## **PODCAST**

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## 20071119mwm

JOSH CENTOR: Well, Dr. Brand, we are in the middle of November. And a couple of weeks back, November 1st, the NCAA Eligibility Center opened its doors. What's so important about this?

DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, the good news here is no one noticed it.

JOSH CENTOR: Yeah. I guess that is good news.

DR. MYLES BRAND: For years, we contracted out the ACT to do the eligibility work. And there have been some problems along the way. And they're not the NCAA, they're separate from the NCAA. And they don't understand all the nuances of what's involved in eligibility.

And so what we did is we took it in-house. And as you noted, we've just begun that, we've gone live very recently. That transition is very difficult, but the group at the Eligibility Center have pulled it off.

What do we expect from all of this? First of all, we expect much better service to the student athletes and their parents, a more timely service, moreover doing it in an easier way that's less of concern to them, trying to get the information to our schools about who is eligible and who is not in a better way, and

use this opportunity I think to communicate better with the student athletes and their parents about what's involved, even early on, before they apply to the Eligibility Center.

We've also added a very important new ingredient into this, and that is called amateurism. I mean, we've sort of looked at amateurism before, but not in a totally systemic way.

For example, there are issues of amateurism that pertain to international students, when a coach is, say, recruiting a tennis player who plays in Europe, has that person been a professional or not before they come here? And the coaches get confused about it because it's a very confusing system for us. So a coach doesn't know whether to recruit that student athlete or not. Some recruit them; some don't. Those who don't recruit them think it's unfair. The others who are recruiting him — they never get clear about the amateur status.

Well, we're going to treat these student athletes in a systemic way so that every coach will be on a level playing field and be able to determine who they can recruit, who is really an amateur, and who has played pro, although it wasn't obvious to them.

JOSH CENTOR: Now, the Eligibility Center is about two miles north of our headquarters here in

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downtown Indianapolis.

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Prospective student athletes really are going to have to contact the Eligibility Center. They're going to be impacted by the services that are offered there.

If you're a prospective student athlete, how do you go through the Eligibility Center? What goes on over there?

DR. MYLES BRAND: Well, it's just located there for the time being. We're going to move them here as soon as we generate some more space for them.

But all of this contact is done online or done by phone. And so it doesn't matter if it's two miles or it's in the building. The fact of the matter is, it is now the NCAA. It's not contracted out to someone else. These people who are doing it are highly trained by us. In fact, some of the people who worked on those issues from the NCAA perspective are now actually manning the phones and online for the Eligibility Center. And we've staffed it up enough so that we should be pretty efficient in the way we do it. But it's online, just go to -- get on our web site, and you can connect directly with it. And, of course, they'll tell you the phone number as well.

JOSH CENTOR: All right. NCAA Eligibility

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Center up and running.
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                     Thanks, Dr. Brand.
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                     DR. MYLES BRAND: You bet.
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