

Too much emphasis placed on pro sports

To the Editor:

The emphasis upon professional sports by our citizens is overdone.

When one has to consider the major challenges our country is confronting, such as six out of 100 potential workers being unemployed with more expected, 44 million citizens without medical insurance, the questionable survival of our Social Security fund, our recession and economy, the global military and terrorists threats to our nation, etc. — many of our citizens are immersed in professional sports results more than the above issues.

Our society rewards individuals who offer little to the welfare of our nation. Professional athletes are being paid, in many cases, \$2 million to \$10 million per season and in some cases more than that, depending upon how well they can knock opponents to the turf, how many basket-

balls they can dunk, or how well they can push people to the sidelines. This is unfair when there are people living on the streets and millions of families on welfare.

Unfortunately, some professional athletes and the “mechanics” of some sports are not good role models for our youth. This was noticed recently when one parent beat another to death over a hockey game. It can be related to the quote, “I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out.”

In regards to other distorted advantages given to athletes, the question is, how did many athletes matriculate into some prestigious academic schools? I am sure it wasn't their SAT scores but how many baskets they could score, etc. I am also sure that some more academically capable students were deprived of entrance. It is also obvious that hearing many of them

interviewed after the games, they were not English majors.

You may ask some people who their local representatives in Congress are and they will not be able to provide you with an answer. But if you ask them who the quarterback or star forward on their local professional team is, many would have the answer. A quote I have heard that applies is, “In a national crisis, our country can not declare war on a Sunday during the fall because that is the day for professional football.”

Let us not dispense with athletics on any level, but it is a matter of putting it in proper perspective. Homes for the needy, not stadiums for the greedy.

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