HEY SPORTS FANS! Welcome to the Law School's course on Sports Law. I hope you find this class to be interesting and rewarding. In this memorandum, I will try to give you some idea of what this course is about and the nature of the material we will be studying. In addition, this Course Introduction contains most of the rules and procedures that will be in effect during the course. Please read this with care, because most of its contents will not be repeated in class.

There really is no substantive body of "Sports Law." Instead, a course on Sports Law involves the study of the application of traditional bodies of law within the context of amateur and professional sports. Specifically, we will study administrative and constitutional law (NCAA); contract law (coaches and professional athletes); anti-trust (NCAA & professional sports), labor law (professional sports); torts (e.g. premises liability, worker’s compensation); and discrimination law (coaches & athletes). When I was a student eons ago, I found the Sports Law course to provide an interesting setting in which to learn these areas of law. I hope you will too. I also hope that upon completion of the semester, you will have a general working knowledge of each of these areas of law. However, please remember that this is a survey course, intended only to introduce you to the major areas and issues of Sports Law. Lawyers working in the sports industry, whether at the amateur or professional level, must acquire a much greater familiarity with these different substantive areas of the law. You might find interesting the discussion of the Sports Law program at Florida Coastal School of Law which has a Center for Law & Sports and offers no less than 7 different sports law courses (the last time I looked).

Covering all of the material in a single semester is a daunting task. Therefore, we will move rather quickly. Fortunately, I think you will find the cases a little easier to read just because the facts will be more interesting and familiar.

Required Text: You must obtain a copy of the following:

RAY YASSER, JAMES McCURDY, PETER GOPLERUD & MAUREEN WESTON, SPORTS LAW: CASES & MATERIALS (7th Ed.)(LexisNexis 2011).

Assignments: We will typically cover more than 50 pages each week. This will include not only reading the cases and related materials, but also considering the questions and problems that the text regularly poses. In addition, I will post additional reading on TWEN. Because this class is comprised of upper class students, I do not intend to conduct it as a first year class is conducted. We will
learn the material by reading it and discussing it in class. In order for a discussion format to work, you must be prepared for each class.

**Attendance:** I must take attendance. The rules of the law school require it. See [http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/attendance-rules-ay15-16.pdf](http://law.siu.edu/_common/documents/rules-code/attendance-rules-ay15-16.pdf). I will do so by circulating an attendance sheet during each class. Please be sure that you sign it. Your signature on the attendance sheet establishes your presence during that class period. Correlatively, the lack of such a signature conclusively establishes your absence. Therefore, be certain to sign the attendance sheet each day. Under the rules of the School of Law, you would normally be entitled to a number of absences equaling three times the number of credit hours. However, because this class meets only once a week, you may accumulate no more than three (3) absences. More than three (3) absences will result in withdrawal from the class. Also, please understand that there is no difference between excused and unexcused absences. They are all equal. Therefore, I strongly suggest that you use absences carefully.

In addition, we must make up the first class that we will miss on Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday. I have no choice on this. Again, the Law School rules require it.

**Workload.** The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310(b)(1), “a “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” This is a 3-credit hour class, meaning that we will spend 150 minutes together each week. The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you about 6 hours for each class session. Therefore, you should not expect to start preparation for class sometime Monday afternoon.

**Grading:** I have not yet decided how to grade this class. I'll probably use a take-home final of some kind. The grades of students who have elected to take this course with S/U grading will be converted by the Registrar according to the following scale: 2.1 or greater = Satisfactory; below 2.1 = Unsatisfactory. Only students who receive a Satisfactory grade will earn academic credit for the course.

**Office Hours:** I have not established formal office hours, although I may yet do so. I will likely be here most days. My office is Room 211 on the second floor overlooking the formal lounge. I prefer NOT to meet with students in the mornings on Tuesday & Thursday, as I will need that time to make final preparations for a class. Otherwise, feel free to stop in anytime.

Throughout the reading assignments, the text will provide questions and problems. You should consider them a part of your reading assignment and be
prepared to discuss them when called upon. In addition, I will likely assign specific problems to specific students throughout the semester, with the expectation that the students prepare written responses and make brief presentations in class. If time allows, I think we should attend a sports event together, maybe a Cardinals game (Wrigley & U.S. Cellular are too far to drive). If someone can arrange tickets and transportation, the Super Bowl or the Masters would work as well. We'll see. In the meantime, let's play ball!!! Now for the formal announcement:

**INITIAL ASSIGNMENT:** Assignment 1 on TWEN.

*Emergency Procedures.* Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY:** Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. [http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/). Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar’s Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

**SALUKI CARES:** The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, [http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html](http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html). At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618-453-3135.

Mark Brittingham