

## Frontline – Money and March Madness

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I decided to watch the “Money and March Madness” episode of *Frontline* because I find it similar to our discussion on meritocracy versus receiving scholarships in other fields at different colleges. March Madness is interesting to me because it is a popular time in sports where a lot of people in America that aren’t even on any team can engage in some sort of contest for bragging rights or even money. While these contests are happening, the players are supposed to do only one thing play to win the game; they are not allowed to find means to support their college careers while they struggle to balance sports and academic standing.

At first before watching this video, I agreed more with the sentiment that players should not get paid, but I find this video’s presentation compelling. I did not know that the commercialism of basketball was actually started by a coach who paid other coaches or that scholarships were neither multiple years nor guaranteed. Player and coach roles are interesting as coaches can be paid millions while players get short-changed financial packages to support themselves. Players can be rebroadcasted on television or video games, but no compensation is given their way. Players are at the expense of the media and even coaches.

The most concerning part of the argument is the fact that these players have the chance to make millions in the NBA after college and whether they should just deal with normal life until then. Some would argue that not everyone goes to college for a chance at professional sports but for the education. The graduation rate statistics for top programs are not sufficient for an educational institution, and only a few actually don’t graduate to pursue professional sports careers. I find that the struggle to graduate from college is a harsh reality, and there has to be some kind of aid or better system to address this concern.

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