

# Sports



## Malcolm's Mandate

The signing of Herschel Walker by the New Jersey Generals of the new United States Football League has raised many questions about the student-athlete and his commitment to the university after signing a scholarship.

Should a student-athlete have the right to negotiate with professional agents before his eligibility runs out as a student?

College football coaches argue that when they sign a prospect out of high school they should have the right to control that player's destiny for the next four years within their program. They argue that the player is an investment and if he decides to turn professional before his eligibility runs out then the university has suffered a loss.

The coaches have an argument. But the validity of it leaves something to be desired.

Major and small colleges have exploited the athlete long enough. After a player plays for four years he has to put back more than twice as much money as the university invested in him when he signed the scholarship.

It is not what the athlete owes the university. Instead it is what the university owes the athlete.

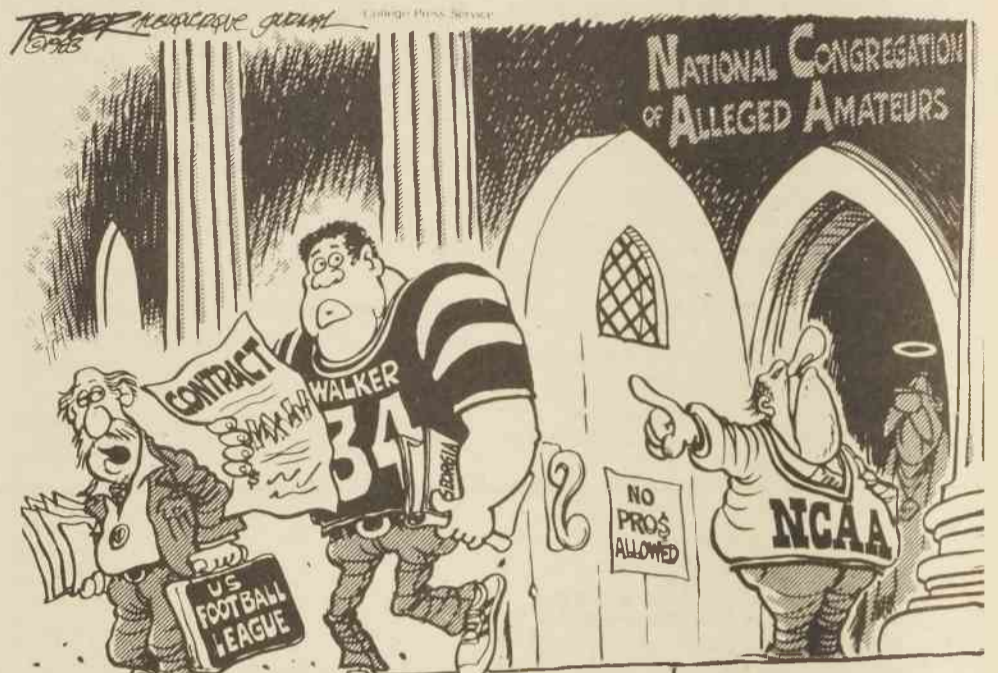
An example of how much a university really cares is the University of Georgia's. The university's graduation record of athletes over the past twelve years shows that only 6 black athletes have graduated since 1971. Other schools in NCAA Division I have similar dismal statistics.

The NCAA has allowed "hardship" cases for college basketball players for nearly a decade. "Magic" Johnson, Dominique Wilkins and James Worthy were lured to the NBA prior to completing their college eligibility. These players were physically and mentally capable of turning professional prior to their classes' graduation. So, why all the hoopla when the same is done in football?

Herschel Walker, (the "Atomic-Dog"), who put Georgia football on the map was absolutely right to do what he did. He captured the NCAA Championship and the Heisman Trophy both within three seasons.

What more could he do as a collegiate athlete? Even if he had stayed, would he have graduated in 1984? What ever he majored in could not have trained him well enough for him to make the kind of money he is making now. A degree is one of the prizes of life, but a check and endorsement goes light years further.

When an athlete is exceptional, the scouts and agents know it. When "cash money" is guaranteed then I say...Go For It!



"I THINK I KNOW WHERE WE MESSED UP, HERSHEL - WE FORGOT TO CALL IT A 'SCHOLARSHIP' ...."

## Bits & Pieces of Sports

Former tennis pro Arthur Ashe, who last year added another feather to his cap as captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team, recently headed a two-day seminar geared to meet the needs of Black tennis players and coaches in New York.

O.J. Simpson has signed a contract with ABC to work as commentator for Monday Night Football.

Dr. "J", Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Jayne Kennedy, Rod Carew, and Jim Rice were just a handful of celebrities associated with Moses Malone, basketball's highest-paid player at 2.2 million yearly. Malone admits he owns stocks, bonds, lots of real estate and even seven cars, but not a Rolls-Royce because "It's too much prestige."

Herschel Walker, after pocketing a contract with the United States Football League (USFL) that makes him a multi-millionaire promptly endorsed his first seven-figure check to his mother.

Former heavyweight boxer Ken Norton is happy that "The Norton Co." has a contract to market key chains for the 1984 Olympic Games in his hometown of Los Angeles.

Carlos Terry, former WSSU Basketball star is seeing action in the NBA after recovering from a knee injury. Terry, who has playing a lot of minutes lately with the Washington Bullets was also recently named by a Washington, D.C. newspaper as one of the city's most eligible bachelors.

## Wolfpack Captures NCAA Crown

By Malcolm Pharr

Cinderella. Destiny. Lady Luck. You can refer to it in anyway you wish. But The N.C. State Wolfpack are the NCAA Champions of 1983. The Pack brought home the second straight national championship to the state of North Carolina by defeating the NBA-bound Houston Cougars, 54-52.

Lorenzo Charles' dunk of a misfired shot with one tick left on the clock made it quite evident that Cinderella would not leave Albuquerque in a pumpkin. N.C. State became the first team in NCAA to win a title while still losing as many as ten games during a regular season.

The moral of the story is "Teamwork and good coaching will prevail no matter what the Las Vegas odds makes believe." Congratulations to the Pack!

## USC Captures Women's NCAA Crown

By Malcolm Pharr

Southern California called from a 13-point deficit to claim the NCAA Division I women's basketball title by squeaking past Louisiana Tech 69-67. Freshman Cheryl Miller paced the Trojans with 27 points.

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