



While the portal has opened new gateways into how college athletic programs will fill roster spots, a free agency effect has arisen in collegiate athletics. Athletes can now enter their name into the portal and have several universities clamoring for the opportunity to have them join their program.

Cutting school

Tate Martell, a quarterback who began his career at Ohio State and transferred to Miami due to the addition of Fields, was recently granted immediate eligibility. His waiver included, based on reports, a request to play immediately due to Ohio State changing their coaching staff midway through the past season. Reporters around the country have criticized the portal because it allows players to circumvent typical application and development processes. Ohio State coach Ryan Day was already on the staff when former coach Urban Meyer decided to retire, so it's still a mystery why Martell's waiver was approved. Day even played a role in Martell's recruitment, creating larger issues from those who doubted Field's intentions when he came to Ohio State and took Martell's position.

When a player completes the waiver granting them access to play immediately, both the NCAA and the former university have to approve. Reporters have criticized the lackadaisical attitude that many universities take to transfer approval for their former athletes. Ohio State saw no issue with Martell's request, just like Georgia had no complaint over Fields. This lack of restriction on the part of these universities has widened the scope of opportunity for these players to be swayed by the other collegiate programs looking to take advantage of their talent.

They are opened to being wooed by any team looking to host them for the next two or three years of their career. The hope is that, at some point, teams will discourage their former players from contributing to a competing program.

"These are all issues that would still need to be solved, as you wouldn't want players having a greater effect for another school, but at the same time the process is much simpler now," Mitchell said. "It isn't complicated for a great athlete to change where he plays while at college."

There's a sense that college football is becoming an open market of sorts, a place where any team can build a competent roster through players that are afterthoughts on superior teams. That's how UNR has found success in the basketball realm. Teams no longer have to go to different locations to find the best talent in the country, they just have to find the patience to wait until the next great player becomes disgruntled and wants to find a new home. How this affects recruiting in the future remains to be seen, since the portal did not come into effect until right near National Signing Day on February 7, 2018.

Teams will need to strategize how to distribute scholarships to players that might not yet even be able to find the university on a map. College names alone may no longer be enough to entice student athletes to play there. Coaches have to find roles for every one of their highly regarded recruits almost immediately or else face the consequences of watching their teams dismantle right before their eyes.

UNR faces these issues head on, as programs like Kentucky, Ohio State and Duke easily attract players UNR may have at the top of their list. The only way for UNR to stay competitive with schools like these

is to win in the transfer game. Even now, with the new hiring of Coach Steve Alford to replace Eric Musselman, Alford faces the difficult task of keeping his own players at the university.

The transfer portal has changed the game of college sports on every campus and with new threats emerging every year, teams will be forced to keep a close eye on what names are being put in each day. Any one player can completely change the dynamic of expectations at a school. UNR and schools everywhere have to change the way they recruit players, as they won't be speaking just with high schoolers anymore. They're not just selling them on enhancing their talents with the program. They have to demonstrate to players that joining their program will help the players reach the professional leagues. Athletes need guaranteed playing time, even if that means putting them ahead of juniors or seniors who are about to graduate.

Teams will always need more talent, and the transfer portal is a new way of acquiring that talent without having to travel to high schools all over the country. Programs are gearing up for rapid changes in collegiate sports, and others are just trying to hold on to the talent they already have. Players are making decisions with future intentions in mind. Teams will have to continue to adapt and remain focused on the main goal, winning.

The Wolf Pack has adjustments to make since many of the star basketball players have left. Alford and his staff will not want a talentless team next year, so his view on the transfer portal should stay unchanged from Coach Musselman's. Programs rebuild, regroup and replenish, and anyone who chooses not to will be on the outside looking in next season. □

BUY Local!

RN&R

SANCTUARY
HAIR DESIGN

CUT AND COLOR + SPECIALTY SERVICES: DREADLOCKS FASHION COLOR

We Carry R+Co Hair Products

955 S VIRGINIA ST SUITE 115, RENO, NV 89502
775.384.3433 SANCTUARYBOUTIQUESALON.COM

WE'RE STILL OPEN!

Paul is retiring, but WE ARE STILL IN BUSINESS, so come see us!

BUY-SELL TRADE Recycled Records Since 1978

MIDTOWN RENO OPEN • 'TIL 7PM WEEKDAYS
822 S. Virginia (North of Junkee, South of Siip)
826-4119 • recrecreno.com

SLUSHEE'S VAPOR
Now has **CBD & CBD Accessories**

Ripe CBD 1000 mg - \$39.99
Disposables

Naked Tincture • CBD Gummies • Select CBD
CBD Lotion • CBD Flower • Trokie
Bath Bombs • Honey Sticks
Pain Relief Cream

2005 Sierra Highlands Drive
Suite 123, Reno, NV
775.432.2780
www.VapeSlushees.com
Open Everyday 9am to 10pm

Divorce, Bankruptcy, Immigration, Wills, Name Changes, Deeds, etc.

BUDGET DOCUMENT SERVICE
Low Cost Document Preparation Service
20 years doing business in Reno
1547 So. Virginia Street, #4, Reno
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
775-324-2277

"LOVE ALL" • "FEED ALL"
100% Fresh Meat. Fresh Baked Bread.
Award Winning Sandwiches!

50% OFF OUR "HOLIDAY SANDWICH"
ONLY REDEMABLE AT ...

THE SANDWICH SPOT RENO

775-499-5098
Mon-Fri 11am-7pm • Sat-Sun 11am-4pm
6775 Sierra Center Pkwy, Suite #100, Reno

Endless Hot Water

AQUIOUS

AQUIOUSTankless.com
775 332 3978

MAGPIE
COFFEE ROASTERS

ROASTING & BREWING AT
1715 S WELLS AVE, RENO

WKDAYS: 7A-5P
WKND: 8A-5P

MAGPIEROASTERS.COM