5D J. Kenyatta Cavil, Texas Southern University; Enoch Culliver, Texas Southern University & Angel Corona, Texas Southern University

“The Intersection of HBCU Athletics and Hispanic and Latino American College Athletes”

Over the last three decades, there has been an influx of Hispanic and Latino American students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), particularly in regions of the U.S. were the Latino population has had significantly growth rates (Ozuna, 2012). The HBCU experience is personified by the concept of cultural and community empowerment (Cooper, Cavil, & Cheeks, 2014; Cavil. 2015). While HBCUs have maintained an identity beyond the idea of Black individualized forced assimilation of the African American ethnic minority group, a similar phenomenon should be explored with the assimilation of the Hispanic and Latino American ethnic minority group associated with regards to participation in athletics at HBCUs. The smaller class sizes, athletic scholarship opportunities and the historical aspect of serving low-income, first-generation college students could be what are driving the growth of Hispanic and Latino American students at HBCUs. The high ethnic identity developments for those Hispanic and Latino American students who attend HBCUs suggest they feel comfortable with their ethnic backgrounds, their histories and the unique traditions that contribute to these ethnicities. Thus, the purpose of this presentation is to explore the experiences of Hispanic and Latino American students participating in athletics at HBCUs, particularly in the sports of baseball and cross country (men) and soccer and softball (women).

5D Algerian Hart, Western Illinois University & F. Erik Brooks, Western Illinois University

“Double Consciousness and the Veil: HBCU’s and the Black Athlete”

W.E.B. Du Bois’s seminal book, “The Souls of Black Folk” was published in 1903. In this intellectually shaping article, Du Bois rested his argument on several canons of the disciplines history, psychology, and sociology to develop the concepts of “double consciousness” and the “veil” in his writings. The term “double consciousness” was appealing to those black elites who had been educated through the “New England” style of higher education which was copied from the European higher education system. In essence, Du Bois knew these concepts and or theories would have mass appeal and would give a name to what many middle and upper middle class were experiencing. There are two significant concepts revealed in this work; the concept of “double consciousness” and the “veil.” DuBois operationalized these terms differently. In today’s high profile collegiate sport landscape the black athlete experiences double consciousness as they navigate under the veil of a “Win at all cost” environment, specifically when they attempt to reconcile several dichotomies; being a student and athlete; being a team player and being and individual, adoration by fans and animosity by fellow students. This paper will explore the Black Collegiate Student-Athlete’s matriculation at HBCU’s.

5D John N. Singer, Texas A&M University & Kristi Oshiro, Texas A&M University

“Redefining the Conveyor Belt: From Five Star Football Recruit at HWCU to a Holistic Man at an HBCU”

In recent years, scholars have focused on the importance of athletics at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the positive educational experiences of athletes at these institutions (Cooper, 2013; Cooper & Hawkins, 2012; 2014; Cooper, Cavil, & Cheeks, 2014). Cooper and his colleagues have drawn in particular from critical race theory (CRT) in examining the pivotal role HBCUs play in nurturing the overall educational development of Black male athletes, in comparison to the Historically White Colleges and Universities (HWCUs) that have redirected Black athlete talent from HBCUs post-integration. Cooper and Hawkins (2014) study of Black male athletes who transferred from HWCUs to HBCUs revealed these athletes felt like “outcasts” at the HWCUs, but felt connected and valued as
holistic beings at the HBCUs. The purpose of our presentation is to build on this important work by embracing William Rhoden’s (2006) notion of the “Conveyor Belt” (i.e., a sophisticated recruiting apparatus designed to extract Black talent from the Black community) to illuminate the interesting case of Alfy Hill, a former five-star football recruit who began his career at the University of Alabama with brief stops at a football championship series (FCS) HWCU and two community colleges before culminating at an HBCU (i.e., Winston Salem State University). We will highlight the broader implications for Hill’s somewhat unusual and accidental journey into and through college sport and how, in many ways, he redefined the typical path of the Conveyor Belt by returning to his roots.

5D Charles Macaulay, University of Connecticut
“From within the Belly of the Beast: Working within an Athletic Department to Further College Athlete Social Justice”

I occupy the role of a Graduate Assistant for a sport management program, am a mentor for several academically underprepared athletes, am part of an athlete collective, and am part of an organization which works with inner-city kids. For the most part all of my roles inform and work with each other, informing my personal academic work as well as my continued actions towards social justice for athlete-students. However, being an academic mentor for academically underprepared athletes has placed me in the belly of the beast, so to speak. I am often in a duplicitous role of serving and upholding an exploitative and oppressive system while trying to retain a moral center of actively changing / dismantling it. With guidance and great patience I have found being actively involved on the inside, while perpetuating systemic oppression, can be beneficial in many of our missions that often fall outside the establishment. Choosing to focus on building relationships and trust with athletes from within the athletic department has allowed me, in partnership with others, to build the consciousness of several young athletes. I will pursue a discussion of the benefits from working on the inside.