

Changes could impact college baseball's future

NEW YORK (AP) — The Division I baseball season is less than a week old, and coaches already are planning for 2026 when it's all but certain scholarship limits will be removed, rosters downsized and players will have opportunities to make more money.

They expect the fallout to be fewer opportunities for high school recruits at the top level of the sport, especially if the NCAA adopts a proposal that would extend eligibility from four to five years. They also predict a greater imbalance in competition.

All is contingent on a federal judge approving the settlement of antitrust allegations against the NCAA and the nation's biggest conferences. A hearing is set for April 7 and changes would go into effect July 1, a few days after the baseball season.

The framework for baseball would cap rosters at 34 with no scholarship limit for schools that opt in to the revenue-sharing model tied to the so-called House settlement. Currently there's a 40-man limit during the season and a maximum of 11.7 scholarships that can be spread among up to 32 players.

"I still think the majority of teams are going to be giving partial scholarships to at least part of their roster," Nebraska coach Will Bolt said. "Reading the tea leaves, it doesn't look like anyone is going to come up with 34 fulls."

No change in power structure

Auburn athletic director John Cohen, previously head coach at Mississippi State and Kentucky, doubted the new rules would shake up college baseball's power structure. Only about half of the more than 300 Division I programs currently award 11.7 scholarships, and many of the ones that do could at least double that number next year. Programs that don't award 11.7 now still might struggle to offer that many going forward.

With just a handful of programs generating a profit, financial con-



Tennessee coach Tony Vitello, center, hoists the championship trophy following his team's 6-5 victory against Texas A&M in Game 3 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals last year.

straints preclude big scholarship increases at most schools without additional fundraising. Even for schools where increasing scholarships is feasible, Title IX guidelines requiring proportional opportunities for men and women would have to be considered.

The House settlement also would allow athletic departments to share up to \$20.5 million in revenue among athletes across all sports starting next school year. Football and men's basketball players would be expected to receive the lion's share. How much is available to baseball players likely would be a fraction of what athletes in revenue-producing sports get and could amount to little or nothing for programs outside the Power Four.

Modest NIL earnings for most

Most players now receive partial scholarships and try to capitalize on

opportunities allowing them to make money on their name, image and likeness. According to Opendorse's 2024 annual report, the top 25-earning baseball players could expect to make just under \$48,000 per year, based on deals tracked by the NIL platform from 2021-24.

Cohen said that figure seemed low.

"What I know about NIL currently is there is no accurate way to illustrate who's doing what," he said, "so it's hard to speak intelligently about NIL because what you're relying on is third-party information. You hear things and you just aren't sure what to believe."

Clemson coach Erik Bakich said he thought the \$48,000 figure seemed high. Either way, he said, NIL money is not lucrative for the vast majority of baseball players.

"The majority of NIL in college

baseball has been about paying your bills, not play for pay," Bakich said. "College baseball players are using NIL dollars to pay for cost of attendance. I'm for anything that reduces out-of-pocket cost for parents and anything that eliminates the need for any college kid to take out any type of loan debt."

Coaches said an often-overlooked consequence of roster reductions would be the squeeze it puts on high school prospects, especially at the top end of Division I.

Bolt, the Nebraska coach, said he had honest and difficult conversations with some of his players last fall about where they fit in and whether they should consider transferring, perhaps to a lower division. Bolt typically has carried 45 or 50 players in the fall. The NCAA fall roster limit remains fluid but coaches have recommended it be 38 with

the cutdown to 34 on Dec. 1.

Bolt said it takes the typical freshman about three semesters to show whether he can be successful in Division I. The window of opportunity probably will shrink after this year.

"Unless you're a top-100 (high school) prospect or unless you're turning down significant money in the draft to go to college and it's a no-brainer you can play at the Division I level as a freshman, the junior college route does become a very desirable option," Bolt said.

Older players stick around

The shortening of the Major League Baseball amateur draft from 40 rounds to 20 beginning in 2021 has kept more players in college longer. The transfer portal has allowed teams to fill immediate needs rather than roll the dice with young players. And teams would get older yet if there's passage of a proposal now under consideration to extend athlete eligibility from four to five competitive seasons.

There also is some question about how junior college years will be counted against NCAA eligibility following the federal court injunction that gave Vanderbilt football player Diego Pavia an extra season after he argued his junior college years limited his ability to capitalize on NIL.

Oregon State coach Mitch Canham said all those factors mean promising high school players who don't project to be an immediate starting position player or key member of the pitching staff will be passed over in coming years.

"With a roster of 34, you don't have room to keep a whole bunch of guys around to develop, which is tough because that's something we've done a lot of," Canham said. "It's almost as if, am I going to trust an 18-year-old who has never played Division I baseball to come in and do this? You better make sure. Or are you going to get a 21-year-old (transfer) who has hundreds of at-bats and experience against older competition?"

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Florida	57	34	20	3	71	192	165			
Toronto	55	33	20	2	68	169	156			
Tampa Bay	55	31	20	4	66	197	153			
Ottawa	56	29	23	4	62	158	156			
Detroit	55	28	22	5	61	160	171			
Boston	57	27	24	6	60	157	182			
Montreal	56	25	26	5	55	163	194			
Buffalo	54	22	27	5	49	171	185			
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Washington	55	36	11	8	80	196	140			
Carolina	56	33	19	4	70	184	154			
New Jersey	57	31	20	6	68	175	142			
Columbus	56	26	22	8	60	184	186			
N.Y. Rangers	55	27	24	4	58	165	168			
N.Y. Islanders	55	25	23	7	57	152	162			
Pittsburgh	57	23	25	9	55	164	201			
Philadelphia	57	24	26	7	55	162	192			

PRO GOLF GLANCE

PGA TOUR
MEXICO OPEN AT VIDANTAWORLD
 Site: Vallarta, Mexico.
 Course: Vallarta Vidanta. Yardage: 7,436. Par: 71.
 Prize money: \$7 million. Winner's share: \$1.26 million.
 Television: Thursday-Friday, 4-7 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 1-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3-6 p.m. (NBC).
 Defending champion: Jake Knapp.
 FedEx Cup leader: Ludvig Aberg.
 Last week: Ludvig Aberg won the Genesis Invitational.

Notes: The Mexico Open technically is on the western coast of America, but it's the start of NBC's coverage until the Masters. ... Aaron Rai (No. 29) is the highest-ranked player in a field that features only four from the top 50. ... The 132-man field includes six additional sponsor exemptions set aside for Latin American players. That list includes Alvaro Ortiz, a former Latin American Amateur champion and the younger brother of Carlos Ortiz. ... Padraig Harrington is in the field. He played three times on the European tour earlier this year. ... The winner gets an invitation to the Masters. Only 11 players in the field are already in the Masters. That includes two amateurs, U.S. Amateur champion Jose Luis Ballester and Latin American Amateur champion Justin Harrings. ... Blades Brown, the latest teenager to top 10, has received another sponsor exemption. He missed the cut in The American Express.
 Next week: Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches.
 Online: <https://www.pgatour.com/>

LPGA TOUR
HONDA LPGA THAILAND
 Site: Chonburi, Thailand.
 Course: Siam CC (Old). Yardage: 6,632. Par: 72.
 Prize money: \$1.7 million. Winner's share: \$255,000.
 Television: Wednesday-Thursday, 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. (Golf Channel).
 Defending champion: Patty Tavatanakit.
 Race to CME Globe leader: A Lim Kim.
 Last tournament: Yealimi Noh won the Founders Cup.

Notes: This starts the first Asia swing on the LPGA Tour, which goes from Thailand to Singapore to China. There will be another Asia swing in the fall. ... Seven of the top 10 in the women's world ranking are playing in Thailand. That does not include Nelly Korda and Lydia Ko, the top two players. ... The two LPGA winners this season are in the field, A Lim Kim (Tournament of Champions) and Yealimi Noh (Founders Cup). ... The field includes Japanese twins Akie and Chisato Iwai, who both earned cards through LPGA qualifying last year. They are playing on sponsor exemptions. ... Another exemption went to Gianna Clemente, best known for getting into three straight LPGA events through Monday qualifying at age 14 in the late summer of 2022. ... Patty Tavatanakit won the tournament last year, joining Ariya Jutanugarn (2021) as the only Thai players to win on home soil.
 Next week: HSBC Women's World Championship.
 Online: <https://www.lpga.com/>

SCHOLASTIC BASKETBALL

VARSITY GIRLS
CORRY (44)
 Albers 2 4-4, Mumau 6 0-0 15, Nickerson 2 2-3 6, Kemp 1 0-0 2, Allen 2 0-4, Dyme 4 0-4 8. Totals: 17 6-11 44.

GROVE CITY (30)
 Cook 1 0-0 2, Barr 1 0-0 3, Brink 1 0-0 2, Kolbe 2 2-4 6, Gamble 5 3-4 17, Banner 0 0-0 0, Rider 0 0-0 0, Miller 0 0-0 0. Totals: 10 5-8 30.

Score by Quarters
 Corry 11 7 9 17 — 44
 Grove City 8 7 3 12 — 30

3-point goals — Corry (Mumau 3, Albers), Grove City (Gamble 4, Barr).

MERCER (41)
 Allen 4 1-5 11, Rowe 3 0-0 6, Heckathorn 3 0-0 6, Finley 2 0-3 4, Blough 0 1-2 1, A. Heckathorn 1 0-2 2, McCandless 1 6-6 8, Guenther 1 1-2 3. Totals: 15 9-20 41.

COCHRANTON (38)
 Custead 1 0-0 2, Williams 3 2-5 8, Shorts 1 0-0 2, Pfeiffer 4 3-4 13, Lyons 1 1-2 3, Rodax 3 3-6 10, McCartney 0 0-0 0, Frayer 0 0-0 0. Totals: 13 9-17 38.

Score by Quarters
 Mercer 9 5 10 10 7 — 41
 Cochranton 4 8 10 12 4 — 38

3-point goals — Mercer (Allen 2), Cochranton (Pfeiffer 2, Rodax).

8TH GRADE BOYS
CRANBERRY (53)
 Shumaker 4 3-4 11, Irwin 8 5-7 23, Marchinke 4 6-8 14, Shreve 1 0-3, Thompson 1 0-0 2. Totals: 18 14-19 53.

NORTH CLARION (23)
 Walter 4 2-2 10, Burkhardt 2 0-0 4, Ochs 1 1-2 3, Irwin 1 2-5 4, Karg 0 0-2 0, Hastings 1 0-0 2. Totals: 9 5-11 23.

Score by Quarters
 Cranberry 22 19 7 5 — 53
 North Clarion 9 4 6 4 — 23

3-point goals — Cranberry (Irwin 2, Shreve).

7TH GRADE BOYS
CRANBERRY (38)
 Hartle 3 0-0 7, Cunningham 2 1-2 5, Lehnort 4 0-0 8, Thompson 1 0-0 2, Gross 6 4-4 16. Totals: 16 5-6 38.

NORTH CLARION (4)
 Sweeney 1 0-2 2, Lauer 1 0-0 2, Rhoads 0 0-0 0, Irwin 0 0-0 0, Barrett 0 0-0 0. Totals: 2 0-2 4.

Score by Quarters
 Cranberry 18 12 0 8 — 38
 North Clarion 0 0 2 2 — 4

3-point goals — Cranberry (Hartle).

LOCAL BOWLING

HILLTOP KEGLERS
 Standings — Alley Oops 31-5, All Nines 22-14, The Misfits 21-15, Girls Gone Wine 19-17, Sassy Strikers 17-19, Beach Bums 15-21, Pin Crushers 13-23, Splits N Giggles 6-30.
 High game — Kristine Thomas 276, Amber Gahr 211, Marilyn Williams 205.
 High series — Thomas 639, Williams 525, Gahr 511.

LADYBIRDS
 Standings — Cardinals 21-11, Bluejays 21-11, Osprey 19-13, Sparrows 17-15, Doves 17-15, Juncos 14-18, Canary 10-22.
 High game — Michelle Semprevivo 178, Toni Hawke 175, Nancy Eyer 162.
 High series — Semprevivo 479, CXora Bodien 456, Hawke 440.

BOB EVANS
 Standings — KP 21-7, Managers 19-9, Servers 17-11, Greeters 10-18, Tankers 9-19, Grill 8-20.
 High game — Luke Flinspach 204, Rick Whitting 182, Don Wheeler 176.
 High series — Shane Schleifed 491, Whitting 485, John Slater 477.

BETTER BUSINESS
 Standings — Venango Machine 27-6, Richard Logging 58-30, Schake Industries 55-33, Disruption 48-40, BM Floors 46-42, ADS Recycling 46-42, O'Neil's Plumbing 46-42, Oil City Automotive 45-43, Franklin Concrete 41-47, Lickety Splits 37-51, Sandbaggers 28-60.
 High game — Rob Ziegler 279, Brayden Mellring 258, Billy Hricina Jr. 257.
 High series — Ziegler 702, Brian McClellan 684, James Stevenson 668.

CITY TENPIN
 Standings — Victorian City 111-43, Village Auto 90-64, World of Wheels 88-66, Hepler Contracting 80-74, Franklin Concrete 78-76, Schiffer Custom 78-76, Seneca Lanes 78-76, AY Mechanical 72-82, Safe Lite 66-88.
 High game — Travis Schiffer 268, Brian Kratzer 257, Mike Deibert 256.
 High series — James Stevenson 720, Justin Irwin 699, Kratzer 677.

LES FRICKSHUN MIXED
 Standings — Run It Out 38-11, Dunkle's Plumbing 37-12, McMillan's Carpet 34-15, Franklin Service 30-19, Liberty Electronics 29-20, Red Horizon Technologies 26-23, Hartland Homes 26-23, Last Call 25-24, A Team 19-30, Nathan's Team 19-30, Mike Rust 0-49.
 High game men — Tim Mellring 258, Nathan Hricina 257, Rob Walter 247.
 High game women — Kristine Thomas 268, Melissa Stewart 245, Jenn King 230.
 High series men — Todd McGill 694, Hricina/Mellring 681.
 High series women — Thomas 748, King 613, Melissa Stewart 612.

AARP
 Standings — Ralph Raiders 25-7, 4 Kings 25-7, Throwbots 24-8, Joe's Bar 20-12, Pinpushers 19-13, Alley Cats 19-13, Lucky Strikers 19-13, Woodsplitters 15-17, K Zam 15-17, How We Roll 15-17, Spare Timers 13-19, Our Gang 12-20, Aces & Ducees 12-20, Just Us Four 9-23, Pete's Girls 9-23.
 High game men — Glenn Beichner 259, John Heard 253, Tim Young 219.
 High game women — Kathy Shanafelt 196, Linda Quigley 188, Diana Rex 188.
 High series men — Heard 669, Beichner 660, Sam Luchs 595.
 High series women — Doris Schwab 486, Rex 485, Quigley 481.

McKISSICK/KLAPEK
 Standings — Mellrings 34-14, POW MIA 29-19, Last Call 28-20, Poly Pro 27-21, Bowling Stones 20-28.
 High game men — Bert McClellan 268, Tim Mellring 236, Chris Glatt 217.
 High game women — Jamie Glatt 186, Lisa Kuhns 180, Amy Johnston 167.
 High series men — McClellan 665, Mellring 619, Travis Shull 589.
 High series women — Glatt 542, Johnston 467, Kuhns 435.

GUYS & DOLLS
 Standings — Five G Farm 19-9, Almost Done 18-10, Dunkle's Heating & A/C 16-12, Digital Styles 14-14, Lutz Concrete Construction 13-15, Bare Bone Skull Cleaning 13-15, Mattern CPA, LLC 12-16, Sheakley's Custom Exhaust 12-16, Colony Homes 12-16, Linmas Pharmacy 11-17.
 High game — Dan Ace 277, Devin Dunkle 269, Rob Krauss 263.
 High series — Ace 764, Krauss 681, Matt Gilara 668.

SPORTS SCENE

FRIDAY, FEB. 21
BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS
District 9 Class 2A
 Coudersport at Keystone, 7 p.m.
 Port Allegany at Clarion-Limestone, 7 p.m.
 District 9 Class 3A
 Cranberry vs. Karns City at Clarion H.S., 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS
District 9 Class 1A
 Clarion-Limestone at Elk County Catholic, 7 p.m.
District 9 Class 3A
 Karns City vs. Moniteau at Clarion H.S., 8 p.m.
 Cranberry vs. Brookville at Clarion H.S., 5 p.m.
SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING
 District 10 Class 2A Tournament at Sharon H.S.
 District 9/10 Class 3A Tournament at PennWest Clarion

SPORTS ON TV
Thursday, Feb. 20
BASEBALL
6 a.m. (Friday)
 MLB — 2025 World Baseball Classic Qualifier: Spain vs. Chinese Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
6:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Northwestern at Ohio St.
7 p.m.
 CBSN — Monmouth at Hofstra
 ESPN — UNC-Asheville at Radford
8:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Southern Cal at Maryland
9 p.m.
 CBSN — Louisiana Tech at MTSU
 ESPN2 — Wichita St. at FAU
 ESPN — Sam Houston St. at W. Kentucky
11 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Loyola Marymount at Santa Clara
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
5 p.m.
 ESPN — Le Moyne at Fairleigh Dickinson
6 p.m.
 ACCN — North Carolina at Syracuse
7 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Louisville at Duke
 PEACOCK — Ohio St. at Indiana
 SECN — Arkansas at South Carolina
7:30 p.m.
 BTN — Maryland at Northwestern
8 p.m.
 ACCN — Stanford at Virginia Tech
 PEACOCK — George Mason at Davidson
9 p.m.
 SECN — Georgia at LSU
9:30 p.m.
 BTN — Illinois at UCLA
FIGURE SKATING
8 a.m.
 E! — ISU Four Continents Championships, Seoul, South Korea (Taped)
GOLF
5 a.m.
 GOLF — DP World Tour: The Kenya Open, First Round, Muthaiga Golf Club, Nairobi City, Kenya
4 p.m.
 GOLF — PGA Tour: The Mexico Championship, First Round, VidantaWorld, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico
10 p.m.
 GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Honda LPGA Thailand, Second Round, Siam Country Club, Pattaya, Chon Buri, Thailand
5 a.m. (Friday)
 GOLF — DP World Tour: The Kenya Open, Second Round, Muthaiga Golf Club, Nairobi City, Kenya
MLB BASEBALL
3 p.m.
 MLB — Spring Training: Chicago Cubs vs. L.A. Dodgers, Glendale, Ariz.
NBA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
 TNT — Boston at Philadelphia
 TRUTV — Boston at Philadelphia (DataCast)
9:30 p.m.
 TNT — Phoenix at San Antonio
 TRUTV — Phoenix at San Antonio (DataCast)
NHL HOCKEY
8 p.m.
 ESPN — 4 Nations Face-Off: Canada vs. U.S., Championship, Boston
SOCCER (MEN'S)
12:40 p.m.
 CBSN — UEFA Europa League: FC Porto at AS Roma
3 p.m.
 CBSN — UEFA Europa League: FC Midtjylland at Real Sociedad
7:55 p.m.
 FS2 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Vancouver at Saprissa, First Round — Leg 1
SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
2:50 p.m.
 FS2 — CONCACAF U-20 Championship Group Stage: Costa Rica vs. Aruba, Group F, Couva, Trinidad and Tobago
8 p.m.
 TBS — SheBelieves Cup Group Stage: U.S. vs. Colombia, Houston
TENNIS
5 a.m.
 TENNIS — Dubai-WTA, Doha-ATP Early Rounds
6 a.m.
 TENNIS — Dubai-WTA, Doha-ATP Quarterfinals; Rio de Janeiro-ATP Early Rounds

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
W	L	Pct	GB							
Boston	39	16	.709	—						
New York	36	18	.667	2½						
Phila.	20	34	.370	18½						
Brooklyn	20	34	.370	18½						
Toronto	17	38	.309	22						
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
W	L	Pct	GB							
Orlando	27	29	.482	—						
Atlanta	26	29	.473	½						
Miami	25	28	.472	½						
Charlotte	13	39	.250	12						
Washington	9	45	.167	17						
CENTRAL										
W	L	Pct	GB							
Cleveland	44	10	.815	—						
Indiana	30	23	.566	13½						
Milwaukee	29	24	.547	14½						
Detroit	29	26	.527	15½						
Chicago	22	33	.400	22½						
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
W	L	Pct	GB							
Memphis	36	18	.667	—						
Houston	34	21	.618	2½						
Dallas	30	26	.536	7						
San Antonio	23	29	.442	12						
New Orleans	13	42	.236	23½						
NORTHWEST										
W	L	Pct	GB							
Oklahoma City	44	10	.815	—						
Denver	36	19	.655	8½						
Minnesota	31	25	.554	14						
Portland	23	32	.418	21½						
Utah	13	41	.241	31						
PACIFIC										
W	L	Pct	GB							
L.A. Lakers	32	20	.615	—						
L.A. Clippers	31	23	.574	2						
Sacramento	28	27	.509	5½						
Golden State	28	27	.509	5½						
Phoenix	26	28	.481	7						

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games
 No games scheduled.

Wednesday's Games
 No games scheduled.

Thursday's Games
 Canada vs. USA at TD Garden, 8 p.m.

Friday's Games
 No games scheduled.

Saturday's Games
 Minnesota at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
 Edmonton at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 5:30 p.m.
 Colorado at Nashville, 6 p.m.
 Dallas at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
 Seattle at Florida, 6 p.m.
 Anaheim at Boston, 7 p.m.
 Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 Chicago at Columbus, 7 p.m.
 Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
 Winnipeg at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
 Utah at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
 Vancouver at Vegas, 10 p.m.

LOCAL POOL LEAGUE

Oil City Club Pool League
 Week 7 Results — Pulaski A def. Elks A 7-5, VFW B def. Eagles A 8-4, Eagles B def. VFW A 9-3, Pulaski B def. Elks B 8-4
 Standings — VFW B 6-1, Eagles B 6-1, Pulaski B 5-2, VFW A 4-3, Eagles A 3-4, Pulaski A 3-4, Elks A 1-6, Elks B 0-7
 Four Wins — Scott McClellan
 Two Singles Wins — Jake Carothers, Doug Baker, Chris Russel, Ed Bemis, Steve Carnes, Skip Lagston
 Doubles Sweep — Pulaski B
 Eight Ball Run — Eagles B doubles (two)

D-10 BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

DISTRICT 10 BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS
BOYS
CLASS 2A
First round
Tuesday, Feb. 18
at Sharon H.S.
 Sharpville 56, Union City 42
at Mercyhurst University
 Eisenhower 72, Wilmingston 36
at Farrell H.S.
 Greenville 56, Cambridge Springs 49
at Meadville H.S.
 Cochranton 69, Maplewood 39
Quarterfinals
Friday, Feb. 21
at Meadville H.S.
 Rocky Grove vs. Sharpville, 6 p.m.
 Lakeview vs. Cochranton, 7:30 p.m.
at Hagerty Center
 Saegertown vs. Eisenhower, 6 p.m.
 Mercyhurst Prep vs. Greenville, 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A
First round
Tuesday, Feb. 18