Contestant: **J-2**

Every year millions of Americans turn on their televisions as the beloved college football season begins. This massive audience pours millions upon millions of dollars into the sport, flooding top tier football schools in cash. All this money buys jerseys, builds stadiums, pays coaches, but never makes it into the hands of the players. How could it be that the one group of people who are responsible for this revenue recieve none of it? Considering that they are the ones who are truly working, it’s rather unbeleivable and unjust that they aren’t adequately compensated.

Players sacrifice countless hours of studytime to the gym and risk their safety every game, so why aren’t they paid? NOW, some will argue that players are being paid in the form of scholarships. While it is true that most top college football players recieve financial aid, so do many students who arent athletes. Applicants with poor financial situations or intellectual gifts regularly recieve full ride to these top institutions. The crucial difference is that, unlike football players, these students aren’t taking in copious sums of money for their schools every year. An old football recruit and awarded journalist Jack Ford feels that football players are recieving adequate compensation. My response to him is simple: times have changed. College football is no longer just a sport, it’s a multimillion dollar industry. The rules that were established at its start no longer apply to the current situation. They recieve scholarships, but it isn’t enough

When football players are breaking bones and suffering concussions, they deserve more than a free biology class. One must put into perspective the kind of harm that is inflicted on college athletes when talking about this subject. They put more danger on themselves than their very well paid coaches, but get nothing. Also, schools make money off more than just TV rights, they make money off of player branding. All the money that schools make from selling shirts, jerseys, and more with players numbers and names is never given to the football athlete who made that possible. Anywhere other than college football this practice would be highly illegal.

The simple truth is that colleges are making a killing of football, while players see no benefit. When you consider the bodily harm and time that the athletes put into the sport, it is simply appaling that they get nothing more than a scholarship? Football gets a lot of attention on this topic, but perhaps it’s time to also take a look at other sports as well, like lacrosse and swimming. Colleges should simply not be allowed to take advantage of their hard working student athletes the way that they do.