

# SPORTS

## Incentives Cause Controversy Among High School Athletes

By JAMAL CLARKE

Being a student athlete takes a lot of time, effort and responsibility. A star student athlete, especially an All-American coming out of high school, will receive an abundance of recruitment offers from every program in the country. Making the decision to commit to a particular university sometimes means being taken care of with more than a scholarship. It is no secret that current and future college athletes receive extra benefits for the talent they can bring to the university. More than ever, high school athletes are influenced by coaches, boosters and current players. With money generated by players, do they deserve a share of the revenue?

College football is a popular sport in America. It is a showcase of future NFL stars displaying their talents for their university. According to HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," the money generated from college football games on Saturdays are well in the millions and possibly

billions based on attendance, TV contracts, and championships. While coaches and other staff members are negotiating contracts, players are given only a renewal of their scholarship. Recently, the "pay-for-play" situation was exposed at Auburn University. Gumbel's report showed that ex-Auburn players Stanley McClover, Troy Reddick, Chaz Ramsey and Raven Gray received cash payments in book bags, envelopes and even handshakes. Boosters allegedly approached players after the games and handed them money.

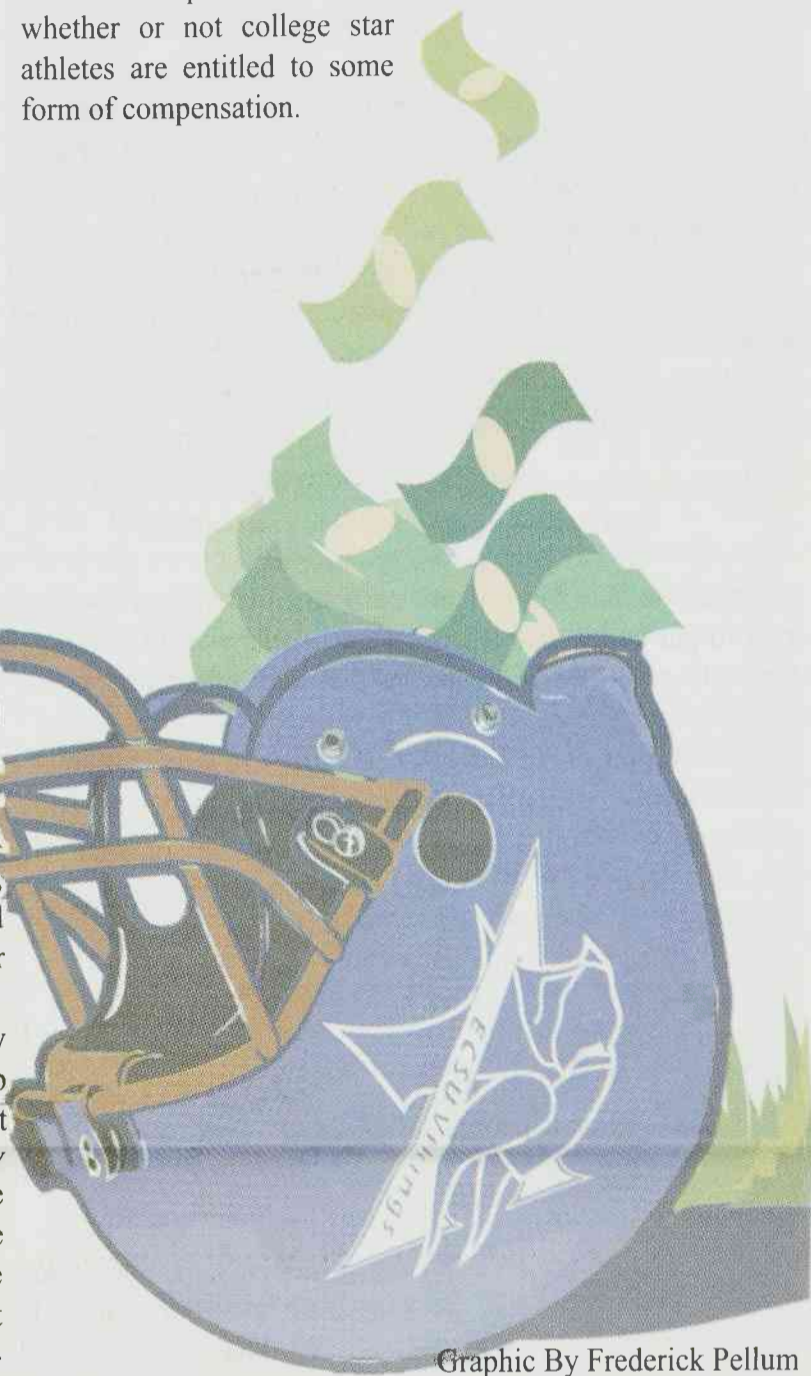
College basketball is just as popular as college football, but its use of "pay-for-play" and recruiting are far more extreme. College basketball coaches will recruit a player as early as 12-years-old. Unlike football, a college basketball roster will hold 15 players rather than football's 80 man roster. This means some college basketball coaches will go to the limit to recruit the best players that money can buy.

The "pay-for-play" situation has been brought to the

big screen. In the early and late 1990s, two movies highlighted this situation. The first movie was "Blue Chips" in 1994, starring former NBA player, Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway and current NBA player, Shaquille O'Neal. The movie was about a head coach on the brink of losing his job. In an effort to save his job, the coach decided to recruit and persuade three athletes in which one wanted \$30,000, another was offered a car and the third wanted a house and new job for his mother. The second movie came in 1997 with Spike Lee's "He Got Game." The movie focused on high school basketball phenomenon, Jesus Shuttlesworth, played by current NBA star, Ray Allen. In the movie, he is offered women, a car and money to come play at a major university.

College athletes, especially at the Division I level, help generate a substantial amount of money for the schools they play for. "I feel that all college players should get paid a little bit," said Elizabeth City State University freshman, Elliott Bowen. This has been consid-

ered by the NCAA and many others. The question remains whether or not college star athletes are entitled to some form of compensation.



Graphic By Frederick Pellum

## ECSU Baseball Team Lacks Support

By JUSTIN RICHARDSON

Elizabeth City State University's baseball team has had little to no fan base for as long as they have existed. One reason is that they play their games away from campus at a nearby recreational facility. Another reason is the fact that most students don't know when the baseball games are scheduled. Marketing also plays a big part in the reason why there are not many fans at games.

"Since I have been here we have always had little fan support. Mostly because people either don't know where our field is or [they] don't want to drive to come see us," said ECSU Senior Outfielder, Khaatim Butler. "Honestly, I think we would've won more games with a little more support and people cheering at

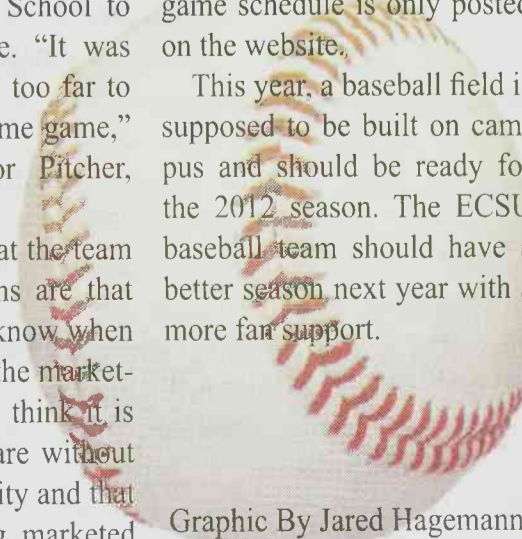
our games."

It always helps to have people cheering for the home team in a close game, but the ECSU baseball team does not have that luxury. They play their games at Knobb's Creek Recreational Facility—where they share it with another baseball team. A challenge is presented when it rains and Knobb's Creek closes the field, and they have to travel to another location. Last year, they had to travel 30 minutes to Currituck High School to play a home game. "It was absurd. It was way too far to be considered a home game," said ECSU Senior Pitcher, Sadarius Lewis.

Other reasons that the team has little to no fans are that most people don't know when the games are and the marketing of the team. "I think it is the fact that they are without an on campus facility and that they are not being marketed

right," said Assistant Athletic Director, Angelia Nelson. "Being a non-revenue sport just hampers them more because it's hard to market a non-revenue sport. But when a campus facility is built, they will have better fan support and marketing." Most people don't even know when the games are. Basketball and football have schedules handed out that people are able to put on their refrigerators or in their offices. The baseball game schedule is only posted on the website.

This year, a baseball field is supposed to be built on campus and should be ready for the 2012 season. The ECSU baseball team should have a better season next year with a more fan support.



Graphic By Jared Hagemann

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Senior Advisor  
Advisor  
Editor-in-Chief  
Associate Editor  
Staff Writer

Kip Branch  
LaToya Stokes  
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### Contributing Writers:

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### Graphic Designers:

Elisha Speller  
Jared Hagemann  
Frederick Pellum

The Compass is published by the Elizabeth City State University students under the direction of the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, Dr. Chantelle MacPhee, Chairperson, and LaToya Stokes, Advisor.