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JOUR 199

Professor Meyer

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Updated Elevator Pitch

Coming from the perspective of a high school athlete, I personally have felt and been affected by the drastic change of not being as dedicated to the sport I love once I've come to college. To some high school athletes, there is the opportunity to play at the Division 1, 2, or 3 level. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, "The number of participants in high school sports increased for the 25th consecutive year in 2013-14 with a record total of almost 7.8 million." Given the large amount of high school athletes and being at such a large university, I believe there is a story to connect to the lives of those who love sports. The story I want to chase is the thought process and decision behind former high school athletes who had the choice to play in college, but chose to go to school, similar to my decision.

Additionally, the story can help students discover what opportunities are available to them on campus in order to continue to express their athleticism. I have already interviewed two former student athletes and their reasons for choosing school over a division 2 football and basketball career. Both interviewees stated their reasons were the ability to have a true social experience at college, their wavering love for the sport, and willingness to dedicate time and possibly sacrifice grades in the process. To find more sources I would look into interviewing more students and recreational clubs.

“I thought it would be more beneficial for my future, going to a big school and focusing on school, making sure that my academics are in the right place.” - Tim

“It wasn't easy to just stop playing basketball, but I think it's gonna benefit me in the future.” - Zac

“I wouldn't have gotten the same major college experience, due to my size, as my other friends who went to big schools. Instead I chose to use my brain over my body.” - Jimmy

“The reason I chose UIUC is because it offers so much more opportunity than a small school. You can't measure the connections you make to further your career professionally but it would far outweigh any other small school that I would've gone to if I did play football.” - Sam

“I could have played football at a few small D3 schools but I chose UIUC instead because I knew the education that I would be getting would outweigh being able to play football for 4 more years.”

“ I also wanted a big school feel and experience that a small school couldn't give me that Illinois does.” - Trevor

