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## Student-athletes: oxymoron?

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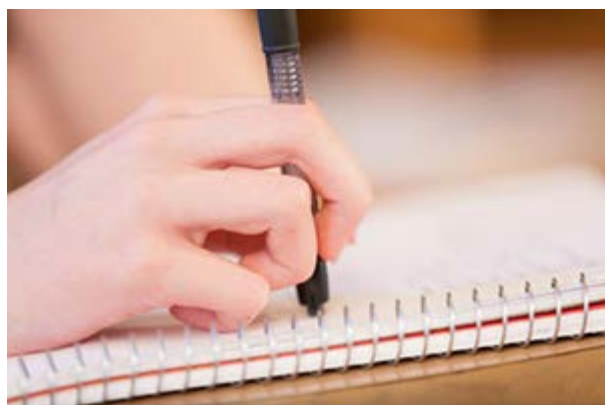
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## Quad 136

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### Student-Athletes: Oxymoron?



The **latest news** came from Notre Dame. “NCAA: Notre Dame must vacate wins after academic misconduct.”

According to the NCAA, the trainer was employed by the athletics department from fall 2009 through the spring of 2013 and “partially or wholly completed numerous academic assignments for football student-

athletes in numerous courses” from 2011 into 2013. It said she did substantial coursework for two players and gave impermissible help to six others in 18 courses over two academic years. The NCAA said the woman “continued to provide impermissible academic benefits to football student-athletes for a full year after she graduated.”

But the news was only surprising because of the academic excellence of Notre Dame.

A few days later it was Cal State Northridge’s **basketball program**.

A story from *Inside Higher Education* this summer argued that there was an “epidemic” of academic fraud, with 15 Division I programs being punished in the last decade, including well-known institutions like Syracuse, the University of North Carolina and Southern Methodist University.

As Ohio University professor of sport administration, David Ridpath, put it:

*It's an epidemic and a problem that will continue until faculty take control of their campuses. This can be changed, but we simply have to want to do it. This will not stop until we define what we are: professional sports being played in the higher ed space or a co-curricular activity played by students?*

It can be enough to put one off Division I sports.

Fortunately at the Division III level the picture is very different. Sports are part of a holistic education that combines learning inside and outside the classroom. In D3 there are no scholarships and no big money to be made through television contracts. Students truly do play “for love of the game” and athletes must perform (on their own) in the classroom or lose their eligibility.

Saint John's University has a long tradition of recruiting smart athletes who take their academics as seriously as their athletics. John Gagliardi's 60 years of football graduates and Jim Smith's 50 years of basketball graduates are filled with doctors, lawyers, CFO's, college professors, CEOs and PhDs. And the same is true among all other sports. A coach recently told me about getting his own healthcare from one of his former athletes.

I was reminded of this long tradition when the **2016 Academic All-Americans** were recently announced for football. There were 24 First-Team Academic All-Americans in football across the country this fall (they are listed below). Three of them are from Saint John's. The only school to match that number was Carnegie Mellon University, the #24 *US News* ranked research university in the country, which happens to also play D3 sports. Pretty good company.



Carter Hanson

Lucas Glomb

Jack Pietruszewski

On the second team of Academic All-Americans, there were two University of St. Thomas players, but that was it among the MIAC schools, one of the best athletic and academic conferences in the country.

Congratulations to Carter Hanson (also the only D3 Campbell Award finalist and the winner of this year's

**Gagliardi Trophy** which recognizes excellence in athletics, academics and community service),

Lucas Glomb and Jack Pietruszewski. We are proud to call you Johnnies. Many thanks to you and our coaches for reminding us that college athletics can be about true student-athletes playing a sport at a high level for love and not for money – a thought to bring a little cheer to the holiday season.

#### ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS: FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
QB	Gavin Glenn	Coe	Sr.	Adel, Iowa	3.81	Public accounting
WR	Brendan Lynch	Case Western	Sr.	Sarver, Pa.	3.45	Chemical engineering
WR	Soren Pelz-Walsh	Castleton	Sr.	Dummerston, Vt.	3.99	Physical education
TE	Travis Lankerd	Olivet	Sr.	Battle Creek, Mich.	3.95	Insurance & risk mgt.
RB	Sam Benger	Carnegie Mell.	Jr.	Hingham, Mass.	3.65	Business admin.
RB	Duke DeGaetano	Whitworth	Sr.	Bend, Ore.	3.82	Psychology
OL	Cordell Boggs	Gettysburg	Sr.	Taneytown, Md.	3.74	Biochemistry
OL	A. DiFranco	Albion	Sr.	Warren, Mich.	3.86	Accounting
OL	W. Tyler Reid	Carnegie Mell.	Sr.	Lees Summit, Mo.	3.70	Electrical engineering
OL	Kyle Stucker	Wabash	Sr.	Franklin, Ind.	3.82	Rhetoric
OL	Elliot Tobin	MIT	Sr.	Minnetonka, Minn.	3.92	Economics
K	Alex Potocko	Salisbury	Jr.	Clarksville, Md.	4.00	Physics / mathematics
DL	Tim Bahr	Concordia- Chic.	Sr.	Hartland, Wis.	4.00	Secondary ed / math
DL	Michael Daniels	Augustana (IL)	Sr.	Geneseo, Ill.	3.99	Accounting & finance
DL	Brian Khoury	Carnegie Mell.	Sr.	Davenport, Iowa	3.49	Electrical engineering
<b>DL</b>	<b>Jack Pietruszewski</b>	<b>Saint John's</b>	<b>Sr.</b>	<b>South St. Paul, Minn.</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>Environmental studies</b>
LB	Jack Campbell	Johns Hopkins	Sr.	Chagrin Falls, Ohio	3.88	Biology
<b>LB</b>	<b>Carter Hanson</b>	<b>Saint John's</b>	<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Blue Earth, Minn.</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>Global business</b>

LB	Andy Warsen	Elmhurst	Sr. Wyoming, Mich.	4.00	Finance
DB	Conlan Aguirre	Hardin-Simm.	Sr. Abilene, Texas	3.89	Math education
DB	Corey Hunsberger	Marietta	Sr. Washington, Pa.	4.00	Petroleum engineering
<b>DB</b>	<b>Lucas Glomb</b>	<b>Saint John's</b>	<b>Sr. Woodbury, Minn.</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>Biology (pre-PT)</b>
DB	Jack Toner	Johns Hopkins	Sr. Western Springs, Ill.	3.78	Economics
P	Ryan Anderson	Olivet	Sr. DeWitt, Mich.	4.00	Business admin.

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Michael Hemesath is the 13th president of Saint John's University. A 1981 SJU graduate, Hemesath is the first layperson appointed to a full presidential term at SJU. You can find him on Twitter [at] [PrezHemesath](#).