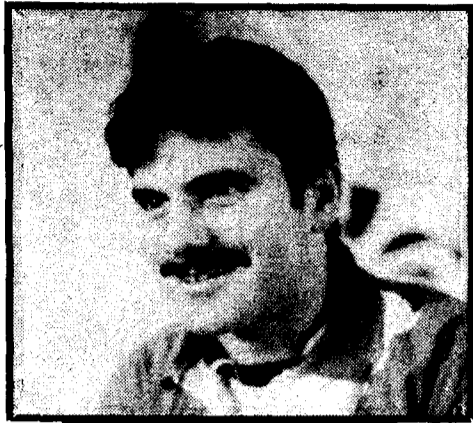


'A' is for athletics and academics

Rob's Reaction

A Sports Editorial
by Rob Rejmaniak



In the past year, four different sports teams at Capitol Campus have lost some of their better athletes to academic probation.

--Last winter, the basketball team found itself without its starting center. Fall term grades made him ineligible to finish the season.

--Last Spring, Baseball Coach, Ron Melchoirre, was shocked when he learned one of his co-captains was dismissed from school because of low academic standing.

--This year, one of the Cross-Country team's best runners has decided that grades were getting too low to allow him continued participation with the team.

--And, one of the Soccer team's

most talented players will be absent from the center-forward position because of academic probation.

Why do these athletes have so much trouble with their grades?

I think the answer is quite simple. They're lazy. Proof lies with one of last year's victims, a player from the basketball team.

The player, who chose not to be identified, admits he didn't take school work as seriously as he should have.

"When I was on probation, I spent just as much time with the basketball team as I did before the probation," he said, "but my grades improved because the probation woke me up."

Dr. Clemmie Gilpin, Instructor of Afro-American Studies and overseer of student athletes' grade eligibility said, "Students who engage in sports have the privilege to do so, and have to earn that privilege academically."

Gilpin believes students' lives should not revolve around sports, and that sports should be used for fun and recreation.

"The number of students with low grade point averages is small," said Gilpin, "Overall, I'm pleased by the grades of athletes here."

Capitol Campus requires a 2.0 cumulative average for its athletes.

Gilpin said discipline is important when participating in a sport

or club activity.

I understand it takes discipline to perform well in school while participating in a sport. However, I don't think athletics have anything to do with why student athletes get into grade trouble. It's about time student athletes stop blaming sports as the culprit for their academic misfortunes.

Too many of these students put school in the back seat, not only to sports, but to their other daily activities as well. Until they begin to understand this, there will continue to be student athletes on academic probation.

"Sports tend to become the excuse, not the reason," said Director of Recreation and Athletics, Bud Smitley.

I agree.



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