

8-28-2006 General Q & A

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2 JOSH CENTOR: After summer hiatus, "Mondays
3 With Myles" is back on the airwaves. I'm extremely
4 excited to once again be here with NCAA president Myles
5 Brand to discuss the pressing issues in intercollegiate
6 athletics.

7 It's been a busy summer; hasn't it?

8 DR. MYLES BRAND: Yes, it has.

9 JOSH CENTOR: Well, we certainly have a lot
10 of things to discuss, and I'm looking forward to getting
11 started.

12 In our last conversation before summer
13 break, Dr. Brand asked for DoubleAZone readers and
14 podcast listeners to send in questions and directly
15 communicate with him.

16 A few weeks ago, Orson Swindle from "Every
17 Day Should Be Saturday" submitted five questions he
18 wanted answered. So we're going to ask them right now.

19 The first one: Why go after the University
20 of North Dakota for their mascot name? What purpose does
21 this serve? Aren't there more important things for the
22 NCAA to pursue?

23 DR. MYLES BRAND: Well, I have to be
24 careful with my answer, Josh, because there's a potential
25 lawsuit, and the University of North Dakota has told us

1 that they are considering filing a lawsuit.

2 But the same principles that we went into
3 this with, when we examined all the institutions with
4 Native American images and symbols, applies in this
5 case -- namely the NCAA takes very seriously its
6 responsibility to show respect for all. And that
7 includes all ethnic minority groups in the United States
8 and Native Americans, as well.

9 And so respect for all leads us, in some
10 cases, to take a position against the Confederate flag
11 and other cases takes a position with respect to Native
12 American symbols and logos.

13 If this doesn't concern the institutional
14 autonomy of the University of North Dakota or any other
15 institution, they are free to use any symbols and mascots
16 they feel appropriate in their own context.

17 But in our games, the championship games,
18 we should be able to control what happens in our games.
19 And if they want to play in our games, they'll have to
20 play by our rules.

21 JOSH CENTOR: Well, I think that about
22 answers question number 1.

23 Question number two, will the NCAA ever
24 seriously sanction a major program again?

25 DR. MYLES BRAND: Well, actually, most of

1 the sanctions -- the major sanctions doled out by the
2 Committee on Infractions concerns Division I -- and that
3 includes major programs, as well. In fact, if you look
4 at the numbers over the last decade or even longer, it's
5 been pretty constant -- a certain number each year. So I
6 don't think there's been any change in that.

7 But I have noticed a really interesting
8 trend, a very productive trend. Namely, there's an
9 effort by many universities to self-police. They will
10 sanction themselves, as it were, and hope that the NCAA
11 sanctions are about the same. But the key point here is
12 that they are self-policing, and that's productive.

13 One recent case is the University of
14 Oklahoma, in which they decided to remove the
15 scholarships of two key football players. I give the
16 president and Coach Stoops and others a lot of credit
17 there for taking the initiative. It may have even cost
18 them a high standing in the BCS, potentially -- I don't
19 know the answer to this, but potentially even a shot at
20 the national championship. But they stood up and did
21 that.

22 Now, it doesn't follow that the NCAA
23 Committee on Infractions won't provide further sanctions
24 to them, but the key is that they did stand up and were
25 counted. And good for them.

1 JOSH CENTOR: And it's important to
2 remember that the Committee on Infractions is made up of
3 the membership.

4 DR. MYLES BRAND: It's a membership
5 committee. The Staff does the investigation and we have
6 trained professionals experienced in law enforcement and
7 other areas that do the investigations. And they give
8 that information to our Committee on Infractions which
9 consists of sitting judges, people in the law school,
10 denies of law school, for example, as well as
11 commissioners and others who are well -- who are
12 knowledgeable about both the law and also the rules of
13 the NCAA.

14 JOSH CENTOR: The third question we have
15 from Orson Swindle is: Does the APR mean anything when
16 only the smallest, least financially significant schools
17 fail to make the grade?

18 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, it's true that,
19 at least at this stage, we're seeing most of the
20 penalties not in Division I-A or at least not in the six
21 equity conferences. And the reason for that is that it
22 costs money to do a good job academically. And some of
23 the institutions have not yet understood in depth what it
24 takes to comply with our new academic rules. And so they
25 haven't been providing the student athletes with the kind

1 of academic advising, computers, whatever it is necessary
2 to do it. So it is, in part, a money issue.

3 I think for those small schools, they are
4 going to have to invest in academic performance.

5 Now, all of this could change when we move
6 away from taking into account the small reference class
7 size; when we take into account, in the next year or two,
8 we'll be looking at numbers, for example, in basketball,
9 that may have produced more sanctions, more loss of
10 scholarships from APR low scores than we see right now.

11 And I hope that doesn't happen, that the
12 schools and the student athletes themselves rise to the
13 occasion. But I wouldn't be surprised if we see more
14 sanctions.

15 JOSH CENTOR: So the change in behavior
16 that's come from some of the larger schools may be a
17 direct result of greater resources at this point?

18 DR. MYLES BRAND: Greater resources and
19 greater awareness that academic issues are critical, a
20 great awareness on the part of the athletic director and
21 the president. It takes a little time I think to get it
22 through the entire association, but that will happen over
23 time.

24 JOSH CENTOR: Okay. Question number four,
25 explain the logic about allowing athletes such as Tom

1 Zbikowski from Notre Dame to box professionally, while
2 stripping Drew Tate of the money he could have earned in
3 a Pro-Am golf tournament for making a hole in one.

4 DR. MYLES BRAND: This is an interesting
5 question, because the answer isn't very clear, it might
6 even be subtle. But there is an important principle
7 here. The principle is, you're not supposed to use your
8 participation in one intercollegiate athletic sport to
9 create financial opportunities for yourself.

10 And so, for example, in the case of the
11 Notre Dame player, he took no endorsement money. It may
12 have been offered to him, but he took no endorsement
13 money. It was like he had a summer job, whether it was a
14 lifeguard or some other summer job. But he had to work
15 at it -- pretty rough summer job in this case.

16 JOSH CENTOR: Yeah. No kidding.

17 DR. MYLES BRAND: But he had to work at it.
18 I don't believe he'll have that summer job during the
19 year.

20 JOSH CENTOR: Yeah.

21 DR. MYLES BRAND: I think he'll be playing
22 football. But in the case of Tate at Iowa, it's a little
23 different. He was playing in a golf tournament -- lucky
24 enough to have a hole in one -- playing in a golf
25 tournament solely because he was a football player. He

1 was chosen for that reason.

2 So you were an English major at Iowa, you
3 would not have been able to play in that tournament. If
4 you were an English major at Notre Dame, you might have
5 been able to go to Madison Square Garden and box if
6 you're good enough.

7 JOSH CENTOR: Right.

8 DR. MYLES BRAND: But if you're an English
9 major at Iowa, you couldn't, because -- I don't want to
10 fault English majors, by the way, but assuming that an
11 English major who is not an athlete -- some are -- I
12 think so in that case, in the Tate case, it was only
13 because he was an athlete that he was allowed to play and
14 that resulted in the hole in one.

15 JOSH CENTOR: Okay. The fifth and final
16 question, can you explain to the average football fan
17 what it is your organization does exactly? It's
18 something many, including us, are not exactly clear on.

19 DR. MYLES BRAND: With respect to football,
20 yeah. You know, we do everything in football except one
21 thing, and that is the Division I-A bowl games.

22 Now, Division I-A is only a football
23 designation, not an entire divisional designation. And
24 that group, the I-A group, plays in bowl games. And
25 those are run by third parties, often associated with

1 cities, like Pasadena for the Rose Bowl, for example, and
2 they coordinate with the BCS Bowl Championship series in
3 that case and other bowls coordinate with other --
4 directly with conferences. But we are not involved in
5 I-A football.

6 We do everything else. We run
7 championships for I-AA football, championships in
8 Division II and Division III. The NCAA in no case, for
9 football and other sports, deals with regular season
10 events. We are only dealing with championship events.
11 That's all we do. And in football, there's one
12 exception. And namely, that's the I-A bowl games.

13 JOSH CENTOR: And I would assume that the
14 average football fan isn't aware of the football rules
15 committees and who sets the rules for each of the
16 divisions.

17 DR. MYLES BRAND: Right. I think we have
18 rules committees made up of members that set the rules
19 for all divisions, even I-A football. So the rules
20 issues and so on, we organize, although the members make
21 those decisions. But in terms of event organization,
22 control, putting on the events, as we do for the Men's
23 Final four in basketball, we don't do that in I-A
24 football. That is the sole exception.

25 JOSH CENTOR: Okay. And I would also

1 encourage anyone who is interested to learn more about
2 the association to hop on DoubleAZone and listen to our
3 "Faces of the NCAA" feature where you can meet a
4 different NCAA staff member every week, or read "Coaches
5 Corner", where coaches from different institutions are
6 stopping by and sharing their perspectives. And, of
7 course, we always have the student athlete voice well
8 represented on the blog.

9 Thank you, Dr. Brand. It's good to see you
10 again.

11 I'd also like to thank Orson Swindle for
12 submitting these five questions.

13 And I want to encourage all of our
14 listeners to send in their questions for Myles Brand.

15 I'm glad we're back, and I look forward to
16 doing it again next week. We'll see you then.

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