

Student athletes may benefit from agent screening

One of the problems when a kid goes hardship is that many times the student athlete has nowhere to go or anyone to speak to, because many times if he commits to an agent, verbally or in writing, he's immediately ineligible and forfeits the rest of his college playing time.

The answer, I feel, is that each university should have a committee of four or five people — people who are know-

ledgeable in law, insurance, finance, taxes and accounting — and that any agents who are looking to represent the player must go through this group.

What does this do? It takes the athlete out of the greasy-spoon restaurants, the smoke-filled rooms, and the cloak-and-dagger "007" intrigue.

The coach cannot be part of this. It's very difficult for the coach to be unbiased because if the pros and interested in the guy, it means he's an All-American, or at least all-regional, so the coach's input has to be biased. He's cutting off his nose to spite his face.

But there has to be someone the young athlete can go to. Because a lot of time, he doesn't want to go pro. He just wants to find out what he's worth. It's like the farmer who doesn't want to sell his land, but goes around to the various real estate dealers just to see what it's worth.

One thing should be remembered. Passing up a college degree is no small decision. Because if you take two twins, and one gets a college degree and the other doesn't, the one that gets the college degree will normally make half a million dollars more than the other over the next 25 years.

Now I don't think it's absolutely necessary for a ballplayer to get his degree in four years. That time span was put in by people who are not athletes. But I do think he should be close enough, so that after four years, there's an incentive for him to return and get his remaining credits.

The hardest thing is that today nobody can talk about agents without being made to feel that they're tainting themselves, the sport, or the athlete. This type of thinking has to be cleared up.

When I was at Marquette, I had three players who went hardship: Jimmy Chones, Larry McNeill and Maurice Lucas.

What I told my three players, two should go, one shouldn't. Jimmy Chones, who was one of the first hardship cases ever, and Maurice, I told to go.

Jimmy, who had a nice 10-year run, I told to go because they met the \$1.6 million figure, and we were trying to beat the merger between the NBA and ABA. Once the leagues merged, the dollars would be much softer because there would be only one side to bargain with. Maurice, who's still around eight years later, wanted \$800,000 over so many years, and he got it, so there was no way I could tell him he was wrong. Maurice picked up his degree from Marquette in 1981.

Larry, I told not to go, but he didn't listen. Larry found two guys (I call them Frank and Jesse), who were not quality guys, and they snowballed him. I tried to stop Larry, I told him they were costing him half a million dollars, but he thought I was talking for myself, not him.

The unique thing about agents is, you can't do without 'em. You gotta have 'em. We all know athletes have to deal with these people, so why not make it above-board? That way it benefits both the athletes and the sport. There can be discussion on all points, and at least we help protect the kid from making a major mistake.

Cass Student Advertising Inc.

Al McGuire

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announcements

Scholarship Information Day March 7, 8:30-3:30 City Union Sponsored by Student Alumni Association

Francis Ford Coppola's film "The Conversation" Saturday, March 5 3:00, 7:00 and 9:15 at Sheldon.

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION Tuesday, March 8 at 4:00 Rm 106 CBA Speaker Continuing Education of CPA.

If you want to ride on the bus to Padre Island on the UPC Springbreak trip today is the last day to sign up. Call 472-1780. Land package spots are still available.

Worship at Wesley House (UMHE) Sunday services 9:30 and 11 am 10:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship hour, Holy Communion served. Sunday Morning Seminar 9:30 to 10:30 am "Facing disease and death" Chaplain Otto Schultz

"Rocky III" is coming soon. Admission only \$1.00!

John, Did you hear what's happening March 11th? Alpha Phi-Lambda Chi Alpha Casino Night. Don't miss out on the action. See ya there, Chris

CINDY MOORE FOR JOURNALISM SENATOR

STUDENT FOUNDATION is now accepting applications for the 1983-84 year. Take this opportunity to act as a liaison between the student body and the University Foundation. Deadline is March 7th. Applications are available in the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union.

The "UGLIEST" Fraternity man on Campus Contest is coming soon.

Applications are being accepted for the positions of Director, Modern Language Floor and French, Spanish and German Program Assistants. If interested, please call 472-9349.

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