

Preface to Volume 13, Issue 1

As we were beginning to prepare this issue of the *Harvard Journal of Sports and Entertainment Law*, tragedy struck. Over the summer, one of this issue's authors—Professor Maureen Weston of Pepperdine's Caruso School of Law—informed us that her son Cedric had just died. Attempting to quell [treat] his anxiety, Cedric died after taking a single Xanax pill he got from a “friend” he knew from high school. The pill was counterfeit and laced with lethal fentanyl. Cedric did not know that one pill can kill.

We were heartbroken to learn of Cedric's untimely passing. Although we never had the privilege of knowing Cedric Michael Weston Halloran, we have learned that he was a kind, funny, and enterprising young man with an extraordinarily bright future ahead of him. Cedric loved trading stocks and had a knack for finance. In his 20 years, he was better traveled than either of us, having seen every continent except Antarctica. Cedric had been accepted to Pepperdine for the Fall 2021 semester.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sadly illuminated an ongoing mental health crisis. Too many in our country struggle with mental health issues. That includes young adults like Cedric who are just starting their lives and also athletes of all sorts—particularly those at the collegiate and professional level. While they may be in peak physical condition, scores of athletes contend with mental health problems.

In recent years, we have seen plenty of brave athletes like Naomi Osaka, Simone Biles, and Kevin Love publicly acknowledge their struggles with mental health. As these issues become more salient, it will be important for scholars, practitioners, and jurists to have a legal framework within which to think about athlete mental health.

After Cedric's death, Professor Weston undertook a labor of love: writing an article about athlete mental health and the law for JSEL. She now kicks off this volume with a foreword that brings the law to bear on this difficult issue. We are proud to honor Cedric's memory with this issue of JSEL, and we are grateful to Professor Weston for her timely and meaningful contribution. We also thank our other authors—Professor Jorge Contreras, Professor Brian Frye, Professor Roy Gutterman, and JSEL Supervising Print Editor Alexander Amir—for their thoughtful pieces.

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