11C Kyung Hwan Jung, Yonsei University & Young Shin Won, Yonsei University
“A Case Study on Elite Student Athletes’ Victimization Experience of Physical Abuse”

The problem of violence against student athletes in sports teams has become a social issue in our society. However, that problem seems to continue occurring despite the social and academic effort to provide solutions, interventions, and policies to prevent it. For solving the fundamental problem, violence in the field of sports needs to be viewed from a new perspective. Therefore, the purpose of this paper was to understand the construction of student athletes’ experience who were victimized by physical abuse in sports teams and to suggest the reconceptualization of violence against student athlete to solve the problem. To achieve this goal, a qualitative case study was conducted by in-depth interviews with six participants who were former student athletes having experienced violence during their sports career, which was longer than average six years. The qualitative data analysis showed that the meaning of violence is means of control through the abuse, not just discipline to enhance athletic performance for sports teams. Second, three primary abusers of the student athletes are coaches, seniors, and parents. An interesting finding was the victims later became assailants which makes a vicious circle in the elite sports system focusing on outcome and achievement.

11C Lauren Anderson, Florida State University
“Sport and Domestic Violence: When Media Representations Meet Reality”

On February 15, 2014 Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was arrested for assaulting his then fiancé, Janay Palmer, at the Revel Casino in Atlantic City (Bien, 2014). Four days later, a video surfaced via TMZ, which showed Rice dragging an unconscious Palmer out of an elevator at the casino. On September 8, TMZ released another video, which showed Rice punching Janay in the face inside the elevator at the casino. The public outcry over the video grew far beyond sports fans, as it generated a national discussion about intimate partner violence unlike anything seen before (Blow, 2014). The video took something that typically happens behind closed doors and put it out in the open to be talked about, and mainstream media was a large contributor to this conversation. This paper analyzes mainstream media representations of domestic violence following Ray Rice’s assault in order to make visible the ways in which media constructs particular understandings of domestic violence. As McDonald (1999) notes, media coverage of domestic abuse committed by male athletes may “offer some of the most visible cases of domestic violence available for public consumption,” functioning “as significant sites where larger cultural understandings of domestic violence are constructed, contested, and struggled over” (p. 112-113).

11C Alonzo Maestas, University of New Mexico & Mark Orgeron, University of New Mexico
“WWEnough With The Injuries!”

The World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) is the most popular professional wrestling company in the entire world. WWE’s popularity has spanned generations, from the days of Hulk Hogan in the 1980s, The Rock in the 1990s, John Cena in the 2000s, and Seth Rollins in the present time. The WWE’s professional wrestlers (referred to as Superstars) entertain millions of fans on a yearly basis through television and live events by performing amazing displays of athleticism. Although the outcomes of the matches are predetermined, it is not a stretch to say that their events are sporting events, or quasi-sporting events, due to the athleticism required to perform in a professional wrestling ring. In recent years, WWE Superstars have sustained a rash of injuries ranging from concussions to back injuries, as well as
nagging injuries that become major injuries, such as shoulder and neck injuries. Although some injuries are inevitable, the amount and seriousness of the injuries in recent time are cause for concern. The goal of this presentation is to examine ways in which WWE can reduce the injuries to its Superstars, while continuing to put on an entertaining product for its fans, by assessing current injury protocols in similar fields.

11C Mark Orgeron, University of New Mexico & Alonzo Maestas, University of New Mexico

“Mama Said ‘Knock You Out!’ The Ethics of Youth MMA”

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is becoming more popular and mainstream every day. Elite MMA fighters are starring in big budget films and becoming household names, and the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) has started franchising fitness gyms. Through the rise in popularity, many aspiring athletes are turning to MMA as their sport of choice for fitness or in hopes of one day attaining fame and glory within the octagon. With the newfound popularity in MMA, and it officially being sanctioned in almost every state, a new trend is emerging within the sport. MMA youth leagues are starting and are pitting child against child in cage fighting combat. The rise of youth sport leagues in America has been astronomical but very few carry the physical and social risk of MMA. MMA is a very violent and injury prone sport. From a physical aspect, broken bones, severe contusions, and concussions are all common place from both training and competition. The goal of this presentation is to examine the ethical implications of youth athletes competing in MMA and to propose guidelines for the proper ages to begin training and competing in the sport.

11C Mark Lasota, University of New Mexico.

“Battle of the Hardwood: Impact of the 1980’s NBA on Today’s Game.”

During the 1980’s, the National Basketball Association (NBA) was characterized by toughness and physical play. In contrast to contemporary times, games were refereed differently and players were fouled with vigor. The rules against fighting were lenient, as there were much less ejections, fines, and suspensions for fighting. Coakley and Donnelly (2009) define violence as “the use of excessive physical force, which causes or has the potential to cause harm or destruction.” The failure to monitor “violent acts” on the basketball court during the 1980's has resulted in the swift restructuring and strict enforcing of several rules and policies by the NBA. According to David Stern, former commissioner of the NBA, “If I had it to do over again, we would be more aggressive in regulating, shall we say, that style of play, because it led to our game becoming much more physical.” The purpose of this study is to examine the incidences of violence in the NBA during the 1980's and to discuss the impact those occurrences had on today’s rules and regulations.