

A STUDY OF THE 1971-72 BIG 8 CONFERENCE VARSITY BASKETBALL
PLAYER'S OPINIONS CONCERNING THEIR WORK LOAD
WHILE PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE

by

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The growth and development of education in the past century has been phenomenal. One index of this growth is the increase every year in college enrollment. Despite the fact that colleges and universities have strengthened their standards and make it tougher to enter; the trend continues.

The struggle to earn a college degree has become a challenging and time-consuming adventure. Tests, grades, competition, and other necessary activities present the student with ranging degrees of pressure and problems. It is estimated that since the turn of the century, man's knowledge has doubled and redoubled.¹ This means that college students must spend more time than ever before in library research and studying outside of class. It then becomes a necessity that the student also learn to budget his time.

The college student has precisely four ways to spend his time: in class, in study, at work, and for recreation and relaxation. If increased knowledge means that he has to increase his study time, from which of the four avenues will the time come? He shouldn't take time from his regular class time or his present studying time. If he's working, he probably needs money and he can't afford to stop working. Where then will this time come for recreation and relaxation. He

¹John Merriman, Class notes, Kansas State University, 1969.

cancels his fishing trip, calls off his evening golf, or stays up late at night. The fact that the student is getting less recreation and relaxation is almost certain to put a greater mental and emotional stress on him.

This study is concerned with one group of college students--the basketball players from the Big 8 Conference. Since these subjects are also students, they have time divided in the same four ways previously mentioned, however, basketball could be construed as their form of work.

NEED FOR STUDY

The purpose of this study was to gather and compile the opinions of basketball players concerning their participation in the sport while also pursuing a college degree. Opinions, facts and ideas were sought to show the work load and problems of these student athletes.

The author also attempted to draw attention to the issue of freshmen being allowed to participate in intercollegiate basketball at the varsity level.

It was hoped that through this study the results would be helpful in determining whether or not athletics and education should be separated. From it, college administrators, coaches, and the general public might realize that it is very difficult to excel in both education and athletics in college.

Since the author is a former basketball player of the Big 8 Conference (Kansas State), he felt the study would be quite interesting as well as meaningful. Looking back over his years as a student and basketball player, the author felt that he has gained some invaluable