

# Athletics

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underlings, remain free to destroy more lives.

Why so much sympathy for the kids? Just this -- today's collegiate recruiting wars condition youngsters to sell themselves to the highest bidders. After being treated like pieces of beef in a meat market, the kids are primed for the gamblers.

Just for a second, put yourself in the position of a ghetto youngster with great basketball talent. Even before you're out of high school, you are besieged by strangers inviting you to visit campuses you might never have heard of.

There are promises of money, cars, women -- everything under the table, of course -- if you agree to attend Alcatraz A and M. You're 18 years old and already you're a mercenary, hired to play basketball, to keep the local arena packed with fans.

Is it really such a big step from that position to one in which you agree to shave points? Remember you're not being asked to cause your team to lose, just hold down the score.

Louisville Coach Denny Crum, who played for John Wood at UCLA, understands how young basketball players are seduced by gamblers: "A man gets inside a kid's trust and that's all it takes. The temptation is there and certainly the money is there."

Crum knows where the fixers are coming from, too. "A gambler is looking for an edge," said Crum. "If he can control the game, he makes a fortune--the Las Vegas casinos make an awful lot of money with less of an edge than a guy who fixes a basketball game."

The dilemma is in finding a means to prevent the fixers from succeeding. Should schools counsel the kids about the dangers of getting involved with gamblers or should they keep the youngsters in a cage of sorts, insulated from the temptations?

"People don't learn to deal with crises situations if they have been sheltered," said Crum. "It's like telling a kid not to go out and play in the street. You can keep him in the house all the time and he won't play in the street, but he won't know why he's not supposed to. Or, you can show him why he shouldn't play in the street, explain to him the dangers and he will then understand what the problem is."

Another way would be for colleges to recruit honestly instead of planting the seed that cheating's all right, as long as you get away with it.--*Campus Digest News Service*



**DIANTHIA MORRIS BASKETBALL (W)**



**TONY TERRY GOLF**

**PEGGY HORTON VOLLEYBALL**



**STEVE McFARLAND TENNIS**

**ROY SAPP CROSS COUNTRY**



**TRACK & FIELD**

**ROBERT DANCY**

## CONGRATULATIONS MVP's

Awards were presented by Dr. Richard A. Hogg, Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs.