

# Paid to Play?

Students debate if student athletes should be paid to compete at the collegiate level

By Michal Ruprecht & Emily Widgren  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE & STAFF REPORTER

Senior Mario Lorelli is getting his brackets ready for the National Collegiate Athletic Association March Madness Competition. However, Lorelli, who will be playing Division III lacrosse at Wittenberg University, said there is a big issue usually overlooked by many fans.

"March Madness is a huge amount of money for the NCAA, and the players who are putting on the show get nothing of it," Lorelli said. "They're the ones with the talent and are putting on the show, and the NCAA who's bringing in all the money should at least share part of it with the athletes."

However, Lorelli said Division I athletes should be the only ones paid because they have more demanding schedules compared to Division III athletes like himself.

Senior Rachel Malinowski will be playing Division II volleyball for Southeastern Community College in Idaho next year and said athletes should be supported in their education.

"Honestly, they should help them with their books and tuition and stuff if they're not getting a full ride or whatnot," Malinowski said. "It should be something earned, like if you are all-state that year, you should get paid towards your tuition and your books and stuff like that, so they're not spending it."

Cross country and track coach Lauren Nixon disagrees. According to Nixon, many players already have partial or full scholarships to attend a college or university, so they shouldn't be paid. She added that payment could cause players to lose passion.

"I feel that college athletes now, who aren't paid, push themselves to become better with hopes of going to the National Basketball Association, National Football League, etc.," Nixon said via email. "It

creates more passionate players because they are playing for the love of the game."

Although there is a push to pay college athletes by many, Lorelli, Nixon and Malinowski said that if paid, some college students may be irresponsible with money.

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their mom and dad will give them more money."

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, the Federal Bureau of Investigation uncovered specific amounts of money paid to individuals by the NCAA, according to Yahoo Sports. Nixon also said that new issues like how much money each player receives may arise because of the report

reported that some people attribute the debate to a discussion of race. Blacks make up the majority of college athletes in the Division I men's and women's basketball and the Division I upper Football Bowl Subdivision level, which are the highest revenue-generating sports. The article also said that 52 percent of black fans believe college athletes should be paid, while only 27 percent of whites agree. Lorelli, Nixon and Malinowski don't think it's an issue of race.

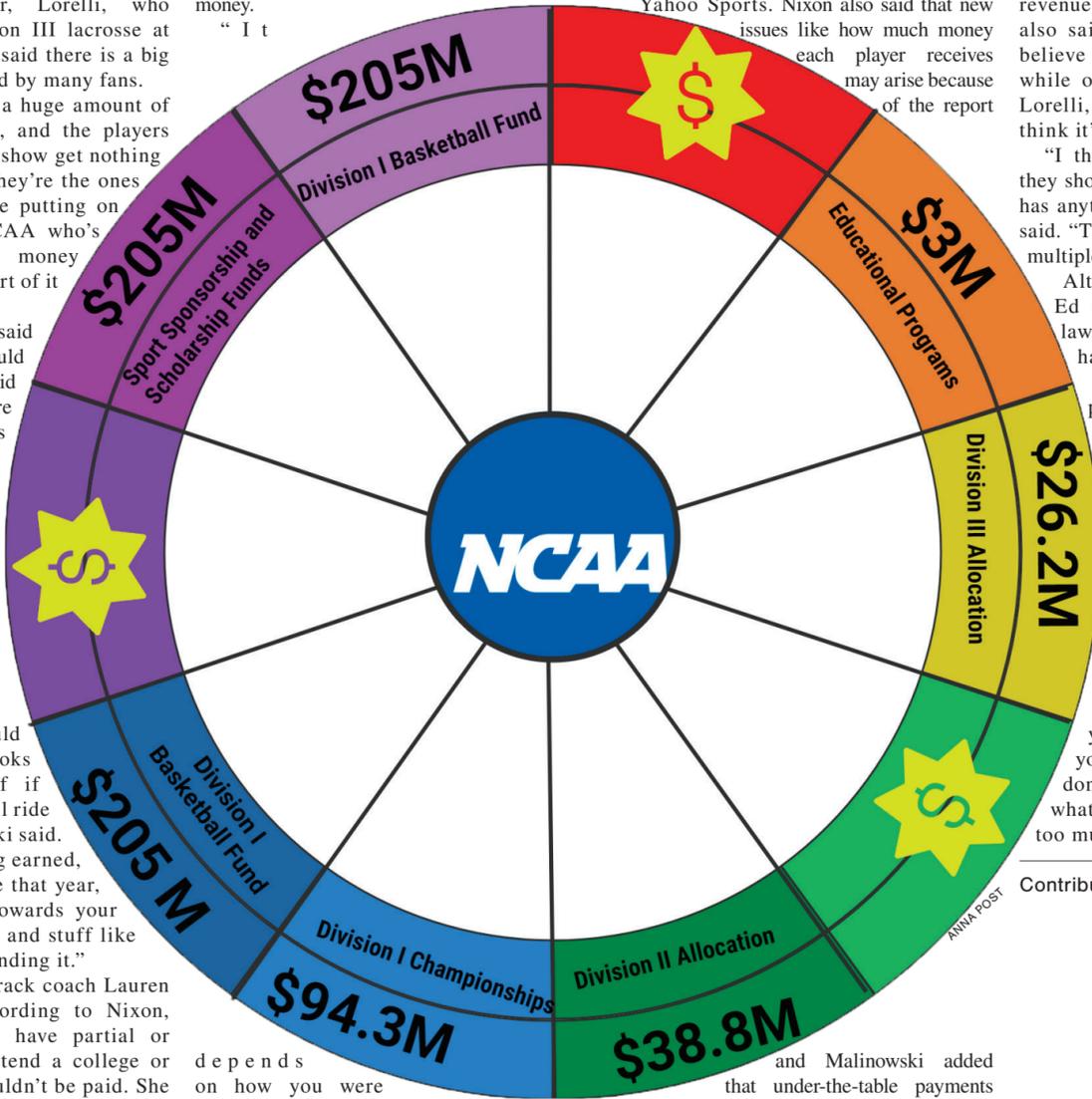
"I think it's an argument of whether they should be paid or not. I don't think it has anything to do with the race," Lorelli said. "There are plenty of sports that have multiple races that are the top player."

Although former basketball player Ed O'Bannon and others have won lawsuits against the NCAA, the rules haven't changed.

Malinowski said that though payment should be limited, if rules change, money may damage some players' passions in the long run.

"When you start throwing money into the game, the fact a lot of people will do it for the money instead of the love of the game," she said. "I honestly really don't think about it too much. I mean, it's not that big of a deal. I mean, it's college. If you truly love the sport, you'll do it no matter what—if you're paid or not. And honestly, I don't care if I'm not getting paid or whatever because I just love the sport too much."

Contributing: Cordy Wettstein



depends on how you were raised. My parents are very, 'you need to do this yourself,' so I just start budgeting earlier with my money," Malinowski said. "But with kids who are just given the money by their parents (and) when they get paid, they just spend it on whatever they want because

and Malinowski added that under-the-table payments may continue. "I feel like even if you get paid, you're still gonna want more, so there will still be more money if they sponsor different brands," Malinowski said. "I think it will always be a problem." The Huffington Post article also

## UPCOMING GAMES

### GIRLS VARIETY BASKETBALL

MHSAA district game Wednesday, Feb. 28 at home at 7 p.m

### WRESTLING

Individual states on Thursday, March 1 at 9 a.m.

### GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY

Home game against South High School on Thursday, March 1 at 4 p.m.

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Away game against South High School on Thursday, March 1 at 7 p.m. at South

### BOYS VARSITY SWIM

MHSAA finals on Friday, March 9

### BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

MHSAA regionals on Saturday, March 3 at 12 p.m. at Liggett High School

### GYMNASTICS

MHSAA regionals on Saturday, March 3

### TRACK

Boys conditioning on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Girls conditioning on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

## Road rally scavenger hunt serves as team bonding for winter athletes



**MEET THE FLINSTONES** | Senior Josie Ciaravino poses with her teammates on the girls basketball team. Athletic secretary Teresa Bennett said that team bonding and having fun inspired the road rallies, which have become a tradition for athletes. "So then we saw how much fun they had doing it and we were like 'You know what? This would probably be a fun thing - like a team bonding thing for your team,'" she said. "That's kinda when I took over and started doing it and this is actually gonna be our 30th year of doing it."



**PLAYING DRESS UP** | Sophomore Christina Braker poses next to her teammates dressed as cheerleaders. Braker also believes that the road rallies are a good way for student athletes to bond and make memories. "My favorite memory was probably when Ava drove off and left our manager, Billy behind," she said.

By Katelynn Mulder  
PAGE EDITOR

One day a year, the varsity girls basketball team can be spotted driving around Grosse Pointe in costumes and hunting for clues to solve their annual road rally scavenger hunt. Now on its 30th year, senior Josie Ciaravino said that she has participated in three different road rallies, and that each one has been a lot of fun for her.

"We do a road rally and we make teams, it's pretty fun we get to drive around all of Grosse Pointe and we have to solve puzzles. It's really meticulous, like you have to do everything the right way," Ciaravino said.

Athletic secretary Teresa Bennett said that she and her husband, coach Gary Bennett, had been doing road rallies for fun for years before introducing the team to it. She said one year they invited two girls who had once been on their basketball team to join them in a rally. After seeing how much fun they had, the couple decided to introduce road rallies to the basketball team.

"They are like puzzles... there's usually three or four girls to a car. We always start at the school. I always have

10 clues for each car," Bennett said. "Each car decides how they're gonna dress up, it's like a theme. We've had girls that went to Star of the Sea or St. Joan, so they dress up in their plaid skirts. We've had cheerleaders, we've had them dress up as the coaches. I think one time they all dressed up as Mr. Bennett where they dressed up in corduroy pants and plaid shirts."

Sophomore Christina Braker participated in the road rally for her second time this year. She said that the challenges that the road rallies present to the team helps the girls bond. "The road rallies are a fun team bonding activity in which we drive around all over Grosse Pointe," Braker said. "We are solving puzzles in order to find our final destination which is a restaurant. It's a fun and exciting game."

Bennett said she has made the clues for each of the road rallies. She said that she gets inspiration for her clues from a variety of sources including past road rallies and puzzle books.

"I think I pulled the back of Dunkaroos, it was a cookie, and on the back of the box, it just happened to be a basketball hoop,"

Bennett said. "I'm like 'I can use that,' cut out the back of the thing and it said start at the top and you work your way through the maze and where you came out at is where you would go to the next destination. So that would be a type of a clue."

At each destination, the girls find a clue that will bring them one step closer to the next. The final clue brings them to a restaurant where they have a team dinner. The first team to arrive at the destination wins bragging rights for the season.

One of Ciaravino's favorite parts of the activity is being surprised by the costumes that each team comes up with.

"Each team gets to pick a costume and they hide it from each other until the day of it. So they walk in and everyone is in these funny costumes and so they get to pick it all themselves," Ciaravino said. "And we get to drive around Grosse Pointe all day with each other and in the end we go out to eat. It's really fun, it's like a fun day of bonding."

Contributing: Arzoo Chhaya