

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE STUDENT ATHLETE PROTECTION ACT

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2000

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with Representative LINDSEY GRAHAM in introducing legislation to prohibit legal betting on high school, college and Olympic sporting events.

Our bill has the strong support of the NCAA, coaches, athletes and a broad spectrum of the education community. It is intended to help protect the integrity and purity of amateur athletics from the growing and increasingly negative influence of legal sports betting.

In my home state of Indiana, we take our high school and college sports very seriously. You can't get a ticket to a high school basketball game in my district on a Friday night, or to a Notre Dame football game on a Saturday afternoon. They are sold out for months and even years in advance.

Why is that? What's the magic of high school and collegiate sports that attracts so many student-athletes to compete, and draws so many fans to watch?

To me, it's the purity and uncertainty of amateur sports. In an era of movies and television shows, where the outcomes are scripted in advance, you just don't know what's going to happen when a 17-year-old boy or girl steps to the line to attempt a game-winning free throw or kick a winning field goal. Your home team may win, they may lose, but at least you know the players tried their best in the pure spirit of competition.

Today, that purity and integrity is being threatened by the growing influence of gambling. Not by small-time office betting pools or parking lot wagers, but by high-stakes, legal, government-sanctioned gambling: some \$2.3 billion worth last year alone in the Nevada sports betting parlors.

As the popularity of sports betting has increased, so too have the number of scandals involving collegiate athletics. According to the NCAA, more point-shaving and game-fixing scandals occurred during the 1990's than the previous five decades combined. Let me repeat: more scandals in the 1990's than the previous five decades combined!

As long as that kind of big money is out there, and sports betting is both legal and indeed encouraged through the publication of betting lines, the temptation to shave points or throw a game will always be there. We will no longer know if a player misses a layup, or drops a pass deliberately, or if he just plain misses. And once we lose that certainty, we'll no longer know if amateur sports are still an act of competition, or just another act that has been scripted not in Hollywood, but in the back rooms of the legal gambling parlors.

It's not the right to gamble that is at stake with this legislation. It is not office pools on NCAA "final four" teams that we are out to

ban. It's not tailgate party wagers we are out to ban. People are always going to place those kinds of bets on sporting events whether this bill passes or not. Rather, it's the integrity of athletic competition which players and fans have come to love and trust, and which has become such an integral part of our American panorama. The stakes are high. Protecting our teenagers' integrity and virtue is the heart and soul of the legislation.

By banning legal sports betting on high school, collegiate and Olympic events, we can put the emphasis back where it belongs: on athletes playing their best, not placing their bets. On beating the competition, not beating the spread.

Let's keep high school and collegiate sports as an institution which all Americans can value and trust.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MR. HENRY G. MARSH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Henry G. Marsh on the occasion of his receiving the Image Award, which is given to Saginaw, MI residents who have contributed greatly to our community. It is a well-deserved award for Mr. Marsh, and I invite you, and my colleagues, to join with me in congratulating him.

Mr. Marsh graduated from Knoxville College in 1947 and, in 1950, graduated from law school from Wayne State University. He is a former president of the Saginaw County Bar Association and has been in general practice since 1954. He has served as a member of the State Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, as a member of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and as a member and chairman of the board of trustees of Knoxville College in Tennessee.

Mr. Marsh has contributed greatly to our community and is one of our finest leaders. He served on the Saginaw City Council from 1961 to 1969 and was mayor pro-temp from 1965 to 1967, and later mayor, from 1967 to 1969. Additionally, he served as a member of the board of trustees of the Michigan Municipal League, chairman of its Employees Relations Committee, and as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Conference of Mayors.

During the sixties, Mr. Marsh was instrumental to the success of the Saginaw Human Relations Commission, and served as chairman for many years. He served on the Governor's Committee on Higher Education and has served as a member of the board of directors of St. Mary's Hospital. He is also a member of the Community Affairs Committee, the economic forum and chairman of the Ruben Daniels Educational Foundation.

In addition to his law practice and his civic involvement, Mr. Marsh was a founder and

general counsel to the First State Bank of Saginaw. Later he served as the bank's director and chairman of the board. He is also a former member of the board of trustees of the International City Manager's Association Retirement Corporation.

Mr. Marsh is blessed with a lovely family, and is married to the former Ruth Clayton.

They have three children, Michael, Walter and Teresa. Michael and Walter followed in their father's footsteps, and became members of the Michigan Bar. Michael is an assistant prosecutor with Saginaw County and Walter is a vice-president with the National Bank of Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Mr. Henry Marsh for his many contributions to the Saginaw Community. He is indeed a model for us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE SANTA ANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate this years national men's community college soccer champions, the Dons of Santa Ana Community College. After finishing the season with a 25-0 record and outscoring their opponents 147 goals to 17 goals, the team has proven its soccer dominance throughout the State of California.

Coach Justo P. Frutos should be commended for leading his team to a victorious season. Over the past 2 years, the Dons have achieved what no other community college soccer team in California has accomplished, compiling an incredible 50-game unbeaten streak, including 47 straight wins and back-to-back state titles.

I am proud to say that many of the team's players also received individual honors. Forward Thomas Serna was named the conference Most Valuable Player and selected All-American for the second straight season. Also, by virtue of the team's State championship, each player received the coveted honor of All-American. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge each team player. The Dons' roster included: Sasha Addeo, Andres Arroyo, Jose Barillas, Jose Barron, Keith Buckley, Martin Carrington, Robert Corona, Arnulfo Garcia, Luis Gutierrez, Alejandro Licea, Victor Licea, Carlos Rangel, Jose Retiz, Oscar Retiz, Fernando Rica, Fernando Rojas, Thomas Serna, Ruben Veliz, Sergio Viera, and Randy Zepeda.

Once again, I congratulate the Santa Ana Community College Dons and their coaching staff. These hard-working individuals deserve our praise for their perseverance and discipline. We are very fortunate to have the Dons in Orange County.

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