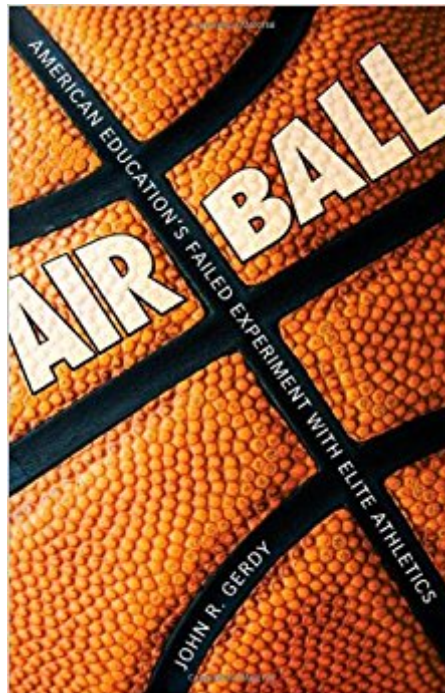




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# Air Ball: American Education's Failed Experiment With Elite Athletics



## Synopsis

John R. Gerdy has seen nearly every side of athletics. He is the son of a high school football coach; he was an All-American and professional basketball player and a legislative assistant for the National Collegiate Athletic Association; and he served as an associate commissioner for the Southeastern Conference. In *Air Ball: American Education's Failed Experiment with Elite Athletics*, Gerdy brings all of those perspectives to argue that the American system of school and community athletics is broken. But he is no mere naysayer. He offers a bold, progressive blueprint for reforming athletics to meet our country's educational and public health needs. Given higher education's historic role of providing leadership in our society, the initiative to restore a more sensible balance between athletics and education must begin with the reform of big-time college athletics. Despite widespread public skepticism regarding higher education's ability to change the system, Gerdy argues that the opportunity for reform has never been better. Using a provocative mix of research and thoughtful observation, he argues that, for the first time in the history of American higher education, the critical mass of people, organizations, and outside pressures necessary to drive and sustain progressive, systemic reform of the college athletic enterprise are in place.

## Book Information

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This is an insider's assessment of how big-time college sports is in crisis and how it can be fixed. It \* Addresses a major topic of interest to concerned fans, educators, administrators, and anyone associated with sports and physical education \* Prepares a perspective for pundits and fans reviewing the NCAA rules just adopted; this new system for measuring the academic performance

of sports teams, the Academic Progress Report (APR), will generate much discussion as the results begin to take effect \* Offers an insider's perspective from a former athlete and sports administrator \* Expands dramatically the solutions hinted at in Sports: The All-American Addiction \* Offers specific suggestions regarding reform

An insider's assessment of how big-time college sports is in crisis and how it can be fixed

this is a great book. it is extremely coherent and well-written. gerdy proposes that the time is right to reform college sports so that athletes can truly be students first and athletes second. the book is extremely intelligent and highly recommended for anyone interested in improving sports in america. it is an excellent read. you won't be disappointed.

Much of this text is outdated, and many of the author's positions are unsubstantiated, especially if you read the references he cites. Additionally, the author makes wild, sweeping, often inaccurate generalizations and other claims.

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