Silver)

10. Rules Working Group update. (Silver, Jobrina Perez)

11. Update on legislation. [Supplement No. 5] (Perez)

12. Uniform Athlete Agent Act update. (Rachel Newman-Baker)

13. Panel discussion – agent issues. (Former student-athletes and current professional athletes)

14. Media plan. (Amy Dunham)

15. News articles. [Supplement No. 6]

16. Summary of key items and takeaways.

17. Other business.

18. Future meeting dates.

- June 19-20, NCAA national office, Indianapolis.

19. Adjournment.

Schedule for February 16-17, 2012, Meeting of the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet

Wednesday, February 15 **Meeting Room**

Cabinet members arrive in Indianapolis - dinner on your own.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency - Indianapolis
One South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Thursday, February 16 - all activities are at the Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis.

Breakfast	7 a.m. to 8 a.m.	Network
Cabinet meeting	8 a.m. to Noon	Regency AB
Lunch	Noon to 1 p.m.	Network
Cabinet meeting	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Regency AB

Dinner on your own.

Friday, February 17 - all activities are at the Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis.

Breakfast	7 a.m. to 8 a.m.	Network
Cabinet meeting	8 a.m. to Noon.	Regency AB
Lunch	Noon to 1 p.m.	Network

NOTE: There will be ***no*** shuttle transportation from the national office to the airport at the conclusion of the meeting. You will be responsible for securing your return transportation to the airport. Taxi service is available from your hotel to the airport.

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I AMATEURISM CABINET SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2011, MEETING

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **National Professional Sports Counseling Panel**. The cabinet continued its comprehensive review of agent activities and other issues that impact elite student-athletes. The cabinet emphasized the importance of providing adequate education about these issues to student-athletes. The cabinet supports the concept of creating a national sports counseling panel that will serve a two-prong purpose: 1) to advise institutions on how to best educate and serve as a resource to elite student-athletes considering a potential professional career, and 2) to advise student-athletes in all sports about their prospects of playing professionally, in addition to other issues that arise in athletes' transition from the collegiate to professional ranks.

2. **National Agent Registration Program**. The cabinet supports the concept of a national agent registration program. The cabinet believes such a program would provide institutions information about agents that would otherwise be unavailable. The cabinet also recognized the value that such a program could provide to the NCAA enforcement staff.

3. **Definition of Amateurism and Guiding Principles for the Amateurism Cabinet**. The cabinet reviewed the definition of "amateurism," in addition to the guiding principles of the cabinet, and decided to update the principles to reflect the realities of today's collegiate model. The cabinet also discussed the criticism that the organization has received as it relates to the fundamental principle of amateurism and wants to strategize effective ways to communicate the principle moving forward.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

- None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative Informational Items.**

   a. **Proposal No. 2011-26 – (Amateurism, Recruiting, Eligibility and Awards, Benefits and Expenses – World University Championships).** The cabinet supported this proposal to include the World University Championships in all bylaws that apply to the World University Games.

   b. **Proposal No. 2011-27 – Amateurism and Executive Regulations – Financial Donations and Advertising and Sponsorship of Intercollegiate Events – Professional Sports Organization.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2011-27, which would specify that a professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an intercollegiate competition event, provided the organization is not publicly identified as such. Additionally, that a professional sports organization may serve as a financial

sponsor of an activity or promotion that is ancillary to the competition event and maybe publicly identified. The proposal would also eliminate the prohibition on professional sports organizations or personnel as acceptable advertisers in conjunction with NCAA championships. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale.

c. Proposal No. 2011-62 – Eligibility – General Eligibility Requirements– Eligibility Form – International Student-Athlete. The cabinet supported to eliminate the requirement that the eligibility of an international student-athlete shall be certified on an international student-athlete eligibility form. The cabinet believed that the form would be helpful for institutions to use in order to assist in certifying international student-athletes eligibility but did not think it should be a requirement due to the Amateurism Certification Process at the NCAA Eligibility Center.

2. Nonlegislative Informational Items.

a. Agent. The cabinet received an update on the Leadership Council's ongoing review of the definition of an agent and the use of agents and advisors prior to enrollment. The cabinet continued its discussion on how to provide better information to student-athletes who consider transitioning from the collegiate to professional ranks. The cabinet was supportive of two concepts that would promote this: (1) a national professional sports counseling panel, and (2) a national agent registration program. The cabinet will continue to discuss these concepts. Lastly, the NCAA enforcement staff presented data it had compiled regarding the number of underclassmen entering professional drafts and their subsequent retention rate.

b. NCAA Eligibility Center Update. The cabinet received an update from the NCAA Eligibility Center amateurism certification staff including an overview of prospective student-athlete registration data, the number of Bylaw 14 withholding conditions applied, information related to the increasing number of international registrations and the countries that have produced the most violations. The cabinet was provided data illustrating the impact of the new delayed enrollment legislation (i.e., the one-year grace period for all sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing). The Eligibility Center staff also shared with the cabinet several initiatives designed to enable the amateurism staff to identify and process more egregious Bylaw 12 violations.

Cabinet Chair: Mark Hollis, Michigan State University, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Rachel Newman Baker, Enforcement
Angie Cretors, Enforcement
Jobrina Perez, Academic and Membership Affairs
Marcus Wilson, Enforcement

REPORT OF
THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
DIVISION I COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CCC)
NOVEMBER 30, 2011, CONFERENCE CALL

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

- None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Report of the Committee's August 16, 2011, Conference Call.** The committee approved the report of its August 16, 2011, conference call.

2. **Key Items from the September 2011, Division I Cabinet and October Legislative Council Meetings.** The committee received a report of the key items from the September 2011, cabinet and October Legislative Council meetings.

   a. **Administration Cabinet** – During its September meeting, the cabinet reviewed and approved the new online override voting process, which is modeled after the voting session process that occurred during the Division I Business Session at the annual NCAA Convention. The process will allow for a discussion period consistent with the one that occurred prior to the vote on the Convention floor. All active Division I and affiliate members of the Association (e.g., coaches associations) will have the opportunity to participate in the discussion period, as they did when the vote was conducted in person. The discussion period will be followed by the voting period, in which only active Division I members may participate. The online voting process is being used for the first time this fall as Division I conducts an override vote on Proposal No. 2009-100-A.

   b. **Legislative Council**. During its October meeting, the Legislative Council reviewed proposals in the 2011-12 legislative cycle through three key lenses developed by the Rules Working Group: (1) Is the rule meaningful and of consequence…is it an issue that merits a national regulation or can it simply be addressed by institutions/conferences/coaches associations? Is it really necessary? (2) Is the rule enforceable.. does it present significant challenges either in monitoring compliance as well as proving violations?, and (3) Does the rule support the success of the student-athlete, academically and/or athletically? When developing its initial position on the proposals in the 2011-12 legislative cycle, the Legislative Council indicated an intent to table a number of the proposals that did not appear to meet the test of the three lenses.

3. **Guiding Principles.** Mark Hollis, chair of the Amateurism Cabinet, reported that during discussions at its September meeting, the Amateurism Cabinet noted that a number of the guiding principles established by that cabinet could, and probably should, apply to all Division I cabinets. It was noted that the work of several of the Presidential Retreat Working Groups involve developing principles that align with the Association's enduring values. It was the sense of the group that once the working groups complete their work, the cabinets can reevaluate their guiding principles to ensure they are consistent and align with the enduring values of the Association.

4. **Update on NCAA Presidential Retreat Initiatives.** The committee received an update on actions taken by the Board of Directors during its October meeting, as well as a report regarding plans for the working groups going forward and the involvement of the Division I cabinets and councils.

   a. **Actions Taken by the Board of Directors.**

      (1) **NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance**.

         (a) **Initial-Eligibility Standards.** The Board adopted legislation that would increase initial-eligibility requirements, resulting in more rigorous academic standards for competition than for practice and receipt of athletically related financial aid. The Board approved an increase to the standard for immediate access to competition to a 2.300 grade-point average and an increased sliding scale. Incoming student-athletes will need to earn a test score/grade-point average that is set at approximately one-half standard deviation below the national student body mean. Student-athletes who achieve the current minimum initial-eligibility standard on the test score/grade-point average sliding scale, with at least a minimum 2.000 core course grade-point average, will continue to be eligible for athletically related financial aid during the first year of enrollment and practice during the first regular academic term of enrollment. Student-athletes can earn the opportunity to practice in the second term by passing nine-semester or eight-quarter hours. The Board approved a reqirement that prospects successfully complete 10 of the 16 total required core courses before the start of their senior year in high school. Seven of the 10 successfully completed courses must be in English, math and science. These new requirements are effective for students first entering college full time August 1, 2015, or after.

(b) Two-Year College Transfer Requirements. The Board adopted legislation to increase the transferable grade-point average from 2.000 to 2.500; limit the number of physical education activity courses to a total of two; and for nonqualifiers, requiring the completion of a core curriculum (six credits of English, three credits of math and three credits of science). The enhanced two-year college transfer requirements will be effective for student-athletes initially enrolling at a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2012; no student-athlete currently enrolled in a two-year collegiate institution will be impacted. The Board took no action on the proposal related to the Year of Academic Readiness and agreed to leave it in the 2011-12 legislative cycle to be voted on at the January 2012 meeting of the NCAA Division I Legislative Council.

(c) Access to Championships and APP Penalty Structure. The Board approved the implementation schedule for the postseason eligibility standard, as well as a new APR three-level penalty structure. The Board established a 930 APR as a minimum academic standard to participate in Division I postseason competition. This includes a mission filter only in the first year a team fails to meet the benchmark and an improvement filter in the second year and beyond. There will be a transition time period of three years for access to the postseason. The Board also specified that all conferences must adopt a policy regarding teams that do not meet championship academic access standards with respect to automatic qualification for postseason and revenue distribution. The new postseason eligibility structure will take effect in the 2012-13 academic year, with a two-year implementation window before the benchmark moves from 900 to 930.

(2) Student-Athlete Well Being Working Group.

(a) Cost of Attendance. The Board adopted legislation that would permit a Division I student-athlete who has received institutional financial aid equal to the value of a full grant-in-aid (i.e., tuition and fees, room and board and required course-realted books) to receive additional athletically related financial aid up to the value of the institution's "cost of attendance," or up to $2,000, whichever is less. The Board decided not to revisit this amount for three years.

(b) Multiyear Grant-in-Aid. The Board adopted legislation that would permit athletics aid, up to the permissible limits, to be awarded for a period beyond the minimum of one academic year, up to the date the student-athlete exhausts eligibility to compete in all sports.

(c) **Team Financial Aid Limits.** The Board adopted legislation to provide that only athletically-related aid will be counted toward team limits in equivalency sports.

(d) **Eligibility for Aid: Former Student-Athletes.** The Board adopted legislation, effective immediately, to eliminate financial aid eligibility restrictions (five years of aid within a six-year period) to permit institutions to provide athletics aid to former student-athletes who remain at, or return to, the institution to complete their baccalaureate degree requirements.

(3) **Rules Working Group**. The Board endorsed a resolution that summarizes the concepts and direction outlined by the working group as they move forward with their evaluation of the rules.

b. **Plans Moving Forward.** The committee was informed that the Rules Working Group has developed a communication plan that includes conducting feedback gathering sessions (e.g., teleconferences) with various constituent groups. Following the initial outreach, the working group will focus on gathering feedback on specific principles and or proposals, particularly any that are generated from the group's December meeting. The working group plans to use the February cabinet meetings as an opportunity to gather additional comments on principles/proposals developed specific to bylaws for which the cabinets have oversight responsibility.

5. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Update**. Katie Willett, staff liaison to the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), reported on the committee's November 18-20, 2011, meeting in Indianapolis. It was noted that along with the regular review of legislative proposals, the Division I SAAC discussed the following:

- Text messaging and other forms of communication used in the recruiting process;
- A division-wide community service project; and
- An initiative aimed at creating an increased awareness of SAAC and how to better insert the voice of student-athletes at all levels of governance activity (i.e., campus, conference, national).

Committee Chair: Michael Alden, University of Missouri
Staff Liaison: Jacqueline Campbell, Division I Governance

Division I Communication and Coordination Committee November 30, 2011, Teleconference	
ATTENDEES	ABSENTEES
Mike Alden, University of Missouri, Leadership Council	William Chaves, Eastern Washington University, Administration Cabinet
Sarah Bobert, Marquette University – Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet	Scott Krapf, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
Carolyn Campbell-McGovern, Ivy League, Legislative Council	
Herman Holt, University of North Carolina, Asheville, Academic Cabinet	
Mark Hollis, Michigan State University, Amateurism Cabinet	
Ian McCaw, Baylor University, Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet	
Judy Rose, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Championships/Sports Management Cabinet	
Jacqueline Campbell, NCAA, recording secretary	
Other NCAA staff members who participated on the teleconference: David Berst, Diane Dickman, Angie Cretors, Michelle Hosick, Kevin Lennon, Steve Mallonee, Jarrett Newby, Binh Nguyen, Jobrina Perez, Carol Reep, Kris Richardson, Jennifer Roe, Alex Smith, Sharon Tufano, Katie Willett, Marcus Wilson and Leeland Zeller.	

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
FOR THE AMATEURISM CABINET

1. Student-athletes shall be an integral part of the student-body and their participation should be motivated primarily by education and by the physical, mental and social benefits to be derived.

2. Ensure that legislation reinforces that student participation in intercollegiate athletics is an avocation, and student-athletes should be protected from exploitation.

3. Minimize missed class time; maximize time spent pursuing educational opportunities

4. All commercial activities shall support intercollegiate athletics and be consistent with the values of higher education.

5. Ensure legislation is written in a simple, clear and enforceable manner.

6. Consider the amount of time legislation has been in effect before supporting a legislative change.

7. Consider the impact of proposals on institutional, conference, NCAA and Eligibility Center resources and staff members.

8. Ensure feedback has been solicited from stakeholders.

9. Consider if sport-specific legislation is warranted or if proposed legislation can/should be expanded to other sports.

10. Examine potential unintended consequences when reviewing legislation.

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MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2012

TO: NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet.

FROM: Marcus Wilson
NCAA Associate Director of Enforcement.

SUBJECT: Update on Guiding Principles Discussion with the NCAA Division I Communications and Coordination Committee.

In its September 2011 meeting, the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet reviewed the definition of "amateurism" as well as the guiding principles of the cabinet. They indicated a desire to update the principles to reflect the realities of today's collegiate model. In reviewing the principles, the cabinet noted that a number of the guiding principles could, and probably should, apply to all NCAA Division I cabinets.

Thus, on November 30, 2011, Mark Hollis, chair of the Amateurism Cabinet, spoke to the NCAA Division I Communications and Coordination Committee. The committee noted that the work of several of the Presidential Retreat Working Groups involve developing principles that align with the Association's enduring values. It was the sense of the group that once the working groups complete their work, the cabinets can reevaluate their guiding principles to ensure they are consistent and align with the enduring values of the Association.

MMW:mrs

NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet Proposal Report

2011-12

SUPPLEMENT NO. 5

Proposal Number	Title	Source	Effective Date	Status
2011-1	AMATEURISM -- EXCEPTION FOR PRIZE MONEY FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES AFTER FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT AT NON-NCAA INSTITUTIONS -- OUTSIDE THE PLAYING SEASON DURING THE SUMMER VACATION PERIOD	NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet	Immediate	Adopted - Final
2011-23	AMATEURISM -- DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS -- AGENT	NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet	Immediate	Adopted, 60-Day Override Period
2011-24	AMATEURISM -- AMATEUR STATUS -- EXPENSES FROM A SPONSOR FOR PRACTICE OR COMPETITION IN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS PRIOR TO FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT	NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet	Immediate	Jan 12, 2012: Leg Council Init Review, Tabled; Tabled until the council's April 2012 meeting, pending the work of the Presidential Retreat Working Groups.
2011-25	AMATEURISM -- EXCEPTIONS TO AMATEURISM RULE -- PRIZE MONEY PRIOR TO FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- TENNIS -- $10,000 PER YEAR	NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet	Immediate	Jan 12, 2012: Leg Council Init Review, Tabled; Tabled until the council's April 2012 meeting, pending the work of the Presidential Retreat Working Groups.
2011-26	AMATEURISM, RECRUITING, ELIGIBILITY AND AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES -- WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS	NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet (Olympic Sports Liaison Committee)	Immediate	Adopted, 60-Day Override Period
2011-27	AMATEURISM AND EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS -- FINANCIAL DONATIONS AND ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP OF INTERCOLLEGIATE EVENTS -- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS	NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet	Immediate	Adopted, 60-Day Override Period

SUPPLEMENT NO. 6

RHPs, four-year colleges dominate Draft

By Spencer Fordin / MLB.com | 06/08/11 7:30 PM ET

Comments 1 0 Like e-mail print

NEW YORK -- The Draft is done. Let the development begin.

Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft wound its way to completion Wednesday, 50 rounds and 69 hours after it had begun on Monday night. Pittsburgh started a pitching-rich first round by drafting Gerrit Cole, and then teams settled in for the arduous task of restocking their farm systems.

Twenty rounds worth of players went through on Wednesday, many of them destined to fill out the roster of each respective team's lower-level affiliates. And now that the hard part is done, teams can begin negotiating with their draftees in order to get them under contract by the Aug. 15 deadline.

Cole, regarded as a potential front-line starting pitcher, will give the Pirates their second straight impact pitcher at the top of the Draft. Pittsburgh selected Jameson Taillon with the second overall pick in 2009, and is hoping for better returns on the two prospective aces than it got from first-rounders Danny Moskos and Brad Lincoln.

The Pirates have had the first overall pick three previous times, and they wound up with third baseman Jeff King (1986) and starting pitchers Kris Benson ('96) and Bryan Bullington (2002). Pittsburgh, which hasn't had a winning season since '92, is betting on development from within to take the next step.

SUPPLEMENT NO. 6

The third day of the Draft produced some interesting statistics and trends, some of which were expected. Players from four-year universities continued to dominate, reaching a height (818 players) exceeded only once since 1985. Only 2008 (844 college draftees) outpaced this year's Draft.

The clear casualties, in this case, are players from junior colleges, who represented just 179 of the 1,530 players taken in the First-Year Player Draft. That total is the second lowest -- exceeding 2007 by just two players -- since 1987, and it's less than half of the all-time high (375 in 1994) during that time period.

The number of prep players chosen has remained fairly stable the past few seasons, if also markedly down from its peak in the 1990s. High school players represented 34 percent -- 520 out of 1,530 -- of the players taken this season, the most since logging 36 percent (542 out of 1502) in 2006. For contrast, prep players routinely broke 700 draftees and measured as much as 47 percent of the Draft pool as recently as the mid-90's.

Teams have clearly been coveting right-handed pitchers, accounting for 37.5 percent of the total Draft haul. There were only 218 left-handers drafted, a reflection of the principle of supply and demand.

Catcher was the busiest of the positions on Wednesday, with 63 backstops going in the final 20 rounds. Only one catcher had been selected in the first round, and 135 went over the three-day process. Shortstop was also a busy slot Wednesday, with 47 of the 135 shortstop draftees getting called in the final day.

Vanderbilt set a new SEC record by having 12 players selected, narrowly besting rivals South Carolina (11) and the University of Florida (11). Arizona State and Oklahoma also had 11 players taken, and two other schools (Connecticut and Fresno State) distinguished themselves by having 10 drafted players.

UCLA -- which produced Cole and No. 3 overall pick Trevor Bauer -- finished with nine draftees.

The players, fittingly, came from all over. Maine was the only one of the 50 states that didn't produce a draftee, and three states -- California (284), Florida (146) and Texas (144) -- combined to comprise more than a third of the Draft pool. Thirty-three players of Canadian origin and 21 from Puerto Rico were drafted, and there was one player taken from the Bahamas, Germany, Mexico and Venezuela.

Teams continued to make family connections Wednesday, which saw the sons of prominent players like Bobby Bonilla, Matt Williams and Charlie Leibrandt drafted. Three big league managers -- Mike Scioscia, John Farrell and Bob Geren -- had the honor of seeing their sons drafted to their respective teams.

All three of them, predictably, work in the same discipline as their fathers. Brett Geren and Matthew Scioscia -- drafted by the A's and Angels, respectively -- are catchers. Shane Farrell, taken by Toronto, is a pitcher, just like his father, a former big league starter and pitching coach.

Spencer Fordin *is a reporter for MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.*

MLB.COM COMMENTS

★ *ESPN The Magazine* catches up with the 39 players since 2006 who were one-and-done in college. The phrase "go back" or "come back" appears a total of five times. "Regret" shows up twice. Absent words from the piece: "wish," "sorry," "degree" and "choice."

Quick studies

We talk to alums of the one-and-done university

By Morty Ain, Sam Alipour, Anna Katherine Clemmons, Molly Knight and Eddie Matz
ESPN The Magazine

One and Done

Taking a look at why players choose to leave after one year of college and what they think of the one-year rule
One and Done*A version of this story appears in the Nov. 14 issue of ESPN The Magazine.*

Talking about one-and-dones may seem like a moot point now that an NBA season looks more and more doubtful. (The list of issues to discuss, with the age rule ranked significantly lower than revenue sharing, is presently at a standstill.) But heading into the 2011-12 college hoops season, with star sophomores like Harrison Barnes (UNC) and Jared Sullinger (Ohio State) bucking the trend, we thought we'd ask guys with some insight.

We reached out to all 39 one-and-done players (since 2006, when the age limit was implemented by the NBA) to see what they thought about their decisions and transitions in retrospect.

2006

Shawne Williams, Memphis (F, New York Knicks) "It's really tricky because at the end of the season, we lost to UCLA in a low-scoring game, no one made buckets, and I felt like we should've won the championship that year. It was tough. I wanted to win a national title, so I told everyone I was coming back. But I had lost my brother, and I come from nothing. I took all that into consideration, and I had an opportunity to go get some money. In the NBA, I've felt like a vet at one point, a rookie at one point, and there was no win for me at one point. I never knew I'd have to try out again. But because of my background, a lot of people were scared to touch me. I felt like the odds were against me. But I've grown up a lot. I feel like I've come a long way."

2007

Greg Oden, Ohio State (C, Portland Trail Blazers) "Not winning the championship was actually a big factor. I definitely wanted to win. But another big factor was my partner in crime

for a long time: Mike Conley. He had a chance that not a lot of people would get, and I would have been selfish to tell him not to take it. He was the best player on that team. He ran everything as the point guard. Him not being there would make it a lot tougher to get back (to the championship game). That was a major factor for me. We wanted to win, but you have to take the opportunity to play in the NBA."

Mike Conley, Jr., Ohio State (G, Memphis Grizzlies) "The biggest difference from college and high school to the NBA is the fact that you are your own man, you're a grown man, and you have to make decisions on your own. That's the part I didn't think about as much. You just think about the basketball side of things. But at the end of the day, you're like, 'Man, I gotta manage my bills, I got all these other issues that come with all this money and all the attention, the responsibility of being an NBA player.' It's hard to deal with especially at 19 or 20 years old. Most people don't deal with that until they're 30 or 35 years old, so it's a different kind of world. I had the thought, 'Why didn't I stay in school?' at least 10 or 20 times that first year in the league. I think what got me mentally and physically right was just being able to play. Once I got out there and was able to have fun and not be injured, not be on the sideline watching, it was like what I had dreamed of, what I wanted to be growing up. My motivation to keep getting better and playing well against these great guys. That's what turned it around for me."

Brandan Wright, North Carolina (F, New Jersey Nets) "The age rule was relief because it definitely took a lot of pressure off me being 18 years old and deciding whether to go to the NBA straight out of high school or to college. If a top prospect came to me and asked what he should do as far as the college situation, going to Europe or playing professionally, I think you should just follow your heart. It depends on what type of person you are. If you're not as mature as you need to be, I think you should go to school, learn that maturity, learn how to be on time, go to class and be held accountable. Because if you just jump straight in you'll probably get yourself in a lot of trouble by having a lot of money in your pocket and getting into the wrong situations."

Spencer Hawes, Washington (C, Philadelphia 76ers) "A couple of teams, when I worked out for them, said: We think it'll be in your best interest to go back to school. But at the end of the day, I didn't really ask people, 'Do you think I should go or stay?' I processed it myself. And I was lucky to have my passion drive me to the decision as opposed to a lot of external factors some guys have to consider. There was pressure from teammates to stay, but they respected the decision. They understood. You don't grow up saying, I want to be a college basketball player when I grow up. You want to be Michael Jordan. Guys understood that more than fans and media."

Thaddeus Young, Georgia Tech (F, 76ers) "There were times when I doubted myself and said, 'I don't know if I'm ready for the NBA,' but at the end of the day, that's the decision you have to make. A lot of people have financial situations, a lot of people feel they're ready and a lot of people don't want to go to school. I said I was ready. I think I'm a much better pro player than I was in college. I think my game is made for what I did throughout high school and now at the pro level, which is running and gunning and getting out in transition. At Georgia Tech, we played a lot of half-court basketball and that wasn't really my style of play.

"If you're going to go, make sure you're all in, two feet in, because you can't walk halfway through the door and expect to be all the way in. You can stay outside and do what you're going to do in college, but when you come here, it's a whole different ballgame. It's time to be a professional and it's time to grow up."

Daequan Cook, Ohio State (G, Oklahoma City Thunder) "Mike Conley and Greg Oden were my AAU teammates from the second grade. We grew up together, played together from then on. We never really talked about the age rule, because when it happened we were still really young. We still had a lot of learning, so it didn't really affect us as much. We knew that our goal, our dream was to play in the NBA, we just didn't know how long it would take. So then when we realized we had to go to school, we made the decision to play together at the college level. That helped. I do think LeBron had an effect on them making a rule. There were a lot of guys who probably weren't going to go to college at the time, who wanted to go straight to the pros, and I guess they felt like guys like LeBron should go to college at least a year. There ain't nothing wrong with getting a year of college."

2008

Derrick Rose, Memphis (G, Chicago Bulls) "The biggest adjustment was to the NBA lifestyle -- paying bills, taking care of my family, the women coming at you. I'm just being honest. I was 19. I'm glad I had BJ [Armstrong] to prepare me for all that. On the court it was knowing all the play calls, knowing how to talk to your teammates, learning to play through your mistakes. I was lucky -- I was allowed to do that. Other people who came out with me didn't have the same opportunity and it took them a lot longer to get comfortable."

DeAndre Jordan, Texas A&M (C, Los Angeles Clippers) "When I first got my apartment I was 19 and I just sat in there alone and was like 'Who am I gonna hang out with?' In college, the guys you hang out with are your age and they don't really have anything to do after practice besides homework and just stay at the apartment, so I had to get used to staying at home by myself and picking up new hobbies. In the NBA, once practice is over everyone goes their separate ways because some people have families, some people have other issues going on, wives, girlfriends and things like that so you can't hang out with them as much as you hang with your college buddies."

Kevin Love, UCLA (F, Minnesota Timberwolves) "There were people telling me not to go. They didn't say those exact words, but they said, 'Listen, if you come back, you'd be National Player of the Year, you'd take this team to the Final Four again and compete for a national championship.' That was intriguing. But this was a chance to achieve my dream at 19 years old and make an impact on the NBA as quickly as possible. I had to have tunnel vision and make a decision that was in my best interest.

Like with all aspects of life, something that potential one-and-done players should definitely look out for is people in your life that are Yes Men. Ask yourself, who are the people that are challenging you? Who's giving you a different perspective? Who is challenging you and making

you think about the things that you do? Listen to those people. It makes you look at things differently. That's only going to help your decision-making."

Anthony Randolph, LSU (F, Timberwolves) "It was the SEC Tournament, the first game, and I remember one of my family friends coming and telling me that Pat Riley was in the stands. So that let me know a little bit that if I've got one of the most famous guys in the history of the league -- playing, coaching and being in the front office -- there watching my games, then there must be some truth that I've got a chance at being a lottery pick."

J.J. Hickson, North Carolina State (F, Sacramento Kings) "Looking back at it, I think that year was very helpful to me. I learned a lot of things under coach Sidney Lowe. He coached in the league so he runs like a league offense and he coached like a coach in the NBA, so I learned a lot from him. And I gotta say college helped me a lot with my transition. I got bigger, faster, stronger, I learned a lot about the game of basketball."

Kosta Koufos, Ohio State (C, Denver Nuggets) "Being a one-and-done meant living the dream sooner. Being able to play in the NBA, going up against the best athletes in the world -- Kevin Garnett and Shaquille O'Neal and guys that you used to look up to in high school -- it's exciting. When you play with talent like that every day, your skills go to the next level. I would smile after every workout, thanking God for every opportunity He's given me."

Donte Green, Syracuse (F, Kings) "I would stay in school one more year. I love Syracuse, bleed orange, still go back, love the city, love the fans. I would've stayed one more year and been with Jonny [Flynn], Scoop [Jardine] and Rick [Jackson], and all the guys. I think we would've won a national championship for sure. Those guys went far, but I would've gotten them over the hump. Just being able to be young and not have responsibilities ... once you leave college, it's real life out there. You have bills. You have responsibilities. Not saying I wasn't ready, but it would've been nice to have another year to be a kid. That said, I'm still in the league, still getting paid. There are guys from my class, at my position, that are out of the league right now and fighting to get back in. Guys that were drafted ahead of me."

2009

Tyreke Evans, Memphis (G, Kings) "I was talking to my brothers. They were the ones who pretty much helped me with my decision to go to school, so after my season at Memphis, which I thought I had a great year, we sat down and talked: Should I leave or not? We came to an agreement that it was okay for me to leave, a good time. I had a good chance of being a top pick. We sat down as a family and said: Let's do it. And that's what happened. I got drafted No. 4. It was a great moment for me."

DeMar DeRozan, USC (G, Toronto Raptors) "You never know of a guy's situation going into college. Maybe he needs the means to take care of his family. So I've always been against the age rule. It was tough when I found out about it. I think I was 17 at the time and every kid when they were in high school, the first thing they talk about is going pro. I always talked and bragged

about it. I remember before they made the rule, on one of the mock drafts I saw my named listed as top-three, and it was cool. I'd joke around, 'Yeah, I'm going to come out and be a top-three pick.' I didn't know if I was going to come out or not, but it was fun to think about."

B.J. Mullens, Ohio State (C, Thunder) "The rule, it's taking kids' years away from playing in the NBA. If a kid is good enough to play in the NBA at age 17, let him play. You know, the ball isn't going to bounce forever. Guys think they have 15, maybe 10 years of being a superstar player, but the average NBA career is about 4.5 years. You're not getting any younger. Myself, growing up in homeless shelters and 15 different houses, 15 elementary/middle schools, if I see a kid that has a talent like that, I'll tell him to go. If I see a rich, suburb kid, why does he have to go straight to the NBA if he already has money? Get your education, enjoy life."

2010

DeMarcus Cousins, Kentucky (C, Kings) "I was in middle school when the rule came about. When I first learned about it, I had mixed opinions. In a way, it's good because a kid needs that college experience -- to go through those changes and being closer to being an adult and learn that responsibility at the college level. At the same time, I don't believe the rule should be put in place because it's predicting somebody else's life -- you should be able to make your own path because you never know what that person's situation may be at home or with their family. By the end of my first year in college, I was seriously thinking about coming back. I loved playing for Kentucky so it was a tough decision but at the end of the day, I had to do what's best for me and my family."

Xavier Henry, Kansas (G, Grizzlies) "I don't think I can look back with any regrets. I had a good year in the NBA. Unfortunately I got hurt early, which took me out for a while. But if I would have gotten injured in college, I wouldn't even be in the position to make that decision now, so it was a good decision for me. I tried to have as much fun with it as I could."

Eric Bledsoe, Kentucky (G, Clippers) "Yes, I did think I was going to come back. I really did. I thought I'd be there about three years. I wasn't even known before I got to college, and people were still saying that he's just playing behind John Wall, so in the back of your head, you're like, they might be right. But I knew I always played with my heart -- I just try to leave it all out on the court."

Avery Bradley, Texas (G, Boston Celtics) "As a one-and-done guy, people know that you're not experienced. Right when you get to the NBA, people just assume that you don't know as much about the game as other players, which you don't. But if you're a college guy that's done three or four years, you're gonna know a lot about the game. A lot of the Texas fans were excited. But as my rookie season went on and I wasn't playing, they started saying that I should've stayed in school. My whole life I've always been the underdog, so I take that as motivation."

2011

Kyrie Irving, Duke (G, Cleveland Cavaliers) "My father's advice to me was to make the best decision for me. He also knows that I was considering him and my little sister at the time, but make the best decision for me and when I do make the decision don't have any regrets. I can't make such a big decision like that in my life asking, 'what if?' So you know when I made that decision I had to go with it and really put the time in to be the No. 1 pick. The talent is always going to be there regardless of age. I'm only 19 years old and I was fortunate and blessed enough to be the No. 1 pick. It's not going to stop recruiters from recruiting. It didn't stop Coach K from recruiting me. Coach K told me I was a pro right out of high school -- hearing that from a great coach, it still didn't keep him away from recruiting me. He knew that I wanted to go to college and be a part of a great program. It all depends on the kid."

Tristan Thompson, Texas (F, Cavaliers) "No other guys played a factor for me. Not at all. My process was about Tristan Thompson and what he's capable of doing. Obviously you look up to guys like KD, but I'm not Kevin Durant. I'm Tristan Thompson. Cory Joseph is like a brother to me. When it came time for the draft process, I told him to do what was best for him. A pro knows when he's a pro. If you think you're a pro, you're a pro. Don't come back to school because people are telling you you're not ready or you're not going to get drafted in the first round."

Brandon Knight, Kentucky (G, Detroit Pistons) "The biggest pressure not to go came from the Kentucky fans. They want their players to stay and try to build a dynasty. They don't want you to leave. That's a positive, and one of the reasons I love Kentucky."

Tobias Harris, Tennessee (F, Milwaukee Bucks) "Coach Pearl's one of the main reasons I came to Tennessee, so him leaving really did affect my decision. I took a little step back and decided if I should stay or go. I was about 50/50, but I just kept working out and getting better. I worked out with John Lucas in Houston, and he saw a lot of things in me that I didn't get to show NBA scouts during the year."

Cory Joseph, Texas (G, San Antonio Spurs) "I never really had any say in the rule. I would probably leave it how it is right now. I think the one year in college really helped me out. There are some players, like LeBron and maybe John Wall, exceptionally great players, you know, maybe they could have made the leap from high school, but I think that college helped me out a lot. The weight room in college is much different than high school. Just learning different game speeds, coming from high school to college. You just gotta be ready for that next leap -- try to get a step ahead."

Josh Selby, Kansas (G, Grizzlies) "To be honest, I thought the lockout was going to happen, but I thought it would last a month. I didn't think it was going to stop training camps and preseason games. I wasn't able to interact with the coaching staff, the GMs, the trainers -- that's the biggest thing that's messed up this process. No rookies were able to sign anything yet. It's kind of like we're unemployed right now, just doing what we can do, working out. Texting our teammates, meeting up with them when we can, just because we have a little bit of money to fly to work out and spend a little bit of time with the guys."

Editor's Note: The following players declined be interviewed for this article: (2007) Kevin Durant, Javaris Crittenton; (2008) Michael Beasley, OJ Mayo, Eric Gordon, Jerryd Bayless; (2009) Jrue Holiday; (2010) John Wall, Derrick Favors, Daniel Orton, Hassan Whiteside and Tiny Gallon.

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