

3-19-2007 General Q & A

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2 JOSH CENTOR: Welcome to "Mondays With Myles".

3 Dr. Brand likes answering questions on our podcast, and today  
4 we have some from Brian Sakowski who runs in "The Bleachers",  
5 which is a blog that you can find at [www.inthebleachers.net](http://www.inthebleachers.net).

6 We're going to get right into the question, Dr. Brand.

7 DR. MYLES BRAND: Okay.

8 JOSH CENTOR: The first one, there have been plenty of  
9 rumors that USC has been walking a fine line between legal and  
10 illegal recruiting practices. How hard is it for the NCAA to  
11 police schools during the recruiting process?

12 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, USC has been very  
13 successful in recent years, and it's not surprising that  
14 others would ask questions about it. That's what you always  
15 do with the person on the team on top of the hill. So let's  
16 be a little careful about jumping to conclusions.

17 JOSH CENTOR: Right.

18 DR. MYLES BRAND: And take some of these queries with  
19 a grain of salt. Having said that, when we found out about  
20 any potential breaks in our rules, protocols, not even to  
21 mention legal or illegal issues, the fact of the matter is we  
22 do investigate. We contact the school. We follow the  
23 sources. We're very good at that.

24 Now, we don't make it public, because we try and do it  
25 in a way that allows us to maximize the information we'll get.

1 And sometimes by going public too early, what happens is you  
2 really hinder your ability to talk to sources.

3 We don't have subpoena power, so we have to be very  
4 careful in the way in which we get our information and look at  
5 these issues. But you bet we look at it whenever we get any  
6 information. And I don't care what school it is -- the one on  
7 the top or the one on the bottom.

8 JOSH CENTOR: Well, sometimes the media and the public  
9 are critical of how long it takes for these investigations.  
10 But it doesn't really take that long when you think about it,  
11 does it?

12 DR. MYLES BRAND: It doesn't take as long as a court  
13 case, for example. But also, you know, we have a role to  
14 play -- but so do the schools. And there's certain steps in  
15 the process. We've cut the time in the last couple of years  
16 by over a half, you know, so we've moved to a much quicker  
17 time frame. But we can't do it too quickly, because we have  
18 to solicit that information and get it right. But the fact of  
19 the matter, the schools need some time also to prepare.

20 So we've doubled our enforcement staff in the last  
21 several years, so we are working hard at it.

22 JOSH CENTOR: Along the same lines, Brian's second  
23 question asks, When there is a violation reported, what  
24 procedure does the NCAA follow to determine whether or not the  
25 claim is valid?

1 DR. MYLES BRAND: Well, we'll pursue it both with the  
2 school, with the witness, doing an investigation. We have  
3 some very good investigators, professionals. These are not  
4 people just out of law school. We've got some very senior  
5 professionals who have been doing this through their lives --  
6 not necessarily for the NCAA. We hire people who have been at  
7 the District Attorney's Office. We hired a person, for  
8 example, to be one of our directors, who was the head of IPS,  
9 Indianapolis Police Force, Internal Investigations, for 15  
10 years.

11 JOSH CENTOR: Wow.

12 DR. MYLES BRAND: So we're getting very experienced  
13 hands at this now. Just because we're doing an  
14 investigation -- and again we never publicly say we are until  
15 we know where we're going with it -- it doesn't mean we'll  
16 find something. A lot of times people want to attack another  
17 program or another school and claim there's something wrong  
18 and we don't find it.

19 JOSH CENTOR: How many of the claims actually are  
20 valid? What are the percentages like?

21 DR. MYLES BRAND: Gee, I don't know the answer to  
22 that. It's a good question. But we get a lot of false  
23 information.

24 JOSH CENTOR: Yeah. We'll have to look into that. I  
25 think that's interesting.

1           The third question from Brian, he writes, There is a  
2 lot of pressure not only for the recruits, but for the coaches  
3 during the recruiting season. Coaches will place a lot of  
4 pressure to have a recruit verbally commit to their school,  
5 while they are on a visit, even if the recruit is not ready to  
6 make such a commitment.

7           Other coaches will continue to recruit players even  
8 after they have verbally committed to a certain school. Do  
9 you think that an early signing period in August could  
10 eliminate some of the pressure, not only on the players but on  
11 the coaches, because they will have a better idea of their  
12 class makeup?

13           DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, that's a very interesting  
14 question. I know it's under consideration by the membership.  
15 I think there are a lot of pros to that. I'm not sure if it's  
16 the right thing to do, but it certainly is worth serious  
17 consideration. I think it would take some of the pressure off  
18 the young men in the case of football, as well as basketball.  
19 But I'm not sure the coaches will like it.

20           Will it give them enough opportunity, I think, to make  
21 their best case? So it's under consideration. It's a good  
22 idea that's worth serious debate.

23           JOSH CENTOR: That's a two-sided issue, moving it up  
24 to August, then you miss some of the high school action that  
25 you're trying to see kids play out on the recruiting trail, so

1 it's good two sides to it.

2 DR. MYLES BRAND: It has two sides to it. You know,  
3 one question you didn't ask though, that is related to this,  
4 is verbal commitments. And they're verbal commitments. We're  
5 dealing with 17-, 18-year-olds and they change their minds.  
6 And this is an important decision for them. It could be the  
7 most important decision they've ever made in their lives and  
8 they can vacillate on it. So I'm not so happy about verbal  
9 commitments. I'm not sure what weight they carry. And in  
10 some cases they don't stop the recruiting process.

11 JOSH CENTOR: Well, that's a very good point. Well,  
12 thank you for answering these questions. Thank you, Brian,  
13 for submitting them.

14 And our listeners, keep on sending those questions in.  
15 We will address them here on "Mondays With Myles".

16 Thanks, Dr. Brand.

17 DR. MYLES BRAND: You bet.

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