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Should college athletes have to graduate college before going professional?

Unlike a lot of sports, at the collegiate level for men's basketball, you are only required to do one year in order to declare for the NBA draft. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? To some people this is a faster and better way to getting rich. However, there are a lot of pros and cons against the idea of leaving school early to go play professional ball. To me, the cons outweigh the pros in many ways. There is just no way I'm risking that much, there is just too much at stake. A lot can go wrong and you'll have nothing to fall back on. Putting young men into the NBA with a bunch of grown men is a setup. This topic has brought a lot of people to argue and disagree on the subject. Should all athletes have the choice to do one year of college and then leave? Is leaving college early to go play pro a smart idea? Is the money worth it? How long is a pro contract going to keep you stable? There are so many questions when this topic is brought up.

The idea of a collegiate basketball student-athlete doing a "one and done" has been around for years. The one and done rule was put in place in 2005 by David Stern, who was commissioner of the NBA. One-and-done rule, basketball rule whereby players are eligible for the NBA draft after playing in college for one year. It was put in place as a way to prevent a flood of underdeveloped talent from entering the league. But to me and many other people out there the one and done allowed players that weren't ready into the league.

Some athletes have benefited from their decision and some athletes have admitted to their wrong of leaving school early. Some of the greats including Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Tracey McGrady, and even current-day star Lamelo Ball followed by many others have all skipped the college step and went professional from overseas and high school. There are so many athletes that would have benefited from NIL Deals. For example, LeBron James who grew up in a single-parent house where he and his mother struggled. NBA star lebron james stated at a press conference that his decision to skip college was strictly based on financial matters. I think if it were the present day his decision would be completely different. The financial situation would have been fixed because of what college athletes benefit from today, known as these NIL deals. "In the simplest of terms, Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) is a term that describes the means through which college athletes are allowed to receive financial compensation." NIL deals allow college athletes to have money in their pockets and create a brand for their name. Being a full-time student isn't easy and takes a lot of time. College work studies is at an all time high. Being a full time student is hard and adding the athlete makes it even harder. As an college athlete juggling both school is sport is very difficult. So for companies to help out these student-athletes is a blessing and is just overall vey helpful.

There are many college athletes all over the NCAA who contain NIL deals today. For football Alabama's quarterback, Bryce Young sits as one of the highest-paid current college athletes as he makes over a million dollars in NIL deals. For Women's basketball, Louisiana State University, Angel Resse just joined the list of 23 college athletes to have a valuation of \$1 million or more off of NIL deals. NIL deals would've made Lebron's decision to go to college a lot easier. With NLI deals being so popular college student-athletes are making more than an

NBA rookie. This year as his son makes a decision on where he will attend college next year LeBron wants everyone to know that he supports his son's decision on taking the college route and recommends all athletes to do so. If NBA star LeBron James with a net worth of one billion dollars recommended going to college I would listen. Did LeBron go back to college? No, but that was because of how successful his career turned out to be. If it had been someone with left of a career they would have needed a backup plan. And that is where the school would have come into play. LeBron has won four MVP awards, four Finals MVP awards, and two Olympic gold medals. He has been named an All-Star 19 times and has been a part of the All-Defensive Team six times. LeBron currently leads the NBA as the all-time scoring leader. He is arguably the best basketball player to touch a basketball. If I were him, I wouldn't regret not going to college too.

However, NBA star Kobe Bryant said he regretted skipping college. He said that going into the league he was nowhere near ready. This is normal because it's a huge jump from college to the NBA, and an even bigger one from high school to the NBA. Kobe only averaged less than 15 minutes in his rookie year. As an NBA rookie, you're most likely not going to be ready and would have little role. The average rookie probably plays about nine minutes a game with a salary of 6 million dollars. Because Kobe had a big name coming into the league he had the opportunity to play more minutes than an average rookie. The NBA is a different game than college and high school. In the NBA you're competing against grown men, who are the best of the best. So yes, I do think that all collegial basketball players should finish college before going pro. In the NBA there are rookies or second-year players who were one-and-done college players that sit on the bench because their teams now acknowledge that they were not ready for the pros.

These players end up getting cut and forced to play semi where there's very little pay. These young athletes are going to the NBA and are being set up. Players raise their stocks all year and during the National College Tournament at the end of the year and are expected to take over a professional franchise, all at the age between eighteen and twenty-one. That's why I think that players should stay in college for as long as they can. Staying in college helps you get better.

These players would have a better role in college and be forced to develop their game every day. In the sport of basketball, experience is key. The more experienced is the better. Because when some situations happen the coach is always looking for players that know what to do. Everyone's job is on the line and giving young pros these chances who aren't ready isn't fair. College basketball allows these players to get stronger, faster, and ready for the big leagues and these big moments.

There are counterarguments where a person would agree with the one and done. They would say that they agree with student-athletes having the choice to leave school early. It has been proven that going to the NBA without college is possible. It is just a huge gamble, a gamble I wouldn't take. There have been greats that have been very successful with the one-and-done rule for college basketball. Such as Kevin Durant, Derrick Rose, John Wall, and many more. All athletes took a gamble and benefited from it. Another Counter to this argument would be that one year is all you need. People who agree would say that the one-and-done rule was in place to prevent players from coming into the league straight from high school. Recently there have been a lot of examples of players that had one good year and decided to transfer or come back when their stock went down. In the NBA there are only sixty-six players that did only one year of college. Out of the sixty-six of them, only nine of them have been named an all-star. Reporters

say that they should have taken their opportunity and run with it. As a human being, it is normal that you mess up. No one is perfect and everyone messes up. Both are key and important points to this argument. However, the cons of doing the one-and-done outweigh the pros.

In conclusion, I think that all college student-athletes should wait all four years before signing to go pro. Not only is it hard to get that time back it is just the smarter thing to do. It is safe because finishing college will allow you to have something to look back to. Just in case you happen to get hurt or have an unsuccessful career which a lot of pros do. Although there had been many successful cases of athletes skipping college I am still for college athletes waiting until they graduate before going to the NBA.

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