Marching Toward Madness

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How to Save the Games You Always Loved

JOHN LEBAR & ALLEN PAUL

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Public faith in higher education cannot be sustained if college sports are permitted to become a circus, with the institution itself little more than a supporting sideshow.

— The late A. BARTLETT GIAMATTI,
former President of Yale and Commissioner of Baseball

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Acknowledgments and Approach

A major obstacle in writing *Marching Toward Madness* was the lack of published sources on the origins and evolution of the scholar-athlete, a uniquely American archetype that began to take shape in the late 19th century. In the century that followed, the scholar-athlete became a cherished ideal, only to be eclipsed altogether by the steady rise of a mega sports entertainment structure that came to dominate college sports after World War II. In nearly five years of research and writing about the scholar-athlete, we did not find one book on the subject but found many that addressed important facets of this long-neglected American ideal—among them Ronald A. Smith's *Sports and Freedom, The Rise of Big Time College Athletics;* Benjamin G. Radar's *American Sports, from the Age of Folk Games to the Age of Televised Sports;* Murray Sperber's *Onward to Victory: The Crises that Shaped College Sports;* and Charlie Clotfelter's *Big-Time Sports in American Universities.*

After much experimentation and several false starts in devising a structure for the book, we received indispensable advice on that matter from John Stauffer, a Harvard professor and prominent authority on the antislavery movement. He was coached at Duke by John LeBar and played No. 1 singles on the tennis team. He also gave us many valuable suggestions on draft chapters of the book. With John's help and that of several others, we finally settled on a four-part structure for *Marching Toward Madness* that spans from the historical

elements of the scholar-athlete to the public focus today on fundamental reform of college sports.

The book is based on many primary and secondary sources. Most important among the former were recorded interviews in Columbus, GA, Dallas, TX, Durham, NC, Miami, FL, and Rehoboth Beach, DE, with John's former players. Our most important secondary sources came from Perkins Library at Duke whose staff provided unstinting support for our research.

We are indebted to many people who helped us at various stages of the project, none more importantly than Tom White, a mutual friend at North Carolina State University, who introduced us in June 2014. John's former players enriched the book enormously: through personal interviews, by reading and commenting on various chapters, by tracking down old photographs, by hosting us in various cities and through strong encouragement at every stage of the project. We are especially indebted to the following players, each of whom was a scholar-athlete at Duke: Chaim Arlosoroff, an orthopedic surgeon in Miami, FL; Paul Auerbach of Los Altos, CA, a professor of emergency medicine at Stanford University Medical School; Ted Daniel, a senior litigator at the Norton Rose Fulbright law firm in Dallas, TX; Chip Davis, an orthopedic surgeon in Orlando, FL; Ross Dubins, Tennis Superintendent for the City of North Miami, FL; Russell Gache, an intellectual property attorney in Birmingham, AL; Mike McMahon, who founded and ran a successful party boat business in Dallas, TX; Mark Meyers, a retired senior corporate attorney at Shell Oil and founder of a ministry to the depressed and suicidal in Houston, TX; Joe Meir, founding CEO of one of the largest real estate development firms in North Carolina's Research Triangle; David Robinson, an eye surgeon in Rehoboth Beach, DE, and founder of one of the largest eye care practices in the U.S.; John Stauffer of Cambridge, MA, who is mentioned above; Marc Flur, a financial adviser in Durham, NC; and Will White of Columbus, GA, whose firm has built several thousand apartments in six states. Although Nancy Hogshead-Makar, an all-time Duke swimming star and nationally recognized authority on gender equity and Title IX, did not play for John, she, too, made indispensable suggestions for this book.

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