



By **John Harris Jr.**
VILLAGER Sports Columnist

(VILLAGER)

Greedy and selfish college football and basketball coaches - a majority of whom are white - who can't stand to see their most talented athletes - a large percentage of whom are Black - benefit financially from NIL (name, image and likeness) deals implemented last summer got their wish Monday. The NCAA's Division I board of directors published new guidelines that boosters should not have any contact with prospective college athletes, their family members or their representatives. Those athletes, according to the NCAA, would be breaking the rules.

Guidelines were



Clemson head football coach Dabo Swinney at the 2017 CFP where his Clemson Tigers beat the Alabama Crimson Tide 35-31 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida.

created by athletic directors and conference commissioners in response to concerns by their coaches that some boosters and NIL-focused companies are offering money as incentives to attend a particular school.

Happy now, Dabo Swinney? Sure you are.

Swinney is

Clemson's crybaby head football coach who is scheduled to earn at least \$9.41 million per season from 2023 to 2028. He owes his entire coaching career - including a national championship led by quarterback Deshaun Watson - to Black athletes.

I firmly believe there would be far less outrage

if whites dominated college football and college basketball instead of Blacks, but that's simply not the case. Hence, the compelling need among coaches to control the amount of NIL money available to Black athletes.

With the exception of a select few lucrative NIL deals, players are

getting tiny fractions of the value they create for their schools. Yet, when asked how the NIL had changed college football, Swinney had the audacity to state, "There's no rules, no guidance, no nothing. It's out of control ... It's an absolute mess and a train wreck." Furthermore, when asked about

the astronomical salaries awarded to coaches like himself, Swinney made no apologies. "It's a free market we live in ... I don't apologize for being successful."

Nor should he.

At the same time, however, Swinney and his peers should be ashamed. Control freaks to a fault, they feel their power and influence slipping away because they can't limit the financial intake of their players. And if there's one thing that college coaches simply cannot stand, it's losing face.

Seven years after saying he'd "go somewhere else" if players were allowed to be paid, Swinney reaffirmed his antiquated and misguided belief that athletes should be seen and not heard.

And now with NCAA walking in lockstep with its coaches and conspiring against students-athletes, does this mean the end of the NIL and player financial freedom?

Say it ain't so.

A Jim Crow-era law allowed split-jury convictions. Judges weigh should affected inmates remain imprisoned

By **KEVIN MCGILL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS

(AP) — Louisiana's Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday on whether the state Constitution provision allowing non-unanimous jury convictions was racially motivated — and whether the now-banned policy must be applied retroactively.

An attorney for the state said the answer to both questions should

be no.

"Is it the state's position that the 10-2 verdict was not racially motivated but for efficiency's sake?" Chief Justice John Weimer asked state attorney Shae McPhee.

"Absolutely," McPhee replied.

Jamila Johnson, arguing for a man convicted of murder in 1997, said the practice is

rooted in late 19th century Jim Crow law that allowed 9-3 verdicts, making for easier convictions of Black defendants. And she said the racial unfairness of the case made the problems with the law "structural in nature," such that it did not matter if the defendant in a particular case was white, or that the appellate record is now unclear as to the

race of the jury members who voted to acquit her client in 1997.

The case centers on Reginald Reddick, who was convicted of murder by a 10-2 jury vote in 1997. A judge in Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish overturned the verdict, and prosecutors have appealed.

Johnson and other attorneys with the Promise of Justice Initia-

tive said the case affects an estimated 1,500 people convicted before the U.S. Supreme Court prohibited such verdicts.

Attorneys seeking retroactive justice say most of the people who will be affected are Black.

In 2018, Louisiana voters approved a con-

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