

Monthly NEWSLETTER

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# Center Newsletter

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## Monthly Discussion

### QUESTION: THE NBA PON- DERS RAISING AGE REQUIRE- MENT AGAIN?

In 1975 the Philadelphia 76ers drafted center Darryl Dawkins out of Maynard Evans High School in Florida, making Dawkins the first player to jump directly from high school to the NBA.

Over the past 25 years, some of the NBA's greatest stars such as Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett, and LeBron James have successfully made the transition to an elite level. In 2005, Commissioner David Stern established an individual must now be 19 years old to enter the NBA, causing many high school hopefuls to enroll in universities around the country.

Since the creation of this requirement, players such as Greg Oden and Kevin Durant enrolled at their respective universities for only one year, as they had already planned for life after school. The current collective bargaining

agreement expires in 2011 and Commissioner Stern would once again like to increase the age requirement to 20. The associated press recently released a story about the dismal graduations percentages of major collegiate programs such as UCLA, Kansas, and Memphis. The report found that, "86 percent of [North Carolina] men's players earned diplomas during a six-year period. The other top seeds were far worse: 45 percent at Kansas and 40 percent at UCLA and Memphis."

Some argue that the age requirement increase is fundamentally necessary for the improvement in quality of the collegiate game. Here at the Center, we argue that the age requirement is necessary in developing an individual cognitively and morally. Research indicates that the human brain experiences the

largest amount of moral and cognitive growth from ages 16 to 22. The human brain is hardwired, meaning the brain grows in proportion to the amount of discussion, thought, and reflection, thus thoughtful cognitive and moral stimulation is vital to young individuals. Here at the Center we would also like to see more athletes declaring majors other than general studies. Seeking a specialized degree increases an individual's chance to be more successful in all aspects of life—including the professional playing career. Consider the sophisticated thought and articulation of Bill Russell and Shane Battier to Shawn Kemp and Kwame Brown. Interestingly the AP story stated, "if the Final Four were determined academically, it would be Western Kentucky (100 percent graduation success), Butler (92), Notre Dame (91), and Purdue (91)." *-Staff Writer Tyler Wilt*

## Current and former staff presenting at 2008 AAHPERD

The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance is holding its annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas from April 12-14. Dr. Stoll is overseeing five presentations this year at the conference. David Brunner and Pete Van Mullem are presenting on coaching competitive ethics.

Both currently teach a course at the University of Idaho on this subject. Justin Barnes joins recent graduate Dr. Amukela Gwebu from University of Iowa, in presenting the "hows and whys" of intentional rule violations. Patti Davenport will talk about moral reasoning and

doping in Division I sport. Finally, Dr. Jacqueline Williams—who was mentored by Dr. Stoll, will be presenting alongside Stoll and Dr. Jennifer Beller on the ethical considerations for athletic training.