

# Kicking Parents of Athletes Off the Entitlement Program

By Shaun Miller, Contributing Writer

Have you ever wondered what the easiest way to come up with a boatload of money would be? The dollar amount isn't important, but let's put down something concrete—say, \$40 million?

I've had my fair share of ideas: wacky inventions, genius business schemes, impersonating celebrities. It's all fair game to a guy who just graduated college and isn't far removed from daydreaming sessions in libraries and lecture halls.

For one father, apparently, a quick \$40 million means suing a school that has cut his son from its track team. Check that: suing the *school, coach, athletic director, superintendent, and school board*.

A New Jersey sophomore was recently [kicked off his high school's track team](#) for missing too many practices. As a result, the teen's father filed a \$40 million lawsuit. This is a shining example of parents today and the feeling of entitlement they have when it comes to their children and sports. The lawsuit is absurd and the father will never see a dime of that money.

The father claims that a family death and a leg injury prevented his son from attending practices. If this was the case, shouldn't the parent have provided a written excuse? Any coach can understand extenuating circumstances, especially the passing of a loved one. At the same time, even with the bad leg, shouldn't the teen have at least *attended* the practices? There are such things as team play, leadership and commitment to consider.

Those three qualities are exactly what I think is missing here. Unfortunately, the teen won't learn any of this from his father. Here is a list of the father's excuses for the suit: the son was "bullied and harassed" by the coach's refusal to let the son run in varsity races, while still a freshman; the son has a "right" to participate in extracurricular activities; and the son will now miss out on a chance for a college scholarship.

Each excuse reeks of entitlement. For one, nobody should expect to run varsity races their freshman year. Second, extracurricular activities are not a "right." They are a privilege provided by the school and they come with rules. It is a coach's choice to kick an athlete off a team if rules are not followed. Finally, sports scholarships are not the only option. If this teen puts the effort into schoolwork that he could not put into track, then maybe an academic scholarship is waiting for him out there. Opportunities need to be earned and not expected. Teach your athletes about disappointments and how they shape us. Don't teach them the easy way out.