

Editorial

“Confessions of a Fixer”

If you haven't read "[Confessions of a Fixer](#)," you've missed quite possibly the best investigative news report of the new year. An excerpt:

Over the past 14 years, he [Mr. White, “the Fixer”] says, he has used test keys to cheat for hundreds of athletes, helping them meet the eligibility requirements of the National Collegiate Athletic Association...his breaches illustrate the ease with which intercollegiate athletics can be exploited, its rules manipulated, and the inability of colleges and regulators to control it... He made some students believe they were completing the classes, handing them packets of practice problems he had picked up from the math lab at his community college and making sure they logged time in study halls as if they had done the work. After they finished the packets, he would toss them in the trash. Then he would log in to BYU's [Brigham Young University's] website to complete the real assignments. That's how some coaches preferred it, he says, as it assured them there wouldn't be any slip-ups. That also meant that the coaches didn't have to worry about retaliation. If the players had no knowledge of the fraud, Mr. White says, they couldn't hold it against anyone.

Given the innumerable scandals recently haunting college athletics, anyone who uses the term “student athlete” offers it as a joke, an oxymoron. And, who in his right mind says with a straight face that big money college sports has a few bad apples, that it is an educational opportunity for poor kids, that it is honest endeavor, standards are assured by the NCAA, that college presidents exercise integrity over athletics, etc., etc.

So, what's going on locally? At the University of Southern Mississippi? Does it field the only honest athletic teams in the country? Does President Bennett stand and assert that USM graduates athletes who can read and write and who have earned their college credits? And that USM athletics are run with integrity and honesty? No fraud?