

# Opinions vary on priorities of student-athletes

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should play in a young person's life.

Since such a multitude of factors — athletic skills, academic ability, financial

status, and varying priorities between the athlete, parent and coach — come into play, no easy way exists to arrive at that balance.

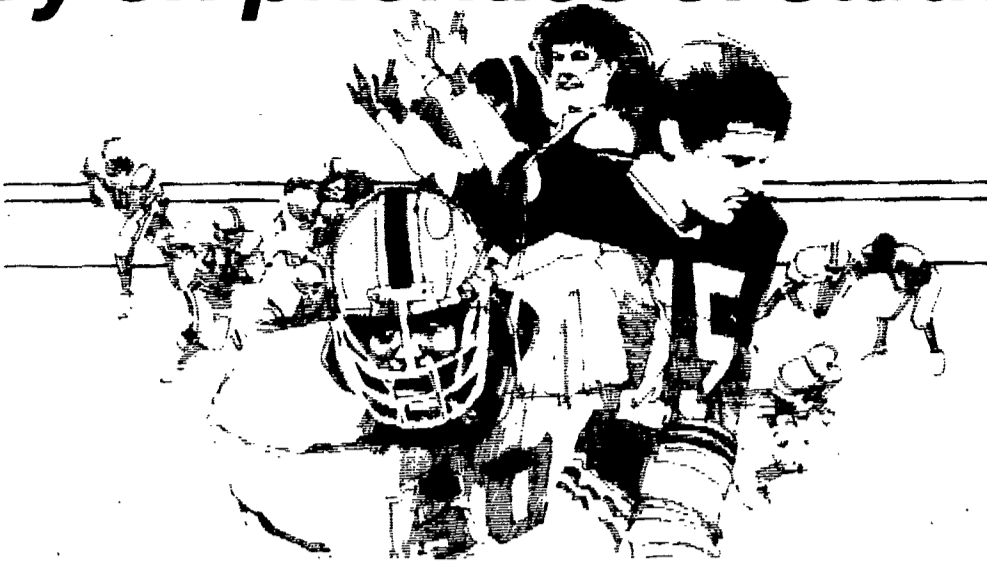
Further compounding this dilemma is the fact that sports are unique in their ability to generate more widespread attention and excitement — among both students and non-students — than any other scholastic activity.

"It is probably no accident that star athletes are most idolized by persons who themselves lead the most humdrum of existences in steel mills, coal mines, or the office bull pens of large corporations. Athletics is a surrogate way of raising our spirits as we trudge through a thoroughly dull life," commented Robert Atwell in the 1985 book, *Sport and Higher Education*.

In the same book, Philip P. Boshoff stated, "Perhaps sport is an escape ... perhaps that outdoor or indoor arena symbolizes the worst of our collective psyches of hero worship, competitiveness, and mob reaction; yet that arena still entralls millions of us."

Monsignor John Petillo, chancellor at Seton Hall University, was fairly blunt about the significance of athletics at his South Orange, N.J.-based college after the Pirates reached the finals of the 1989 NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament.

"A 17-year-old is not interested in whether or not a professor is fusing a bomb," Monsignor Petillo remarked in the April 17, 1989 issue of *Newsweek* magazine. "What they want is some-



thing that gives them recognition and an identity. A championship basketball team does just that."

Carrying the weight of the student body and of community residents can be quite a burden for a young student-athlete, according to George Monagan.

"It's very easy for young people to lose perspective. The demands made in athletics create much more pressure than in the classroom," remarked Monagan, who coached basketball and soccer at McQuaid Jesuit High School, 1800 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, when the school opened in the mid-1950s.

"I have very strong feelings about the athletic experience being a strong part of education, but when it takes precedence over studies, the process can be very self-defeating," added Monagan, who left McQuaid in 1962 to become basketball coach and athletic director at Monroe Community College. He retired as MCC's athletic director in 1988.

Few high school sports programs in the Rochester area possess a history as rich as the Aquinas Institute football program. Joe Munno, AQ's second-year head coach, knows that memories of the "glory days" of the 1940s and '50s

— when the Little Irish were a nationally known entity playing in front of more than 10,000 fans at Aquinas (later known as Hollender) Stadium — still register strongly in the minds and expectations of alumni and boosters.

To a certain degree, Munno welcomes the challenge of living up to that tradition.

"I look at it not as pressure, but a plus. I tell the kids, 'You're at the greatest school in Section 5,'" said Munno, who also served as football coach at Rochester's Marshall High School for seven seasons. He still serves full-time at Marshall as the school's house administrator.

Munno's 1991 Aquinas team recorded its best finish in several years, posting an 8-1 record. Yet, when asked how he would handle critics if the Irish finished 2-6, Munno replied:

"A 2-6 record shouldn't be the end of the world for anybody, but I guess it could be for people who see Aquinas football as the end. I would try to tell people that we are still dealing with kids here. I could have a right tackle who stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 245 pounds, but he's still not a grown man yet. I try to throw it back on the humanistic side. If you can't bite into that, then something's wrong with you."

Monagan and Munno noted that all the high school hoopla can also bring about some false conceptions regarding an athlete's ability to star at the college and professional levels. Only the best high school athletes ever secure full or even partial college scholarships.

And, according to the Nov. 28, 1990 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* magazine, only one in 10,000 male high school football and basketball players ever reach the professional ranks.

"A mentor has to be a sincere, balanced person. Scholarships are so unrealistic for most people, and a good coach will point that out," said Monagan.

"I tell my incoming freshmen, 'For most of you, these next four years will be the last time you play organized football.' And they look at me like I'm crazy," Munno said. "What's lacking is that they're not hearing this from enough people — coaches, counselors, parents, other adults."

Dave Pisano, athletic director at Nazareth Academy, an all-girls' high school located at 1001 Lake Ave., Rochester, pointed out that even though Nazareth offers athletics, he prefers not to overemphasize the values of sports.

"There are limited college scholarships for women, and no professional anything," said Pisano, who also serves as the Lasers' varsity softball coach. "But a lot of kids who played here are now successful engineers, and running companies. I think we do the kids an injustice if we don't balance academics with athletics."

A large number of colleges also strongly endorse this balance. In fact, a story in the Aug. 31, 1992 *Sports Illustrated* focused on the successful football program at St. John's College, a Division III Catholic school in Minnesota. The 1991 squad finished with an 11-1 record and 66 of its 117 players posted a grade-point average of 3.0 or above.

The emphasis on academics, however, tends to weaken as the level of collegiate competition increases: NCAA violations such as illegal recruiting, grade fixing, and improper payments are frequent fodder for news headlines.

"Once you get above Division III, it's show business. There's so much money and prestige involved," said Monagan.

Although schools such as Notre Dame, Stanford and Duke have successfully created powerful Division I athletic programs while preserving academic integrity, these colleges are among the few offering both.

Marisa Shackelford, a former star basketball player at Bishop Kearney and the former Cardinal Mooney high schools, recalled her decision-making process when she was being recruited by several Division I colleges.

"It seemed like the bigger schools that had more of a chance to go to the Final Four were saying basketball this and that, this and that," said Shackelford, now a junior at the University of Delaware. She plays on a full Division I scholarship and also maintains a 3.0 grade-point average as a dietetics major.

"If you're picking a college solely on basketball, that's scary," added Shackelford.

## Obituary

### Jean H. Cardinali, 60, teacher, sociologist, promoted social ministry, interracial efforts

ROCHESTER — Jean H. Cardinali, a longtime college professor who served on the board of several Catholic organizations in Rochester, died of cancer at her home on Monday, Aug. 31, 1992. She was 60.

Born April 26, 1932, in Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Cardinali graduated from Mt. Aloysius Junior College in Cresson, Pa., and Elmira College for Women before earning her master's degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

She came to Rochester in 1957 to join the faculty of Nazareth College. In addition to teaching at Rochester Institute of Technology, Mrs. Cardinali spent the past 21 years as professor of psychology and sociology at Monroe Community College.

After moving to Rochester, Mrs. Cardinali met her husband, Dante. They were married April 20, 1963, at Corpus Christi Church, 864 Main St. E.

Before and after moving to Rochester, Mrs. Cardinali was very active in social ministry and with promoting interracial relations. She spent several years with Friendship House, a Catholic lay group, in Washington, D.C.; Charlottesville, N.C.; Harlem and Chicago. In addition, she was a member of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York City.

While in Rochester, Mrs. Cardinali worked at Genesee Settlement House

for three years. In addition to serving as one of the original board members of the Catholic Interracial Council of Rochester, she was president of the diocesan Campaign for Human Development for several years.

Mrs. Cardinali also spent three years as a member of the National Campaign for Human Development, serving as the chairperson for New York and New England during her second year and as vice president during her third year.

She also served on boards at Catholic Family Center, McQuaid Jesuit High School, the House of Mercy, and as a member of the parish council at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Cardinali is survived by four sons, Christopher, Gregory (and his wife Susan), Daniel and John; as well as two grandchildren, Kristan and Thomas.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Cardinali was celebrated on Friday, Sept. 4, 1992, at St. John the Evangelist Church. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in memory of Mrs. Cardinali be made to Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pa., or to the House of Mercy, 102 Central Park, Rochester, N.Y. 14605.

### Protesters seek help for Haitians

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ing the Corning effort, most people acknowledged that they were not aware of what was happening in Haiti or to the refugees, Carney noted. He attributed that lack of awareness to the media's attention on other issues in recent months.

Carney also suggested that some people are afraid of the Haitians.

"People are afraid of the refugees out of ignorance as well as probably fear that the AIDS virus is carried by Haitians, they speak a different language, and they're a different color," Carney said.

Shea Joyner not only signed the petition when she stopped at the Centerway Square for lunch, but she took several petitions and informational flyers to circulate among friends.

Joyner pointed out that she had discussed the situation facing the Haitians with her friends, but knew very little other than what was reported in various newspapers.

"We're ashamed of ourselves that we have not made more of an effort to learn and to do something," Joyner said.

As for the U.S. policy toward Haitians, Joyner again acknowledged that she wanted to learn more. She added, however, that her contact with West Indian immigrants led her to believe that black immigrants have a difficult time in gaining entry to the United States.

"I think the U.S. policy on immigration is blatantly racist," Joyner concluded.