

**Book Review: Introduction to Intercollegiate Athletics.  
(2015). In E. Comeaux (Ed). Baltimore, MD: Johns  
Hopkins University.**

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The Introduction to Intercollegiate Athletics, which is edited by Eddie Comeaux, provides a comprehensive illustration of the world of intercollegiate athletics. Comprised of 28 chapters that are divided into eight parts, the text tackles topics such as the history of collegiate athletics, gender equity, and race and ethnicity issues. Such topics are pertinent to college athletics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Part one of the textbook includes the first four chapters and provides a detailed history of collegiate athletics. It also closely examines the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization which plays a vital role in the governance of college athletics. This section also provides a thorough review of the leadership in college athletics and the ethical issues that arise due to its structure. Perhaps one of the most useful parts of this book is found in this section with meticulous graphs and tables that depict the structure of Divisions I-III of collegiate athletics. This structure is usually one of the more complex components of the NCAA and the illustrations provide the reader with easy to understand graphics.

Part two is the smallest section as it includes only a single chapter. However, the information provided is still invaluable as it provides an understanding of the theoretical foundation of the experiences of college student athletes. The targeted theories range from student development theories and college impact models to campus climate and the role it plays in shaping college student athletes. These frameworks provide insight into these students' experiences and the development of their identity.

Part two also provides the necessary foundation for part three, which offers a description of the college student athlete experience. The information is presented from several points of view and includes a snapshot of athletics at the community college and the benefits it provides. In addition, this part of the text provides an extensive description of a study, which was conducted regarding transfer students with detailed findings presented logically. The final section takes a closer look at the athletic climate and how it relates to administrators, faculty members and students.

Part four of the text likely covers the most controversial area of college athletics, which is its business enterprise. The main focus of this part is the monetary side of college athletics and "the degree to which this spending is consistent with the fundamental mission of American higher education" (p. 135). The role of the Athletic Director is examined with regards to the value of the position and their relationship with university administrators. However, the most impressive part of this section of the book is the visual aids, which depict the expenses and revenues of Division I programs. These images allow the reader to get a better understand of the financial dimensions of college athletics.

The eight chapters of parts five and six approach intercollegiate athletics from a different direction as they highlight race, ethnicity, gender equity and compliance issues. Over the last

fifty years, since the Civil Rights Movement and Title IX were introduced, these topics have garnered attention, which the text highlights. The information presented in these two parts provides a glimpse of the overall campus diversity climate as it relates to athletics, as well as, the benefits of this diversity.

Chapter 14 of the text connects with a previous chapter as it summarizes the miseducation of African American male athletes. The following chapter expounds on this topic by providing detailed discourse on African American female athletes and the role of Title IX as it pertains to them. The procession of the chapter in these two parts are presented in a logical manner, each providing the necessary foundation for the upcoming information. This organization of this chapter provides a comprehensive and complex picture of the different racial and gender issues in athletics.

Part seven features five chapters that take a closer look at the extensive policies of the NCAA and their impact of the student athletes. This subject has provided a number of debates over the years as it concerns the rights of the student athlete and their overall well-being. This part also addresses the recent question of intercollegiate athletics and amateurism, as well as, how numerous entities benefit from athletic talents of college student athletes. All aspects of this chapter shed light on areas of question in collegiate athletics.

The final part of the text, which includes chapters 26 through 28, examines the academic reform movement of intercollegiate athletics. Academic support for student athletes is vital for their success in college and this section provides an array of ideas regarding what that looks like. In addition, the Academic Progress Rate (APR) is discussed in length, highlighting its introduction and role in college athletics. The chapters in this section further addresses the idea of selective recruiting and admissions, as well as, best practices for academic support for student athletes.. The academic component of this part provides commonly used techniques in career transition for student athletes and the role of higher education professionals. While detailed, more information could be provided in this portion of the text, related to the area of academic integrity in college athletics, given the problems seen in recent years.

Overall, the Introduction to Collegiate Athletics provides an informative comprehensive review of athletics in higher education. The NCAA is discussed at length and particular attention is paid to the experiences of college student athletes. The environment in which the athletes exist also provides a context that is not often presented on this topic. This text is essential for any graduate student, scholar, practitioner or university administrator as the information presented is important for all. The area of academics could be more developed, however the information provided is essential.