

The Student Body

SPORTS • HEALTH • FITNESS

Ivy athletes pass up scholarship bucks

Programs pitch a better education to keep top recruits

By ELLIOT REGENSTEIN

Columbia Daily Spectator, Columbia U.

How can an Ivy League school, which offers no financial aid based on athletic ability, compete for recruits against a school which does offer athletic scholarships?

"You don't," said Princeton basketball coach Pete Carril. "It's not that we're so bad. It's that the others are more professional."

So what made the members of Carril's top-20 team, and other Ivy League athletes, pass up a free education and the chance to play sports at a school like Michigan or Texas? An Ivy League education.

"(Sports) are a source of revenue at many of these schools. So you try to explain to the kids the value of education for the long haul and hope that the kids and their parents understand," Carril said.

Coaches around the Ivy League have dealt with the non-scholarship issue for years now, but their recruiting uses the most important tool of all — their universities.

Harvard hockey coach Ronn Tomassoni — an assistant with the Crimson squad that defeated Michigan State and Minnesota on its way to the 1989 national title — said the school makes all the difference.

"We've got a great asset here — Harvard University," Tomassoni said. "That gives us the opportunity to go into almost any living room in North America. We've won our share of battles against scholarship schools."

But Tracy Pierce of Columbia's women's volleyball team played at Baylor U. for two years and said the competition forces athletes to keep only scholarship schools in mind.

"They had started by offering me a partial scholarship, and increased it to a full scholarship," said Pierce. "I signed and I went to Baylor, and they owned me."

Any financial aid an athlete receives at an Ivy League school is based purely on financial need, and the money comes from the same pool all students share in.

Money for athletic scholarships from non-Ivy League schools comes from various funds, which can include earnings from national television rights. The NCAA has ceilings for the number of full scholarships in each sport, but they can be divided among team members.

For instance, the NCAA limit on full scholarships for soccer is 13, but national contender Rutgers currently has at least 15 players receiving some amount of money for their efforts on the turf.

The numbers associated with those scholarships are often astounding. UCLA has 325 athletes on scholarship, costing the university \$3,280,000.

Duke and Stanford are a pair of schools that are as expensive and prestigious as the

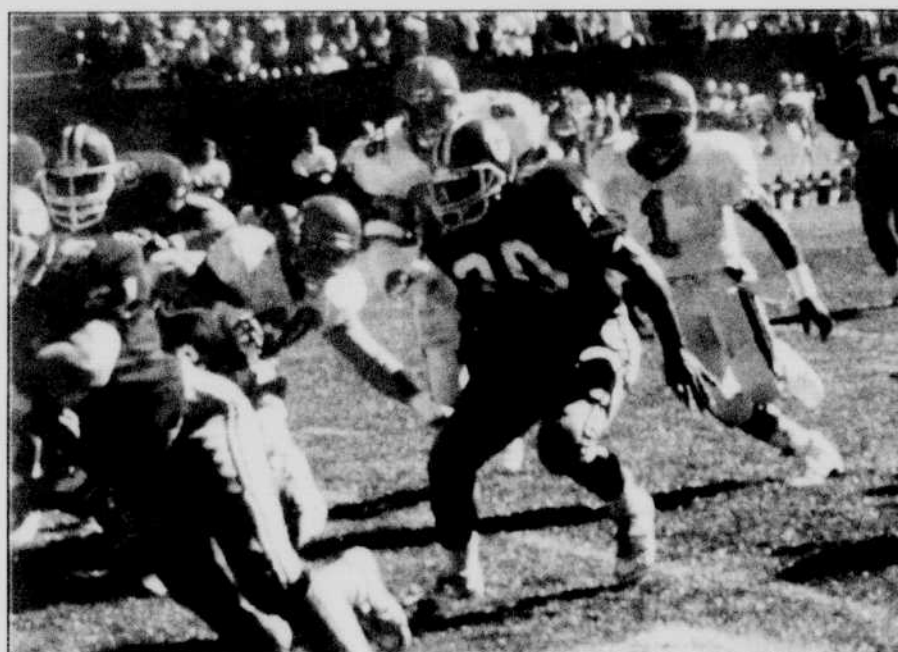


PHOTO COURTESY OF HARVARD SPORTS INFORMATION

Ivy League student athletes can't receive athletic scholarships for their participation in varsity sports. Proponents say it assures athletes keep sports in the proper perspective.

Ivy League, but with big-time athletic programs.

The Duke athletic department claims the equivalent of 195 full scholarships, totaling \$4,290,000, while Stanford athletics laid out the equivalent of 241 full scholarships totaling \$4.9 million in 1990-91.

These figures make getting the blue chip athletes difficult. Said Columbia men's track

coach Kevin McGill, "For us to get a California kid, Stanford would have to not be interested in him."

And it may not matter in the end. Ivy League admissions offices turn away up to 85 percent of the applicant pool. There's no guarantee an athlete, once recruited, will get in.

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What a long strange trip it's been for mushrooms

By CHRISTINE SEXTON

Florida Flambeau, Florida State U.

It's not just the hippie thing to do anymore.

Twenty-five years after the heyday of hallucinogens, people once again are boiling, steaming and just plain eating psilocybin mushrooms. Students from all around the country are leaving their tensions behind and going with the hallucinogenic flow.

"The world is beautiful when I trip," said a 28-year-old Tallahasseean who asked to be called Damon.

Damon, who has lived in the area for five years, is not what one would consider a "druggie." He served in the armed forces, maintains a full-time job and looks like any other clean-cut college student in town. "I feel more beautiful about myself and the world. It's gone from peer pressure to pure escapism," he said, referring to the first time he tripped on mushrooms. "It was unadulterated peer pressure."

Damon, who said he's tripped on acid in the past, said he enjoys the natural high that mushrooms give him.

Acid, which has been known to make people hallucinate for several hours, is usually more potent than mushrooms, said Kevin DeCerchio, deputy director of Disc Village, a drug treatment center in Florida.

"If you take a bit of blotter acid, you're in for the duration with no control," he said. "The duration is less

intense with mushrooms. You have to eat a quantity... but you can control the quantity you eat."

Hallucinogenic mushrooms are found after a heavy rain when the sun is shining. They grow on cow patties containing rye berries, which are found in cow feed.

The hallucinogenic mushrooms are spotted easily because of their cinnamon-colored cap, which gets darker toward the center and lighter toward the edges. There is also a purple ring about two-thirds of the way

up the stem. In addition, the stem and cap will bruise purple when pinched.

If someone is caught using the natural fungi, they can face felony charges.

The fungi is just as illegal as any other form of contraband.

Although some users of mushrooms prefer the natural mushroom high over the man-made acid one, the drugs have similar side effects.

Patricia Dean, a professor who teaches a mental health course at FSU's College of Nursing, said mushrooms are equally as dangerous as acid.

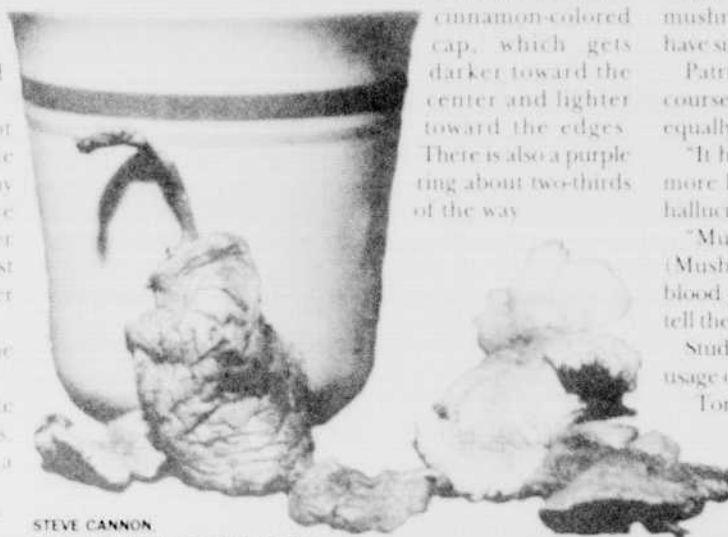
"It has similar effects," she said. "The more you do the more likely you are to have negative side effects, such as hallucinations, bad trips and flashbacks."

"Mushrooms can make people psychotic, frightened. (Mushrooms) can give people flighty ideas and increase blood pressure. They can become very suggestible. You can tell them they can fly, and they try to fly."

Students also are likely to have flashbacks with increased usage of mushrooms.

Tom, an FSU student, said he stopped 'shrooming a year ago, but has had two flashbacks since then as a result of the drug.

"It was just really uncool," he said. "I was sitting there in class. Economics alone is a nightmare. It's hell when you're tripping."

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