



All Bets are Off

A Sports Wagering Educational Newsletter from the Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities Staff of the NCAA

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Welcome to the first edition of "All Bets Are Off," a monthly newsletter created by the agent, gambling and amateurism activities (AGA) staff of the NCAA. We envision that this newsletter will act as a vehicle for communication regarding sports wagering between the national office, conferences and member institutions. As this is a new venture, we invite any and all comments regarding content, layout or ideas for future publications. Enjoy!



ROLLOUT OF SPORTS WAGERING TOOLKIT

Sports wagering education is a top priority of the agent, gambling and amateurism activities staff. To this end, in order to more effectively aid member institutions in educating student-athletes, coaches and athletics department staff, the AGA staff has developed a Sports Wagering Toolkit for use on campus. The toolkit includes many items that compliance officers can employ to assist the entire athletics staff in learning about the requirements of Bylaw 10.3, as well as the implications of violating the legislation. The toolkit will be available online at the AGA Web site for your convenience, and will be continually updated as new resources become available for inclusion.

One of the items offered in the toolkit that we believe will be a valuable resource is a Month-by-Month Compliance Calendar. The compliance calendar will provide suggestions for activities for student-athletes, coaches and administrators that can be done each month on campus to aid in sports wagering education. The toolkit also includes, among many other items, (a) articles and cases dealing with sports wagering that can be shared with the entire athletics department (b) warning signs and self-assessments for possible problem gamblers, and (c) resources for campus compliance personnel such as a best practices document, list of non-gaming hotels and list of wagering Web sites that can be blocked on campus computers.

The AGA staff is very excited about this new resource, and feels that sharing the information and resources that we have collected in this toolkit will be beneficial as you continue to develop your own educational initiatives on sports wagering. In addition, the AGA staff will continue to publish new editions of the Sports Wagering Newsletter to inform member institutions about pertinent sports wagering issues and reinforce on-campus educational efforts.



HOT TOPICS - The Legality of Online Sports Wagering

Each month the AGA staff will highlight key issues that are currently being discussed within the gambling community. This month's Hot Topic focuses on the legality of online sports wagering.

As many of you may be aware, on July 17 the CEO of BetonSports, David Carruthers, was detained and arrested at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport while traveling from Costa Rica to England. BetonSports, based in Costa Rica, is a publicly traded company on the London Stock Exchange. The U.S. Department of Justice charged Carruthers, as well as nine other people associated with the organization, with, among other items, fraudulently claiming that Internet and phone wagering on sports events was legal and licensed in the United States. In the wake of the arrest, the Department of Justice issued this warning to other online sportsbook operators, "Maybe some people weren't paying attention. Online gambling is a violation of U.S. law."

Participation in online gambling, and especially Internet poker, has increased exponentially over the past five years.

Next month's Hot Topics section will focus on the recently enacted bill, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, which was passed by Congress on September 30th.



PROBLEM GAMBLING ON CAMPUS - Student's Perspective

This article originally appeared as part of a three-part series designed to expose the widespread nature and danger of compulsive gambling on college campuses. The articles were published in the University of Florida's independent newspaper, The Alligator. They are reprinted here with the permission of the author, John Woodrow Cox, currently a senior at the University of Florida.

Although the article does not deal solely with the issue of sports wagering, this story provides an eye-opening look into an atmosphere of acceptance and secrecy toward gambling that currently pervades the campuses of many colleges and universities.

Players Hooked on the Thrill - By JOHN W. COX, Alligator Contributing Writer

Editor's note: This is the conclusion of a two-part series about gambling addiction. Check out Friday's paper for ways to get help with gambling problems.

Fifty dollars on black.

"Black, black, I always bet black," he said.



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Justin stared into his laptop computer screen as the little white ball careened around the online roulette wheel. He needed it to find a black number.

Red 27.

"Damn."

One hundred dollars on black.

Red 14.

Two hundred dollars on black.

"This is my last bet," he said as he looked away from the screen. It was more thrilling when he didn't watch. He clicked the mouse and the ball rolled.

The room stopped. Everyone was watching. The guys in the Blink 182 poster on the wall, the bikini-clad girls in the pictures around the room, the plastic figures of Boston Red Sox players on his dresser - they had all seen this before.

Justin is a senior at UF. He hangs out with his friends and watches basketball games. He likes to drink and have a good time. In short, he's a typical college student.

Except he's an addict. This was not his first *"last bet."*

The ball finally stopped.

Green 00.

"Oh my God. Did you see that?" Justin said, frustrated by the rarely hit green number.

Four hundred dollars on numbers 25-36.

Black 17.

Without hesitation, he bet what little was left. The ball spun and settled. In less than 60 seconds, \$900 was gone.

"Shit. Now I need to put more money on," he said of his now-empty online gambling account. "I was gonna put more on tonight, anyway."

Thomas Talley, a nationally certified gambling counselor based in Florida, said he has dealt with cases just like Justin's. Justin requested his name not be used for fear of prosecution. Talley has worked with college students across the country who are addicted to gambling and have lost everything feeding their addiction.

He said some bet their scholarship money away, and others even resort to stealing thousands from family and friends.

"What's hurting college is it's so secretive," Talley said.

For Justin, every win and every loss is tucked away behind closed doors in a small second-floor apartment in north Gainesville.

What he felt after the money disappeared was nothing new. He had been overtaken by the sadness and regret so many times before, but it still hit him like a cold shower.

Sometimes it feels as bad as losing a girlfriend. It just doesn't last as long. He tells himself he'll never gamble again. But that won't last. He always comes back.

In the last six months, he has risked more than \$15,000, he said.

But Justin is not alone. He is among a rapidly growing population of college students who are gambling addicts. His addiction is not far away. It's right here in Florida and embedded throughout college campuses and, experts say, it's getting worse.

The house always wins

"I know I'm addicted," Justin said. *"I know I have a problem."*

Justin sat back in his chair in his living room and rolled a quarter in his knuckles. It was a trick he learned as he spent hundreds of hours sitting around card tables.

It's not really about the money, though; it's about the rush.

It's the adrenaline that gives him goose bumps and makes the hair on his neck bristle every time he makes the big bet. It always brings him back.

Talley said the need for addicts to gamble is overwhelming sometimes. They think they have to.

Justin has different ways to fuel his need. In the fall, he became a bookie. He would take bets on any game, anytime, anywhere.

"I remember one NFL weekend there were 16 games, and I literally had action on 15 of them," he said. *"It was awesome."*

When Justin's dad was a teenager, he was a bookie for organized crime. He knows his son is a gambler, so he told him booking was his best chance.

"In the long run, a bookie doesn't lose," Justin said. *"He prefers me to do that over poker."*

Near the end of November he decided to stop taking bets.

Justin is a criminology major and wants to work for the FBI. A felony for running illegal gambling operations



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might make it more difficult to work for the bureau.

Dealing out?

The Fall semester was close to an end. The humid air that covers Gainesville like a warm blanket was at last peeling back with the coming of winter. Justin had hoped for a metamorphosis of his own. He wanted to just walk away.

"I don't think any addict stops," he said.

Justin's addiction drove him to lose more than \$5,000 in the month after he quit taking bets.

The feeling after he loses is always different. Sometimes he shuts off from everyone, and sometimes he drinks it away. As paralyzing as those nights are, his need is stronger.

It always drags him back.

"Nobody knows why they're depressed all the time," Talley said of the crippling feelings that often overtake gambling addicts. *"They just want to get back in that room and hide."*

In fact, Talley said, gambling addiction drives more people to suicide than any other - more than heroin, cocaine or alcohol.

But Justin didn't lose at everything.

He knew about sports betting. He had watched thousands of games and taken hundreds of bets. He thought he could make money.

December arrived and he needed action. It had been weeks since he had taken a bet. He had never gotten into online gambling before, besides an occasional poker game on a friend's computer.

He decided to open his own account on a site where you can bet on sports, play poker or gamble in a casino.

But the problem is more than just the betting, Talley said. People also become addicted to the online experience.

"Internet gambling is an addiction to not just the gambling, but also the computer," he said.

At first, Justin just bet on sports. He searched the game odds every day to find the best bets.

"I'll bet on anything besides hockey," he said.

Justin won. He picked winners. But it didn't stop there.

"When I got bored at night, I would transfer all the money from the sports book to the casino," he said. *"I'm convinced it's rigged, but I still end up doing it because I get bored."*

Since July, Justin has worked a clerical job that pays more than twice the minimum wage.

With that and the money he made from sports betting, he accumulated the \$5,000. He used the money he made to play online casino games.

In less than a month he was broke - every penny he had earned was gone. The addiction had taken over.

Online slot machines, black jack tables and roulette wheels became his master.

"I got sucked in," he said.



AGA SPORTS WAGERING EDUCATION SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The AGA staff is pleased to announce that within each issue of this newsletter, we will highlight institutions that have conducted creative programs for educating their student-athletes on the NCAA stance on sports wagering or have maintained a consistent approach to spreading positive messages regarding the dangers of problem gambling. To nominate yourself or another institution, please contact John Shukie at jshukie@ncaa.org, and provide reasons why you believe this institution is worthy of recognition.

The first recipient of AGA Sports Wagering Education Special Recognition is:

UNIVERSITY of NORTHERN COLORADO



Northern Colorado has consistently provided a strong message to its student-athletes regarding sports wagering, and has consistently stood out as a creative leader in implementing educational programming. We have provided excerpts below from a press release regarding Northern Colorado's "March Awareness" campaign.

When the NCAA basketball tournament starts in March, one thing for sure is the Northern Colorado athletics department won't be betting on it. For the second consecutive year, Megan Boone, Northern Colorado assistant athletics director for compliance, has instituted a rules education program for Northern Colorado athletics called "March Awareness." The aim of the program is to educate staff and student-athletes on what they can and cannot do in regards to the NCAA basketball tournament.

"When I was at the NCAA Convention, we were given charity bracelets that said, 'Don't Bet On It'," Boone said. "I contacted the NCAA when I got back from that Convention and asked if I could get them (bracelets) for all of the full-time staff." Boone said after the bracelets were passed out, they brainstormed ideas for a campaign on preventing sports wagering among the UNC community during the NCAA basketball tournament. Last year, Northern Colorado was the only athletics department in the nation to have its entire staff wear the bracelets.

Northern Colorado Director of Athletics Jay S. Hinrichs said a program like "March Awareness" is important to a successful athletics program. "In many cases, we find that expectations and information are the keys to any successful program," Hinrichs said. "Right now, I would say that not everybody clearly understands the NCAA rules regarding sports wagering. This is an opportunity to share the rules and to increase awareness of those rules to everyone involved."

Boone also meets with the coaches on a monthly basis for compliance purposes. This month, the coaches were shown a video and they talked about the study done by the NCAA on sports wagering. Boone said while Northern Colorado has no known violations on sports wagering, it is important to remain proactive. "The study shows some good things, but it also shows gambling does happen on college campuses with student-athletes, so it is important to continue to educate and stay proactive," Boone said. "My hope with 'March Awareness' is to put a positive situation in regards to sports wagering education. People are used to seeing the yellow (bracelet) and they ask what the blue (bracelet) is for."



EDUCATIONAL TIP OF THE MONTH

In each edition of the sports wagering newsletter, the AGA staff will provide a tip for an educational program or activity concerning sports wagering that may be introduced by an institution's compliance office.

The AGA staff has put together a number of Power Point presentations related to sports wagering, and institutions have found these presentations to be valuable resources for rules education. If an institution does not have the time and/or the resources to create its own presentations, we urge you to review the materials available on the AGA Web site. You can modify these presentations to suit your own institution's needs, but the AGA staff believes that they can provide a valuable template for a well-rounded sports wagering educational presentation.



CALLING ALL GUEST COLUMNISTS

The agent, gambling and amateurism activities staff is calling upon YOU, staff members at member institutions and conferences, to submit any ideas that you might have for writing articles or columns within this monthly newsletter. Whether you have an idea for a story that you believe is important, would like to share some educational initiatives that you have undertaken regarding sports wagering, or just have an idea for a story, column or note that you would like to see implemented in the newsletter, please contact the AGA staff through the contact information listed on the last page of the newsletter.

For additional information regarding any of the material in this newsletter, if you have ideas that you would like to share for a future newsletter or if you have any questions or concerns regarding sports wagering on your campus or within your conference, please contact the AGA staff.

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