A Simple Way to Solve Corruption

College basketball is very popular in the United States and people grow up supporting their local teams. Recently several teams have been under investigation for corruption within their respective organizations, Louisville is an example of an organization that is being investigated for corruption. In the past year an investigation by the F.B.I has been launched against the University of Louisville Men’s Basketball Team. The coaching staff allegedly paid a recruit $100,000 to commit to Louisville then to sign with Adidas after he finished playing college basketball. This is the university’s second major scandal in the past couple years and measures need to be taken to make sure this doesn’t happen again. A proposal to solve the problem involves firing the whole coaching staff, taking away scholarships for future athletes, and taking away the programs eligibility to compete in tournaments in the upcoming years.

The university of Louisville men’s basketball team has been involved in recent allegations over the past couple years. In 2013 they allegedly paid to have escorts for their recruits and players. This scandal has been hanging over their head, and now they find themselves in another one. In the summer of 2016 the F.B.I began investigating Louisville’s basketball team because they allegedly paid a recruit $100,000 to commit to Louisville, then sign with Adidas after he finished his college career (Tracy). The investigation is currently going on and the F.B.I hasn’t passed it onto the NCAA yet. This scandal is affecting the city of Louisville in a couple of negative ways.
It influences the fans of the basketball team and university. Louisville is considered a high division 1 program bringing in many top tier recruits every year. Due to the scandal, many recruits have taken Louisville off their lists of potential schools next year. Similarly, it effects the stadium the basketball team plays in. The KFC Yum! Center was recently built, and it is where the basketball team plays their home games. This scandal can leave a negative image on the team causing fans to stop showing up for games. The Yum center is already struggling to bring in enough money to pay off the debt on the construction grants, and tickets sales play a huge role in its revenue. Finally, the players of the team and the team itself are affected. The team could lose scholarships and potentially lose tournament eligibility.

Although the case is currently being investigated by the F.B.I it will then be sent to the NCAA. The NCAA has strict guidelines it needs to follow. The NCAA needs to give Louisville “due-process” meaning they need to get the chance to prove they are innocent. Louisville is currently on probation for a scandal in which prostitutes were used to entice recruits in on-campus housing (Tracy). Due to Louisville being on probation, this is one NCAA rule they have broken. While breaking probation they are now being investigated for another scandal. Louisville’s coaches could be charged with bribery, fraud, and conspiracy.

The first thing that needs to be done is Louisville needs to fire the coaching staff. The head coach, Rick Pitino, and the athletic director have both been fired. If this were the first scandal that would be enough, however this is their second within about five years. This is a reoccurring problem and the corrupt people are still involved in the organization. Louisville made the decision to make their interim head coach, a coach that was an assistant under Pitino. The only way to get rid of the corruption is to completely fire every coach and assistant. An example of a program that fired the whole coaching staff is Penn State. In 2013 one of the assistant coaches of Penn State’s football team was accused of
molesting children. This scandal turned out to be true. Although the head coach wasn’t directly involved he was fired as were the assistants (Ganim). This is what Louisville needs to do. This will allow the university to exterminate the corruption within the program.

Louisville needs to get their athletic scholarships revoked. Each year major universities have a certain amount of scholarships that they can give to recruits. This punishment would limit the number of players the university could allow to play on the team. This would hurt the program tremendously. When this punishment is instated the University would struggle in the following years because the players would be getting their tuition paid for. The team would more than likely be comprised of walk-on players and players that were present before the ban took place. Saint Mary University is an example of a team that lost scholarships due to scandal with the NCAA. According to Ricky O’Donnell, SMU has been hit with a post season ban and a loss of scholarships over the next three years, 2015-2017. They were supposed to be pre-season top 25 before the sanctions but when the sanctions became true, the team was devastated. This type of ban is very harsh, but it is necessary for Louisville to learn its lesson.

Finally, the NCAA needs to ban the University of Louisville from the NCAA tournament. This would be a major loss for the University of Louisville. They wouldn’t be getting the popularity of their team being in the tournament. If their team were to win the tournament this would make recruits more likely to go to that school, by taking this away the season would almost seem like it had no purpose. The absolute worst thing that could happen would be the “death penalty”, suspending the team from all games and tournament for up to at least one year. Taking away the end of the year tournament is very common for teams that are involved in scandals. The university of Syracuse Men’s basketball team received similar infractions to these. They were involved in a recruiting scandal, and the NCAA put harsh restrictions on their team. They were put on probation for recruiting for three years and they had their wins vacated from the previous year. They also lost the chance to participate in the end of the year
tournament and their head coach was suspended for seven games (Poliquin). This is necessary because it will be a harsh punishment for Louisville actions. It will show that this type of behavior is unacceptable, and there are consequences when you break the rules.

The recent allegations at Louisville have shown a light on the NCAA has a whole. These types of scandals, paying players, is popping up all over the country. Louisville is just the school that happened to get caught. The university of Louisville needs to receive harsh punishments to show that this type of behavior is unacceptable.

Louisville could be looking at any type of punishment. The types of punishment that would be most effective are firing the whole coaching staff, revoking scholarships, and taking away the team’s eligibility. Firing the entire coaching staff allows the university to move on. If they fire all the coaches under Pitino, they know that most of the people involved in corruption are gone. Taking away future scholarships hurts the program as well. Louisville be unable to get top tier recruits due to the lack of scholarships. This will hurt the universities income and the performance of the team. Finally taking away the eligibility at the end of the year would also hurt the image of the team. The season will seem unimportant and the university won’t get free advertising from the tournament. In Louisville’s case at least one, If not all three of these steps need to be taken. The first time they were caught with a scandal they were put on probation and they didn’t learn their lesson because they are caught up in another scandal again. This is the only way to make sure they learn their lesson and they can move on as a team and university.
Works Cited


Poliquin, Bud. “In the end, Syracuse basketball’s NCAA penalties weren’t that harsh.” Syracuse.com, 25 Nov. 2015


