

Editorial:

Inflation of athletes' salaries

Guaranteed 68 million over 10 years, 65 million, 12 years. These are the kind of salaries athletes are making today. Athletes such as Glenn Robinson, Derek Coleman, Bobby Bonilla and Deion Sanders earn more money in one game than a normal person earns in a year, maybe a lifetime.

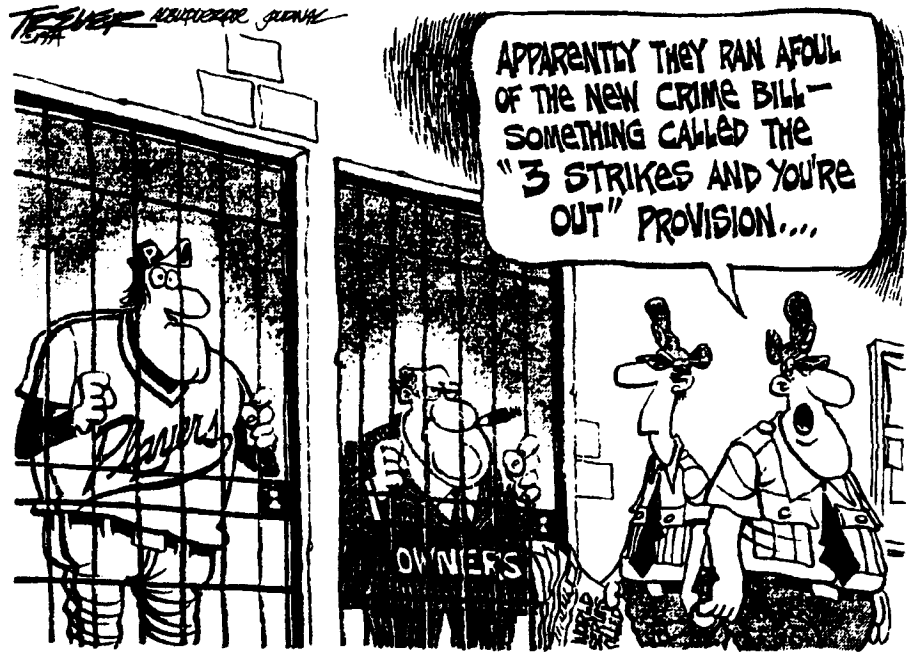
Do any of these athletes actually deserve the salaries they are contracted? Is Robinson's college career deserving of a guaranteed contract? Do baseball players like Bonilla have to strike to have the opportunity to make even more money? Like an average of one million per baseball player isn't enough?!

The relationship between the owners of sports team and the players who play for them has always been turbulent. Baseball is in its worst labor dispute in the history of the league, not to mention sports as a whole. Hockey is now on strike and that might jeopardize the entire season for that league. The major confrontation between the owners and players is that each wants to make the most money they can. Owners have taken steps to insure their capacity to make a profit. Players use strikes for leverage to attempt to increase their salary-making ability.

In the NBA and the NFL, the leagues instituted a salary cap meaning each team has a set limit on the amount of money to be distributed among its players. The owners' reasoning for the institution of a salary cap is league partiality. The players do not like the salary cap because it restricts their paychecks. The imbalance of capital among franchises is unfair. For instance, the Green Bay Packers of the NFL are owned by the community while San Francisco is owned by Eddie DeBartalo Jr., a multimillionaire. If there was no salary cap, which team would have the more expensive players?

The small markets (such as Pittsburgh and Cleveland) cannot compete with the larger cities (such as Chicago and New York) in baseball. This equation goes with most any sport.

A solution to this problem is not easy, but here is an idea: use the salary cap in the sport but change it every year. Take the money earned by the owners of organizations each year and take the league average. Institute a new salary cap each year, based on the average profit that year. As profits raise for owners, the amount of money available will also rise, thus leading to happiness on both sides.



Editorial Cartoons



The Behrend College Collegian

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