

# LETTER: Overemphasis on sports

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/03/07/3810338/overemphasis-on-sports.html>

Fresno

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The publicity over honoring Jerry Tarkanian sidesteps a much more serious question concerning Fresno State and the city of Fresno — this community wonders why it isn't taken seriously.

At least part of the answer should be obvious: The perception is that Fresno State is a jock school that's all about sports, and Fresno is a two-bit town that cares only about The Big Game. Fresno State is foremost an academic institution whose teachers have done groundbreaking research in everything from agriculture to zoology, but does anyone in Fresno, including the media, seem to be interested in that?

When the coaches are paid more than the professors, when every game is front page news, somehow this community's priorities are skewed. Great cities play up their educational institutions; Fresno seems embarrassed that that it even has a university. It's all sports, and any indication of learning is shunted out of sight.

And, oh yes, The Bee just came out with a national study showing that Fresno is at the bottom of the list in cities with good paying jobs and opportunities. The dearth of emphasis on quality education might have something to do with that.

**Larry Parmeter**

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