



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2007, 18th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 14th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Does It Pay to be a High School Athlete?

Brandin Heidbreder
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Heidbreder, Brandin and Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, Michael, "Does It Pay to be a High School Athlete?" (2007). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 1.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2007/oralpres9/1>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O9.1

DOES IT PAY TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE?

Brandin Heidbreder and Michael Seeborg*
Economics Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

This paper is designed to investigate the effect participation in high school athletics has on a student's labor market success. Conventional wisdom suggests that participation provides athletes with valuable human capital skills which may not be attainable to those who chose not to participate in athletics. Through regression analysis of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, evidence is found in support of the idea that participation in high school athletics yields a wage premium for both men and women. In addition to this wage premium, participants in athletics also receive a greater amount of educational attainment on average. Additional regressions show that a sizeable portion of the wage premium to athletes is a result of educational attainment and indirect characteristics which can be attributed to human capital skills specific to athletic participation.