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**17) Discussion among Knight Commission members and panelists
regarding recruiting**

DR. TURNER: Okay. And thank all of you presenters for your comments. And now I'd like to introduce the panel from the Knight Commission, have each of them if they would as we go down and then back around, introduce themselves and then we'll begin to take their questions.

JANET HILL: I'm Janet Hill and I am not an athlete but I am the wife of Calvin Hill and my little blurb didn't say that I also have a son who is in the NBA, Grant Hill.

MICHAEL ADAMS: I'm Mike Adams and I'm president of the University of Georgia and I may have more to say about that later.

LEN ELMORE: You would, Mike, I knew you would. My name is Len Elmore. I'm an attorney in New York City. I'm also a basketball analyst for ESPN. I played a little bit of basketball in this area as well.

JERRY PORRAS: I'm Jerry Porras. I'm an emeritus professor from Stanford University and I was the ex-faculty representative there for thirteen years.

ANDREA FISCHER NEWMAN: I'm Andrea Fischer Newman. I'm the chairwoman of the Board of Regents at the University of Michigan.

MR. IBARGUEN: I'm Alberto Ibarguen. I'm president of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and an ex-officio member of this Commission.

VAL ACKERMAN: I'm Val Ackerman. I was up until last year the president of the Women's National Basketball Association. I'm currently the president of USA Basketball.

DR. TURNER: So Janet, if you would start us off.

MS. HILL: Yes, I have a comment for the parents here. Congratulations first of all for being parents. And let me urge you and your mother also, if you would give her the message, Ruth, that you don't forsake your role as parents because your kids are going to still need advice.

I'm thinking of some advice to give my son in a few minutes and he's thirty-three. I've been writing notes down. Not to ever exchange your position as parents for money because there's a temptation to do that and I see some disastrous results amongst fellow parents in the NBA.

And keep your day job whatever it is, don't quit it because your children are in professional sports because it'll keep you in a position to have perspective when you want to exert again your responsibilities as a parent.

On this AAU business, and my son benefitted from his time with AAU, as I think you, Scottie, have said you've done and some players, Joe, that you have had, have also. But is not this something that could be controlled by simply saying that, if the NCAA were to do this, that no player could be recruited to an NCAA-sanctioned school that had played AAU? It would disappear then, there would be no—am I right or am I wrong? I don't know. I'll start with Joe, maybe you can --

MR. WOOTTEN: I mean, yeah, I would think that I would be very surprised.

MS. HILL: They'd put them out of business, in other words.

MR. WOOTTEN: I'm sorry?

MS. HILL: Put them out of business in other words.

MR. WOOTTEN: Yeah, I mean, and I would say this, I mean, you know, I don't think AAU is one hundred percent bad so I don't want to...

MS. HILL: No.

MR. WOOTTEN:...propose that. But I think if you took a drastic stand, maybe something simpler, that not if you played AAU but if the NCAA would not allow their coaches to evaluate during the summer period, I think you would find all of a sudden that could change as well. I think AAU does have good roots to it. It's obviously been around for a long time.

I think more importantly, Ms. Hill, is the fact that it's gone from, there's so much corporate money that goes into it from different areas, from the shoe companies and what happens is, is those shoe companies, and I just remember seeing this, obviously I don't have knowledge of each but when Matt Dougherty was let go at North Carolina it talked about his overall compensation, well \$500,000 of his annual compensation came from Nike. Well, so what's going to happen right now is the NCAA, can they bite the hand that feeds them? If it pays their coaches and then it's also running the AAU circuit in the summer?

MS. HILL: But it's still going to pay the coaches at the college level. If you got rid of AAU today, what would happen? I realize coaches would have to work a little harder because now they have to travel around to every school instead of seeing individuals at one location. What else would happen?

MR. WOOTTEN: I know one of the big arguments from the NCAA when this has come up before has been the fact that they want the smaller schools to be able to compete with the larger schools.

So, for example, I was an assistant coach when I first got out of college at Furman University. Our budget was, paled in comparison to let's say the University of Maryland, obviously an ACC school.

So we couldn't afford on our budget to fly around the country and see players at their individual high school. But the reality is, is Furman University is not beating Maryland University still to this day.

And no offense to either school but the reality is, is the bigger schools are still going to have the bigger budgets and regardless of what you do they're going to be, they're going to win the top recruits because of the exposure of that conference.

So to me, you know, the argument, well, we're helping the smaller schools, it goes back to one thing, it goes back to money. When you look at it is money is the driving force rather than education. And education should be the driving force. And I think what ends up happening, and I know Pete's comments there, what we ended up seeing was that these kids are forced to specialize.

And these kids also for example, the NCAA two years ago did not sanction the local summer league in Washington, D.C. where they were coached by their high school coaches yet all these different AAU events are sanctioned. Well, because the guy who ran the league, he was just a high school coach that didn't know any better. And so again, the only difference is if it's an NCAA sanctioned event, they send the kids for one half an hour period to watch an NCAA film on, to do well in school.

So I think the challenge is, is that they talked about how the summer leagues were where people were is, you know, it wasn't sanctioned here two years ago and I think that was a shame. But I think that's a great suggestion. It's a bold suggestion but I don't, I would be doubtful because of the money influence that it would actual happen.

DR. TURNER: Any other, next question? Whatever you'd like, Len?

MR. ELMORE: Let me begin with a couple of observations. First of all I think that in the grand scheme of all this we've got to remember that AAU is a body unto itself, it's a organization that sanctions a lot of groups. I think it does them a disservice to label all of the bad apples as AAU teams. Many of them aren't even associated with AAU and I would dare say that most of the really poor ones aren't associated with the AAU because they have rules.

And one of the reasons I know this is because it was discussed, it was discussed at the so-called Nike Summit and, Dan, I know you've written a couple of opinion pieces about that, but in the end, you know, when we're looking for ways to improve this situation, and let me agree that coaches, boosters, shoe companies, agents, the NBA, the NCAA, they're all, you know, complicit in some of the problems, whether intentionally or from lack of attention.

But in the end I think it does us no good to, you know, essentially be so accusatory, and particularly using older, you know, violations and making, you know, pretty stark statements without looking at balance. And let me say that, you know, we're talking about violations and, Dan, you mentioned that, you know, there haven't any real, there hasn't been any real attention towards enforcement, that the cheaters are making the rules but then you talk about the number of violations that have occurred. Somebody's catching them. So it's incongruent.

The fact is, you know, we have to consider again, academic reform, we have to talk about enforcement issues. There seems to be a push towards that as we continue to put this out in the public, in the public view. And I've always said, you know, that's the best antiseptic is sunlight. But in the end I think, you know, as an individual who has been a college basketball player, I've been a pro basketball player, I am an analyst for ESPN and I'm nobody's apologist.

You know, I have criticized the NCAA, shoe companies, I've criticized the NBA and even the hand that feeds me, ESPN, on a number of occasions, but I've also been involved in high level meetings that these issues have been discussed. And again, I'll go back, Dan, to your situation when you wrote this article, No Shoestrings Attached, which I thought was wholly unfair. You can attack Nike all you want but I was there. So was David Stern, so was Myles Brand. That could have been the first,

and it probably was the first instance where the NBA and the NCAA actually had a dialog. That was something positive that came out of it.

Every issue that Peter Roby brought up with regard to coaching certification, with regard to NCAA sanctioning, summer evaluations and all this, these things were discussed. There are moves in place right now to look at sanctioning all travel team coaches. If you're not going to be sanctioned, you can't compete. I mean that's the beginning because we have a lot of people who aren't capable and who are unsavory that are involved here.

But these things never happen unless these meetings occur. And again I'm not here to bow at the throne of Phil Knight but in the end Nike did something that was positive. And I think to criticize the summit without being there, and the last I checked you weren't invited, without being there and prior to the meeting I think does the whole issue a disservice.

The whole thing is about balanced reporting. Yes, we have to demonstrate the problems but we also have to take a look at potential solutions. And I think some of your writings, and I don't know, maybe they're designed to sell books, but some of your writings are about as balanced as FOX News.

So in the end, you know, my point essentially comes down to the fact that we do have some problems out here. And I think that where we look at the AAU phenomenon or the traveling team phenomenon, I think it comes down to us digging deeper, starting to look at a grassroots level and starting to certify coaches, starting to bring high school coaches back to the level of influence that they were when I played college basketball, I mean high school basketball in the late '60s. I think again, as Mrs. Hill mentioned, parents and caregivers have to be placed at the forefront and they can't be dissuaded by the offers of money and other things of value.

One of the reasons, I was a sports agent for five years, I thought that the reason that I'd get involved was because I could help guys. I read about the horror stories, I played with guys who went from riches, from rags to riches back to rags. And I thought that the influence that we could have with self-reliance community responsibility would resonate. And the reason I got out is because I couldn't compete with the money that was flowing with the unsavoriness, not only of sports agents, but also with the people who were essentially in charge of the care of these young people.

And I wasn't about to stoop to conquer so I was no longer in that business and I know that it continues today. But we've got to continue to air the problems. That's why I think that it's so important the young, the student-athletes, those who have experienced most recently, Ruth and others, continue to speak about your experiences. To make sure that people can hear what's going on because for so long it's been under a rock.

But we also need to talk about the things like academic reform that ultimately will help young people not only have expectations of themselves and understand that there are expectations for them, but also it's going to allow them to meet those expectations.

It's going to keep people in school, it's going to have people recognize that there's more to this experience of sports than just playing on the next level. So if you're going to do anything I urge you to continue to get to programs such as these and let people know what's going on.

RICK REYNOLDS: Let me comment about what it's like as a parent with a child that is faced with the AAU travel challenge and the high school coach. Pam and I decided that Coach Hall, our high school coach would be the interface with the

college recruiting process. We had, Scott played for Boo Williams out of the Tidewater area for two summers.

When a coach expressed interest in Scott to Boo Williams, the deal that we had with him, the agreement was that he would pass them and the information to Coach Hall. So Coach Hall really took—and we think a lot of him. He helped Scott and us make the right decision for where Scott should play. He was Scott's high school coach and he's our friend for four years.

And it goes back to what Coach Wootten says, if something's happened it's because either parents or—something's happened where part of this is turned over to the AAU coach. And I would tell you, sir, they're not all like has been characterized of—I'll use some names, Boo Williams, Coach John Maestranzi of Chicago, the AAU coach for Dee Brown. They are concerned about the players as individuals, not the seedy side of things. Now, I agree that there are other—we had to tell one AAU coach, I had to tell him to stop representing yourself as Scott's coach. That wasn't Boo Williams or these others I've mentioned. So you have these guys that try to insert themselves to be the interface to whoever, and that's what ought to be stopped. If there's a way to stop something, legislation or otherwise, if you could stop that then you would see that the high school coach would have their rightful place I believe.

MR. ELMORE: Well, do you believe if they certified these coaches, I mean really put them through some kind of rigor, that it's going to determine that, one, they know what the heck they're doing on the basketball court, but also that they have the capabilities maybe along the lines of, from a guidance standpoint.

I know Boo Williams, I've known Boo Williams for a long time. He would be the prototype of someone like that. Do you think that that might help that if you're not certified you can't run one of those teams? And if you do have one of those teams you're not going to play in any tournaments, so what's the use of running them?

MR. REYNOLDS: Right, and we heard—that would be good and also some kind of check on maybe just a financial check on their kind of background. We heard that if such and such an AAU coach could get Scott on his team he would get x, y, z, shoe sponsorship.

And so this is not talking about college, we're talking about what a given can get a kid to get on their team. This recruiting—our experience with the colleges has been fine through the last four years.

The seedy, that part comes from dealing with these other kinds of AAU recruiting.

DR. TURNER: Mr. Rolle, would you want to add anything to that?

MR. ROLLE: One thing that I see --

DR. TURNER: I should have said which Mr. Rolle. I was really asking your Dad, but that's fine. You can comment and then we'll let him comment. Go ahead.

WHITNEY ROLLE: In the next couple of years I'm sure he'll speak for me. Well, a little bit about the AAU because Myron also played basketball and he participated quite a bit. And we had to reach a point where we had to make a decision whether he was going to play basketball because I think that summer he would have played something like seventy games.

And I mean they were going all over the country and to be frank with you, I think somebody said it, I'm not about to abrogate my position as a parent, you know, not today, not tomorrow. And he decided, you know, he's going to play his football, he's

going to do the things—he could play basketball but just at a school rather than the AAU because also we saw some things there.

But I can tell you I've seen some people who I don't think should be involved in basketball because I think they direct the kids just as was said around here, to either a particular high school or they try to direct them to a particular college.

But as far as Myron's recruitment for football is concerned, I mean, I think one of the things we did, and we made it very clear to most people, is that, you know, we're straightlaced, we, in fact what we did, I sat down with him and we came up with something like about eighty I think different criteria.

We just listed these things and we listed them and then we'd go to the schools, we'd go through all of those items. When we'd come back from the meetings we'd sit around the table, everybody who went to the visit, had their input and, you know, we made some decisions. You know, and we didn't make final decisions but you could almost eliminate certain people at a particular time. But as far as the AAU is concerned I really too much to offer in that except what I've said.

DR. TURNER: Young Mr. Rolle, do you want to add anything to that now?

MYRON ROLLE: You know, my father is exactly right as far as the basketball's concerned. The amount of, the amount of time that's consumed with basketball is just ridiculous. I have some friends that play AAU basketball and the amount of time they devote to practicing, to games, to travel is almost unreal and it's completely different than football.

I mean, football you go to, like I said, you go to a combine, you go to a camp, you may visit a school but it doesn't dominate your summer, it doesn't dominate your time, you still get to be a kid in the end, you still get to enjoy, you know, your summer with your senior friends or, you know, your friends from back home.

And I think that's really important. I think that's something that goes lost within this recruiting process a lot. You know, there's so much emphasis put on being such a good football or being a good basketball or, you know, getting this kind of deal or getting on this magazine or this kind of ranking. You sometimes forget that, you know, you just want to go to the movies or go someplace where I can just relax and have fun.

And I think that, that just, you know, for me and my parents, you know, they were able to control that situation for me and I was able to be a normal kid and not just be surrounded by, you know, just negative influences and things that took away from just enjoying myself.

DR. TURNER: Thank you.

MR. WETZEL: Can I just say one thing to Mr. Elmore. I would have loved to be in that Nike summit. They didn't let any reporters go.

MR. ELMORE: Actually there were a couple, but...

MR. WETZEL: Well, they wouldn't let, they wouldn't let any I knew.

MR. ELMORE: They weren't going to let you, you know that.

MR. WETZEL: My point is that the reason I write about it is because very few people do and I've seen, in ten years, hundreds, at least a hundred kids get chewed up in this thing and get their whole deal messed up because of bad advice. I've seen shoe executives introduce players to sports agents. Then it gets discovered that they

know a sports agent and they lose their college eligibility and the rest of the system moves on. And if I'm too hard on Phil Knight, I'm too hard on Phil Knight.

MR. ELMORE: No, that's not what I'm saying. What I was saying was that I was invited to that, there were a number of people, I mentioned Boo Williams, there were people from USA Basketball...

MR. WETZEL: They were terrific people.

MR. ELMORE:...and others. Nobody connected with Nike but they're all stakeholders in the game. And, you know, reading this and this was prior to the meeting, it just makes it seem like we went there for nothing, that we were puppets. And in effect we did have meaningful input.

And in effect there have been some things that have come out of it, including ideas for the certification of summer coaches as well as NCAA potentially sanctioning only their kind of youth basketball programs in the summertime. These are important things. And this came out of a Nike summit.

Now I agree with you, I have criticized Nike in the past and I've got good friends there, at least I used to have good friends there.

DR. TURNER: Let's leave the Nike tournament for a minute, okay?

DR. ADAMS: Yeah, I want to take a couple of minutes to be defensive and then try and get this back on the kids, which is where I think it needs to be.

Mr. Wetzel is certainly welcome to his opinion and frankly, Dan, I agree probably as much as anybody here with a good bit of what you've written. I do think it's fair, as Len said, to be careful about how broad a brush you paint with sometimes. I'm not going to try and talk about the last twenty-five years but I've got the scars to show for changing some of the people that we've changed. We have had in my ten year period there, one unfortunate event.

But when you've got 10,000 employees and an immediate community of 50,000, you're going to have some of that. I frankly think the fact that somebody like Gerald Turner from SMU, which has had problems in the past or Mary Sue Coleman at Michigan, have gone to the NCAA board as I have and are the ones in there pitching, I frankly think that's a plus rather than a minus.

I think there are a number of institutional presidents today who are making those kind of efforts having seen the need for some change that some of us have seen on campuses. And I guess for the record the fact that we've had more NCAA Top athletes the last ten years than any other institution in the country, more Academic Women of the Year than any other institution in the country, and we're top in Academic All Americans would indicate that some things have been done correctly.

I guess I would also say Mark Richt and Dennis Felton and AD Damon Evans, all of whom I hired, I don't think any of them are perfect but I think their ethical base and the promise for the future is pretty strong. I also appreciate what Mr. Roby said.

I don't believe there's any conference in the country, and for full disclosure I'm currently chairman of the SEC as well, taking more seriously the need for reform right now than the SEC is under Mike Slive's leadership. I saw Greg Sankey here earlier today.

So we can either curse the darkness or we can get involved and try and make improvements and I think that's what most of us need to be doing and I think it's what many of us are doing.

I do want to pose one particular question to these three young people. I've been intrigued by their testimony today. It's not different from that which I hear from others that we recruit throughout the year.

But having been through this process, two of you very recently and one not frankly too long ago, if you were going to make suggestions to us on what changes in the process you think need to be made, I'd be interested in, from a recruiting standpoint, how you would like to see things changed?

DR. TURNER: Myron, why don't we start with you?

MR. ROLLE: Okay, I have two suggestions really and the first, you know, being a football athlete, as I mentioned before the website is rivals.com and scout.com, the amount of access they have to the student-athlete just is amazing. I mean they can call you on your cell phone seven times a night and sometimes it's from the same site, you know, the same people and you're just like, man, didn't I just give you an interview like two seconds ago? Like, why are you calling me again? And that can get overwhelming and that can be frustrating at times.

The writers for these sites are sometimes not real journalists. I mean you give them a comment or a quote and they may construe it in a way that makes you look favorably at, you know, a certain school, something that you didn't want to get out there, you know. Or maybe just start a rumor that gets around recruiting circles and could, in the end, hurt you somehow. And I think that's, you know, that's very unfortunate. And these recruiting sites can call without the permission of the parents. I mean they can call you directly, a 16-, 17-year-old kid, eighteen year old kid and just talk to you and get your information and put it out there on the World Wide Web, on the internet and I think that could be dangerous, you know, so many times.

I also think that regulating the fact that you have recruiting analysts and recruiting gurus and regulating what they can do and how they can interact with the student-athletes is something very important.

For instance I have had a personal experience with one gentleman by the name of Tom Lemming. He's, you know, a very prominent figure in the recruiting circles and Mr. Lemming had ranked me the number one high school overall prospect in the country beginning in my senior year and he had told me that, you know, Myron, you're considering Florida State and Oklahoma and you have a 4.0 GPA, you're 1340 in your boards, you're very smart, you know, why won't you consider a school like Stanford or Princeton or Notre Dame that has a good combination of both.

And I just thought, to me, that stepped out of the boundaries of like being an analyst and reporting on, oh, what school I visited, not telling me what school I should go to or what school I should think about. That's his job and her job, you know, or my high school coach's job or my close friends, not somebody who I really don't know or not somebody who writes about, you know, certain things.

They step out of that boundary. For instance, he told me that if I had kept, you know, a certain school on my list that, you know, the U.S. Army All American Game, which is played on NBC, that I'd be featured in that game, that I would win MVP if I had an average game, not, I mean, before the game started I'd win MVP, I knew that.

And I said, well, you know, I want to do it the way I want to do it, I want to have the role that's involved in this, not the role and Tom Lemming, you know, this is going to be my process and I'm going to take control of it.

So I think, and ultimately if the NCAA or the Knight Foundation can somehow control the amount of access that the recruiting websites have, rivals.com, scouts.com to the athletes, because they limit how much times college coaches can

call. You know, they have the dead periods. You know, these guys should too because in a way, I mean they're sort of connected with the universities. And also regulate the amount of access that these recruiting analysts and so called gurus have to the athletes as well.

DR. TURNER: Ruth.

MS. RILEY: Well, obviously I agree with what he said. Probably the only other thing that I would say is, I think as a high school student it's really hard to make that decision when you can't talk to somebody who's already been through the process.

And I understand why you wouldn't be able to talk to another athlete because that's, you're going to be swayed in their judgment to the university you've been to. But I think that any time you're trying to step out you really want to ask somebody who's been through that, the ups and downs, why you made a decision, the top things you go through.

I feel a lot of kids transfer just because they probably weren't prepared or a lot of things they didn't know and I just wonder if there's any way that there can be something available for these kids to talk to other athletes who have recently gone through that process so they can help them in a way that they're not swaying them towards a certain university.

DR. TURNER: Thank you. Scott, do you have any comments?

MR. REYNOLDS: I guess for me there's like, there's so many rules about when you can call, when you can, this is a packet of, you know, a checklist when you can do things and to, and to not, to put that on somebody that's 16, 17 years old and telling them, you know, what you can and cannot do when you're trying to make an important decision for yourself and for your future as far as, you know, how you want to get to know, you know, the coaches and what they're about.

I think if, I mean I think it's better to, if you can, I think that's separating the kids from the coaches more instead of bringing them together and making them make a better decision for, you know, what they want to do in their life. Because I mean sometimes, sometimes when you, sometimes, I know for instance a couple of players that have gone to a school that haven't, that didn't even really talk to their college coach, their head coach, but was talking to an assistant coach and ended up leaving to go to another school for a head coaching job.

And for that, I mean it's unfortunate but I mean at the same time I think there can be something that can be done with that.

DR. TURNER: Okay, thank you. All right, Andrea and then Val...

WHITNEY ROLLE: Before you leave that subject I want to add something.

DR. TURNER: All right.

WHITNEY ROLLE: I think one thing that needs to be changed is text messaging. I think coaches are abusing that. I mean I could tell you I know in Myron's process, I would even get text messages every day, not, sometimes twice a day. And I think that's one area that has been abused.

DR. TURNER: That's on the list. Okay, Andrea and then Val.

MS. NEWMAN: Yeah, I just wanted to get back to the college recruiting more I think than what we've been discussing, which is really the high school recruiting, if that's okay. And I have questions for the three students also, or the one former student, excuse me, and the two current students.

And let me, there are two different categories and I'll ask them and if you could just answer both. And the first one is whether or not you were pressured or felt pressured to make early commitments to a, to the college or university? If your friends were? Whether or not you think that's a common practice? And do you think there are benefits to making early verbal commitments? That's the first question.

And the second question is negative recruiting. Were you involved in negative recruiting? Did college coaches and what not bash other schools or promise other things or talk about negative influences and allegations about breaking NCAA rules at other institutions? And if they did, how did that impact your final decision?

DR. TURNER: Okay, those are two questions. If you could answer them pretty quickly. Scott, why don't we start with you since we've been going the other way? The first one was signing early, is that a benefit or not?

MS. NEWMAN: Not signing early, pressuring to make an early commitment?

MR. REYNOLDS: To make an early commitment, I mean...

MS. NEWMAN: Early verbal.

MR. REYNOLDS: I don't know if it's pressure but I think once you find a school that suits you, it's, I mean there's no reason to wait because you can lose out, you can lose out on that opportunity. So I think, but on the downside, not for me because I'm not, you know, that high ranked or whatever, but for others if you get, if you do commit, like I know from my friends or whatever, if you do commit you're kind of like off the board and you kind of go below the radar because they have nothing else for you.

They have nothing else to talk about. So it's kind of like you stay on the board just to, you know, keep, you keep, you know, getting interviews and stuff like that but once you're off the board you kind of, you know, go under the water and just sit there waiting for, you know, college to come around.

And also your other question I think was about schools bashing other schools or whatever. Yeah, recruiting's a game and any way you can put your, put your foot in front of the other school, that's what they're going to do. It's not about, you know, being loyal to any other school and it's your school, you know what I'm saying? You do whatever to put your school on top.

DR. TURNER: Ruth.

MS. RILEY: I would say I wanted to commit early just because the recruiting process was so taxing and once I knew the decision that I made I didn't feel as much pressure from other schools to commit early as much as once I was sure. And that takes a lot of pressure off your senior year and so it's something I wanted to do.

And I would agree with what Scottie thought about the negative recruiting. There are good and bad coaches out there and I think that for somebody like me that just reflects on the person I'm talking to, you know, and obviously that would kind of check that person off your list if that's what you're looking for.

MS. NEWMAN: So it was a negative influence, negative recruiting?

MS. RILEY: Yeah.

DR. TURNER: Myron?

MR. ROLLE: And I just echo all the comments. I mean committing early was so important for me especially. I mean I had limited my, I had my list down to six schools but I had eighty-three offers from schools, from all colleges and they still didn't stop, no matter if I put those six listed out there or not. So it was continuously coming in.

Committing on September 1st for my senior year, just like Ruth said, it relieved a lot of pressure and allowed me to focus on my senior year of school and football and not really be bothered by all of that.

And the next question, what was it?

DR. TURNER: Negative recruiting.

MR. ROLLE: Negative, negative recruiting.

I have to agree again. It definitely looks poorly on the person who was doing the negative recruiting because if you're confident in your school and what your school can do you will talk good about your school, you promote it. And you wouldn't really have to, you know, say the University of Miami is a bunch of thugs or say criminals or whatever you want to call. It's just, you will talk good about what your school has to offer and why you should come to that school, you know, the perfect fit. So just like Ruth and Scottie said, it doesn't look good on the person who is doing it.

DR. TURNER: All right, thank you. Val?

MS. ACKERMAN: Thanks, Gerald. I just have a couple of quick questions. I guess this is, and looking at the panel may be best for, may be for Peter, it's you. You know, we've talked a lot about basketball, men and women, to some degree football. Is it your sense that this is an issue in other sports? Maybe men's baseball, you know, comes to mind perhaps. Or do you think that it's really limited to the sports that have been discussed today?

MR. ROBY: Well I think the biggest transgressions are happening in those major sports because of the money that's involved in the decisions. So much of the emphasis now is on recruiting, it's not on teaching anymore.

You know, there used to be a time when you would recruit somebody because of their potential, and that you would look at them as a freshman and say by the time that they're a junior they're really going to be a terrific player and we're going to build our program that way and the pressure on those major sports just isn't that way anymore.

But I think you're starting to see the same sorts of things happening in soccer because soccer has gotten to be such a year round thing and you've got the travel teams and all that sort of stuff. The one difference with soccer at least is that the coaches have to go through a fairly rigorous certification program as they get up in under twelve, under fourteen, under sixteen, so that might be a model that you want to look at when you're thinking about the certification process.

MS. ACKERMAN: Okay, thanks. I guess this question would be for Joe as the coach on the panel. I guess, you know, like it or not, not everybody has parents like the panelists who are equipped, interested, engaged and so a lot of kids, you know,

have to go someplace else and it just seems like for better or worse, like it or not, high school coaches really, you know, probably need to have some sort of a role in terms of screening, in terms of offering counsel and so on.

I guess my question to you is, do you feel like, you know, as a coach you're equipped to do that? And if, you know, if not, could you benefit from some sort of service or resource that could better sort of equip you to equip your students against the onslaught of questions and messages and, you know, needing somebody to talk to or somebody to turn to in order to kind of cull through, you know, the eighty-three offers or the, you know, constant text messages in the middle of the night? I mean is that something you just sort of as a coach have to figure out on your own and help out or could you benefit from somebody helping you in that regard?

MR. WOOTTEN: I think it's a great question. Obviously I think you do it hopefully as when you were an assistant coach you were mentored by a head coach that went through that process so I think that's probably the biggest way.

In addition I think we can all benefit from anything along those lines. I would say from the coach's standpoint I, and again I know someone on the panel respectfully said that we were talking about high school recruiting, not college recruiting and I think that we are talking about college recruiting.

And I think that's where we're so, there's a disconnect a little bit here and respectfully I say that is because the high school, the AAU coaches are going to these events because the colleges are there.

And that is college recruiting.

And I think Scottie said that and I think Mr. Reynolds said that their bigger challenge was the AAU being the challenge, rather than actually all the colleges. I think you all regulate your colleges pretty well. I really admire you for that. I don't think colleges are out of control.

We have a player who started at North Carolina this year, we have a player at Maryland. They're not out of control for the most part at all. I think they're respectful, it's easy to work through that process.

Where I think the challenge is on that side, that's where I think more of the mentoring could come from in terms of helping people deal with that would be really important.

MS. ACKERMAN: Well, let me just say too, I can say on behalf of the sport of basketball there is, to Len's point, you know, a fair amount of discussion going on within the, within the basketball community about these sorts of issues. Who has oversight? I mean some of these areas are frankly slip-through-the-cracks kinds of areas.

You know, it's not really the colleges and it's not really the high schools and the AAUs are sort of out here, these are sort of non-education, and the traveling teams aren't covered by anybody in the educational world and so there's, you know, there's a question about who, you know, who should take that on and maybe to some degree it's done by committee or maybe it's the federation in a bigger way.

We're not sure but I agree with Len that the discussion will get us to that place. And I guess my question may be for Dan as a, you know, as an observer or a critic perhaps of the current system is, you know, if we could re-engineer this, okay, if we accept that, you know, given the number of colleges, the number of student-athletes, the desire to have a winning team, you know, the need for some evaluation process, the need for decision making by the students themselves, you know, all this stuff's going to happen in some form or fashion. But if we could re-engineer what's, you know, what's evolved, you know, what would be in your mind, the top two features of a re-engineered system?

MR. WETZEL: Well, I think the first thing would take academic fraud out of it. It would be if all freshmen are ineligible. If you go back to freshman ineligibility and then give a fifth year for kids so they still have four years to compete, five years to graduate, there is no incentive then to fix test scores or come up with the standards the NCAA has set.

And believe me, the kids are going to these schools because they're promised transcripts and test scores and different things. It puts kids into predator situations because they're trying to get a score or get whatever. I think that would eliminate almost all of the need for academic fraud.

Otherwise I think you have to work with your corporate partners in the shoe companies, with the NBA, with all the different things and I think those summits are a good idea to come up with, you know, it's awful tough with basketball because these kids are worth, LeBron James is worth eventually a billion dollars. It's very hard to keep people away from wanting to be his representative.

There's just so much money at stake. But if you could find a way to curb that back and get serious about the problem and start admitting that, you know what, we're part of the problem, this is part of the problem and follow that money. Because right now it's, there's just so many kids getting hurt in this and if you've watched this thing for ten years, you've watched kids that had a great future and they got steered in the wrong direction for all the wrong reasons.

The adults are hurting the kids and then the kids have, they've got one shot, they've got one shot and once that goes wrong, they're done. They can't get back into the NBA, they can't get back for that college scholarship. You watch year after year the same people screw the kids up and I just think there's got to be more accountability for everyone on how that's going down.

DR. TURNER: Thank you. Jerry?

MR. PORRAS: Yeah, clearly this is a really complex process and a lot of different groups are involved that need some correction. But I would like to, I'd like to focus on the student-athlete and the role of the student-athlete in the recruiting process.

As I listened to your stories it occurred to me that, that at least as I used to remember the rules, there were a series of violations that were going on as you were being recruited by college coaches. And so it sort of got the question in my mind that, you know, how aware are you, or were you, of the rules that the coaches are supposed to be following? Was there any formal education process that you had to go through or you went through to understand what the rules were? To understand what these coaches could be doing legally and shouldn't be doing? That's question number one and then question number two, is it too naive of me to think that if students really understand what the rules are that they might respond differently to the overtures that come from the coaches doing things inappropriately?

DR. TURNER: Okay, Ruth, why don't we start with you this time?

MS. RILEY: Well, I don't know how much insight I can really bring to this topic. I think these guys have been through it recently. But it's hard when you're a high school student to really know all the regulations that, and even of a student-athlete in college you have compliance and you have meetings and they tell you, but you still don't know all the rules and regulations. And a lot of them are minor ones that maybe don't make sense to you as a student or a student-athlete.

But I think that just is going to, the answer to your question is going to reflect upon the integrity of the person that you're talking about and whether they desire

that. I mean there's a lot being thrown at the kids nowadays and whether they want to go a program that's standing up and doing things the right way or, you know, whether they're being influenced and I think that goes back to the parents and the people and the way they've been raised and so it's kind of cycle that you're going to have to go through to answer that question.

DR. TURNER: Myron, were given any sheet of rules or introduction to the rules?

MR. ROLLE: No sir, no, I wasn't trained formally on any of the rules or regulations going around recruiting. It wasn't done in my high school, the camps that I went to, they weren't discussed.

But some of the drastic things like taking money or, you know, having females in your room, you know, I just, common sense, I just knew like I couldn't do that. I understood that was going to be a negative thing for me.

And like my father mentioned earlier, I think all the schools that recruited me, they knew I was a different kind of person and I always had my family around me so they didn't really, you know, go that route and, you know, put money in my hotel room like some of teammates at Florida State have told me that they have done at other visits they've been on, or, you know, do anything illegal like that.

So I don't think that a lot of the student-athletes know what's right or what's wrong. I think again like Ruth said it comes down to the individual person, whether you have the moral constitution not to accept gifts or, you know, monies or, you know, anything of that nature and it just really depends on you. But there was really no formal training. I didn't go through any and I haven't heard of any for football, I know, football. Scott?

MR. REYNOLDS: For me I remember one school sent me like a packet, this little packet like, it was a book-sized packet and I read like two pages and I got tired. This is, it's so much like it's so much about what you've got to do, it's all dates and like for me I got other, like I got books, I got other stuff to study than like a rule book, you know what I'm saying? I mean, not that it's not, I don't mean to be funny but it's just true, like for me, and I know other players they have, you know, their backgrounds are much tougher than mine so they really don't care, you know what I'm saying?

My friends and stuff, they'll look at that packet and just push it away, you know what I'm saying? And just won't even pay attention because they've got, you know, they've got other priorities to focus on and if a school does break a violation or you want to break a violation it's kind of like if you tell them no or something it's kind of like a slap in the face to them.

Like you don't want, you don't, you know you're like in limbo basically because you don't know, if you say no to them they're going to, you know, check you off or something like that, you know what I'm saying? So I kind of got, you know, perspectives on kind of both sides.

MS. RILEY: Let me just say one more thing. My high school coach did have the information that, you know, from the NCAA and so, you know, I was fortunate that he actually read through it and before I went out there he would give me a little more guidance onto some of the rules that, you know, as a student-athlete in high school you really just don't know. So I think that your parents or your coaches could help you a lot in that category rather than trying to get a high school to sit down and read an NCAA compliance packet.

DR. TURNER: Joe, do you have any comments on that from the coach's perspective?

MR. WOOTTEN: No, and again I compliment the NCAA. I think, I don't have problems and we don't, and we've had, I think we had nine or ten guys playing NCAA athletics, Division I, and and I've never really had a problem with that. And I think, you know, you try to help them through it, a little bit through the process when things happen but in the most part I haven't found the violations, at least from my end, to be anything at all.

I mean, you know, maybe the biggest is I guess the rules you can say hello, some people take a hello more than a hello but, you know, maybe it's a minute versus two but they're there to get to know the kids and so I don't have a problem with that. But again I compliment the NCAA, I think the colleges in general, at least the ones we've dealt with, have been very, very ethical.

DR. TURNER: Okay, Alberto?

MR. IBARGUEN: Yeah, I was, first of all I was upset as a Miami Hurricane fan to learn that my governor, Jeb Bush, called you for another school but we'll talk about that later. Actually my serious question is to Peter. I'm not quite sure I understood your suggestion which is kind of intriguing that NCAA run its own camp and I wonder if you'd expound on that a little bit and if Dan and Joe would comment on whether it's realistic?

MR. ROBY: Well, you know, I, there's so much money involved in college athletics that we seem to be able to use for other things. I was struck by the statistics around drug and alcohol abuse or the steroid situation and the fact that we've invested the millions of dollars that we have in testing, has brought the issue of illegal drug use down to 1.2 percent from almost in about twenty years or so. And I think these are issues that are going to have to take long-term solutions.

But who better to take it on than those that are most involved in nurturing young people when they get to our college campuses? So I would recommend that the NCAA, and maybe in conjunction with the state federations get involved in putting on evaluation camps and having kids that are interested in playing at Division or or level go through camps and play.

And let the coaches come to those camps to evaluate. And otherwise have the evaluation period center around summer league participation or in season participation. And, yeah, there are going to be some schools that because of their budgets are not going to be able to travel all over the country and recruit some of those players.

But the last time I checked, you know, that's not the business that we're in. You know, we're not in the business of winning NCAA championships. We're in the business of providing the kind of experience for people that when they graduate from college they're prepared to be productive citizens.

And the comments that were made at the beginning of the last panel, values determine behavior and ethics and values is what we're all about. And so if we're really, really committed to that, then it may mean that we have to invest millions of dollars to clean it up. And as Len said, that there is a collaborative effort underway. And so people are already recognizing that they're not going to solve the problem by themselves and it's got to be a collaborative effort.

But the values that are getting promoted, if they governor of the state of Florida is text messaging or calling a recruit, what the heck is he saying? He's saying that

this is so important, you are so important that I'm going to take time out of managing the state to call you.

So now when the kid doesn't get out of bed to go to class, you know, what's he going to think? Hey, look man, I got the governor of Florida calling me.

Now we're lucky that Myron is the kind of person that he is, that his family has influenced his value system the way it has so it's not going to his head.

But not every kid is fortunate enough to do that. So if you drive up in a big car, if you've got your championship ring on, if you've wearing a thousand dollar suit, if you make two million dollars a year as a basketball coach and you go into most kids' homes, they're influenced by that. And they're saying, when do I get mine?

DR. TURNER: We're about out of time.

Let's look at the other two comments on the summer project that he proposed. Your response to it.

MR. WETZEL: The NCAA could do it easy. They could wipe out, they could cut shoe companies out of the equation the moment they stop taking their money. That's all really it has to do, they can run their own camps.

I think what I mentioned in my initial remarks, there's three funds of money coming in, sports agents, coaches and boosters, shoe companies. The NCAA fought all the way to the U.S. Senate to make it illegal for a sports agent to give money.

They've done nothing to say it's illegal for the other parties because sports agents have no benefit to the NCAA schools. They don't give them any money, they don't do anything for them. It's illegal. The other ones can do what they want, it's not illegal.

They didn't go to John McCain and ask for that. So once they stop taking the money and once they, they can cut them out at any point.

DR. TURNER: Coach?

MR. WOOTTEN: Yeah, I would think that, and I'm going back to Len's original comments, I think that it's great to have the discussion but I think we have to be careful not to just do a little bit. I think that, Peter's suggestion I think would be a huge first step.

The live recruiting period in July used to be four weeks. The NCAA solution was to put a dead period for four days in between. So even though the effort was there, but it really wasn't significant change. So I think something like that would be significant change and I think it would be fantastic.

DR. TURNER: Do join me in thanking our individuals who've been part of this program. And thank the Commission panelists for your comments and questions. We'll take a break and then we'll be starting again with the third session in just a little while.