

4-17-2006 Questions from DoubleAZone Readers and Listeners

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2 JOSH CENTOR: "Mondays With Myles" is going
3 interactive. Today I'm going to ask NCAA president Myles
4 Brand questions submitted by DoubleAZone readers and
5 podcast listeners.

6 Our first question comes from William
7 Spencer. He wants to know why NCAA basketball players
8 can celebrate but football players can't? He says he saw
9 a lot of celebration going on in basketball this year and
10 doesn't really think it's fair to penalize football
11 players for doing it when the basketball players don't.
12 He thinks that rule should go for all NCAA sports or none
13 of them.

14 Dr. Brand, your thoughts?

15 DR. MYLES BRAND: Well, let me be sure I
16 understand the question, first. Does he mean what's
17 going on on the court? For example, in a football game,
18 the fancy dancing that takes place afterwards sometimes
19 gets penalized -- or spiking the ball. Whereas in
20 basketball, hanging on the rim, popping your jersey
21 doesn't seem to get penalized. Is that what you think he
22 has in mind?

23 JOSH CENTOR: Yeah. I think that we're
24 talking about some of those fancy touchdown dances that
25 we see, or after a big catch, spiking the football at the

1 50, something like that.

2 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, there's a
3 different culture for basketball and football. And I
4 think part of it is reflected in the different culture.
5 And referees treat it differently and fans have different
6 expectations.

7 Having said that, if it goes too far,
8 you're going to have a technical fouls called in
9 basketball -- hanging on the rim, screaming on someone's
10 face, a technical foul. So I think there's a little more
11 ability to do that in basketball, just because of the
12 culture, but it can't go too far. I think a good referee
13 will call that.

14 JOSH CENTOR: And I assume that that
15 culture of the sports extends to other sports as well.
16 In soccer when they score a goal, you have them running
17 around in the midfield. And in other sports, hockey, we
18 saw at the championship they'd celebrate after a goal.
19 So it happens in other sports, as well.

20 DR. MYLES BRAND: It does. And it's
21 interesting to notice different kinds of celebrations in
22 sports. Soccer, for example, someone will rip off his
23 jersey and run around with it. So I think there is a
24 culture on the different sports. But if it gets too far,
25 it becomes interference in the game. If it is insulting

1 too much to the opponents, then a good referee will step
2 in and call a foul.

3 JOSH CENTOR: Is there training for the
4 referees for things like this, for the sportsmanship type
5 issues?

6 DR. MYLES BRAND: Yes, there is. And
7 that's a good point. And they try and be consistent
8 between games. You know, different referees will call
9 things in different ways, and as much as humanly
10 possible, we want some consistency. But you're
11 absolutely right, they are taught and trained to react to
12 certain kinds of player interference.

13 JOSH CENTOR: It seems that this will be an
14 issue though, from year to year. But there's nothing
15 really we can do with players on the courts and on the
16 field celebrating.

17 DR. MYLES BRAND: I think we can. In the
18 college game, we instruct all the referees, for example,
19 whether it's in football, basketball, and so on, to try
20 to put a stop to it at a certain point. So I think we
21 have some control over it.

22 But there is a human element in referees
23 and a human element in games. And it won't ever be
24 entirely eliminated -- these kinds of differences.

25 JOSH CENTOR: Thank you, William, for

1 submitting that question.

2 Our second question comes from Paul Neceda
3 (phonetic). He wants to know how you feel, Dr. Brand,
4 about all of the conference jumping and realignment over
5 the past several years within NCAA football. Do you feel
6 that it is the right thing to do? Or is the quote,
7 unquote, rating mentality exemplified by the ACC and
8 negative perception for NCAA football? Do you feel that
9 we have not seen the last of this kind of thing within
10 major college athletics?

11 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, conference
12 realignment takes place every year. We always have some
13 schools realigning. About every 7 to 10 years, we have
14 major realignments. We have conferences coming and
15 going. For example, before this one, about 10 years ago
16 we had the creation of the Big 12. So we always have
17 conferences coming and going.

18 And what schools do -- and the decision is
19 a school decision, it's not an NCAA decision -- what the
20 schools do is they try and find a group of schools that
21 align with them both athletically and academically --
22 schools they want to associate with.

23 Now, take the Big 10, where I spent a
24 number of years when I was at Indiana University. The
25 Big 10 is a bunch of like-minded schools -- almost all

1 public except for Northwestern. And they really align in
2 a way that is compatible academically and athletically.
3 So when Penn State joined a number of years ago, that was
4 a good fit.

5 Is it rating? Or is it really just
6 schooling deciding where they want to go in terms of
7 alignment? I think it's the latter. I think rating is a
8 negative way to look at it.

9 JOSH CENTOR: I tend to agree with you.
10 When I was at Boston College last year,
11 obviously I was -- I found myself in a great position. I
12 was there during the transition to the ACC, and that was
13 a wonderful experience. And Gene DeFilippo often said
14 how important it was for Boston College to align with the
15 Dukes and North Carolinas academically, as well as
16 athletically. And that point, you know, he really,
17 really loved that point. And that's really what drove
18 that decision.

19 DR. MYLES BRAND: See, my own personal
20 opinion is that the realignment actually takes place more
21 for academic than athletic reasons. It's hard to
22 convince anyone of that, I realize. But I think that's
23 the real underlying reason. Certainly from the
24 president's chair, that's what's taking place. Will it
25 continue in the future? You bet it will continue in the

1 future, but maybe not as wholesale as we've seen for a
2 while. It's got to settle down a little bit.

3 And frankly, the realignment we've had has
4 actually added to the fan enjoyment, both in football and
5 basketball. The Big East is a real powerhouse in terms
6 of basketball right now. And the ACC is now emerging as
7 a football conference, as well as a basketball
8 conference.

9 So we've seen some ability of these schools
10 to get together. And I think the fans actually will
11 enjoy it more.

12 JOSH CENTOR: Well, I agree with you.
13 That's all we have time for today. But this will be a
14 recurrent feature for "Mondays With Myles". Questions
15 can be submitted at www.doubleazone.com. Or emailed to
16 me at jcentor@NCAA.org. "Mondays With Myles" can be
17 found on the NCAA blog, the DoubleAZone, each and every
18 morning. We'll see you next week.

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