1998

The Economics of Sports: Winners and Losers 1998-99

Department of Economics

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The Economics of Sports: Winners and Losers, is the thirty-fifth annual Public Lecture-Seminar Series organized by the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University. This year the series focuses on economic issues in the world of sports. This year's series is directed by William S. Kern, Associate Professor in the WMU Economics Department, with the assistance of Donald L. Alexander, Wei-Chiao Huang and George Erickcek, and is co-sponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. All Wednesday afternoon lectures, followed by a question and answer session, are open to the public. In addition, each scholar will also present an academic seminar, which is open to graduate students, faculty, and all interested practitioners. For further information, please contact Dr. Kern at (616) 387-5549 or william.kern@wmich.edu or the WMU Economics Department at (616) 387-5555.

The public lectures in this series also comprise part of a mini-course for academic credit, supervised by Dr. Kern, and open to graduate and advanced undergraduate students enrolled at Western Michigan University.

Directions: From I-94, take U.S. 131 north to Exit 36A (Stadium Drive). Travel east on Stadium Drive to the fourth traffic light at Howard Street. Turn left onto Howard and take the second right to the WMU campus. Follow the signs to the Miller Auditorium parking ramp. Knauss Hall is the dark brick building opposite the Waldo Library clock tower.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Economics
1998-99 Guest Lecture-Seminar Series
The Economics of Sports:
Winners and Losers
Public Lectures on Wednesdays
3:00 P.M. 3508 Knauss Hall

Fall Semester
Rodney Fort
Washington State University
September 16, 1998
Robert A. Baade
Lake Forest College
October 7, 1998
John J. Siegfried
Vanderbilt University
October 21, 1998

Winter Semester
Richard G. Sheehan
University of Notre Dame
February 24, 1999
Andrew Zimbalist
Smith College
March 24, 1999
Lawrence M. Kahn
Cornell University
April 7, 1999

The Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences gratefully acknowledge the co-sponsorship of this series by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

This series is directed by William S. Kern, Associate Professor, with assistance from Donald L. Alexander, Wei-Chiao Huang and George Erickcek.

Power Play: The Use and Abuse of Power in Pro Team Sports

Wednesday
September 16, 1998
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall
WMU

Rodney D. Fort
Professor of Economics
Washington State University


Professor Fort has been the recipient of grants from the Reason Foundation, The Washington Institute for Public Policy Studies, Japan-U.S. Commission and the Center for the Study of Futures Markets. He has also been a recipient of the Pacific Northwest Bell Distinguished Faculty Award and the Shell Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award.

The Economics of Sports: Winners and Losers

Wednesday
October 7, 1998
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall
WMU

Robert A. Baade
James D. Vail
Professor of Economics
Lake Forest College


Professor Baade has been the recipient of fellowships from the Ford Foundation and The National Endowment of the Humanities. He is also known for his excellence in teaching. On four occasions he has received Lake Forest's "The Great Teacher Award" and the Chicago Tribune named him to its "All Professor Team II," in 1994. Professor Baade is not only an academic analyst of sports. He has also been an active participant in intercollegiate athletics. He was named "Outstanding Scholar Athlete" by the Wisconsin State University Conference in 1967 and was an assistant basketball coach at Lake Forest from 1973-1992.
The Finances of Collegiate Sports: Relations Between Athletics, Academics and Finance

Wednesday
October 21, 1998
3:00 PM
3508 Knauss Hall
WMU

John J. Siegfried
Professor of Economics
Vanderbilt University

Dr. Siegfried received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1972 and is currently Professor of Economics at Vanderbilt University. He has also served as a visiting professor at the University of Adelaide, Leeds University and Simon Fraser University, as an economist with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and as a Senior Staff Economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers in 1976-77. Professor Siegfried is the author of over one hundred and forty publications. His research has been concentrated in the areas of industrial organization, economic education and the economics of sports. His articles have appeared in prestigious journals such as The American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, and the Southern Economic Journal. He is also the author and co-author of The Changing Distribution of Income in an Open U.S. Economy.

Richard G. Sheehan
Professor of Economics
Department of Finance and Business Economics
University of Notre Dame

Professor Sheehan received his Ph.D. in economics from Boston College in 1976. Since 1977, Professor Sheehan has been a professor in the Department of Finance and Business Economics at the University of Notre Dame. Prior to that he taught at James Madison University from 1976-1984 and from 1984-1987 he was an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Professor Sheehan's primary interest has been in the area of macroeconomics and monetary economics; and the economics of sports. His articles have appeared in such prestigious journals as The American Economic Review, The Review of Economics and Statistics, The Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, and the Southern Economic Journal. He is also the author and co-author of The Changing Distribution of Income in an Open U.S. Economy.

In 1996 Professor Sheehan's book Keeping Score: An Economic Analysis of Big-Time Sports was published by Diamond Communications. Keeping Score has been the subject of numerous articles in publications such as Sports Illustrated, USA Today, The New York Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education and many local papers from the Boston Globe to the Chicago Tribune to the Los Angeles Times. In addition he has been called upon for commentary on the economics of sports from numerous sources including PER's Highly Business Review. Professor Sheehan has since continued his research on the economics of collegiate sports. His paper "The Professionalization of Collegiate Athletics" will be published in Higher Education: The Challenges of the New Millennium.

Andrew Zimbalist
Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics
Smith College

Dr. Zimbalist received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 1972. He has been in the economics department of Smith College since 1974 and has also been a visiting professor at Washington University in Japan and a visiting research fellow at Harvard University. He is currently the Robert A. Woods professor of economics and an economist and a member of the Five College Graduate Faculty.

Professor Zimbalist's research has been concentrated in the areas of comparative economics, Latin American economic development, particularly Cuba, and the economics of sports. Professor Zimbalist's book published eleven books and several dozen articles. His books include Basketball and Billiards: A Proving Book In The Big Business Of Our National Pastime, which Business Week listed as one of the eight best books in Business in 1992, and Sports Jobs and Taxes: The Economic Impact of Sports Teams. Professor Zimbalist has been called upon for commentary on the economics of sports from numerous sources including PER's Highly Business Review. Professor Zimbalist has since continued his research on the economics of collegiate sports. His paper "The Professionalization of Collegiate Athletics" will be published in Higher Education: The Challenges of the New Millennium.