

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NCAA penalty too harsh on Penn State's students

Let's all take a deep breath.

The sanctions have come down and Penn State University has accepted them. The NCAA has, essentially, eliminated the football program. It is the innocent players who have been punished. They had nothing to do with the transgressions yet it is they who will pay.

They do have the right to transfer, but this date is too late as every other major school's slots have been taken.

We should also consider the non-athlete students.

There will be a stigma attached to their diploma which they do not deserve. They have been disheartened by the loss of looking forward to Saturday afternoon in Happy Valley.

Penn State is a fine university with a well-deserved reputation for quality education. This is a time for us to embrace

the Nittany Lion heritage, to allow healing to begin. This is not the time to bring the crushing retribution onto the students' heads.

A price should be paid. But keeping the school out of bowl games is not the answer. Athletes were not the problem; administrators were the perpetrators. Put the trustees in the tank. But let the students who will return to that storied and beautiful campus next month do so with eager enthusiasm for their next semester of education and their next season of football.

The NCAA decision was wrong. The punishment should have been directed solely at the guilty. The students should not pay for what others did. Let's remember what it is to be 19-year-old collegians.

They are, after all, just kids who want to learn — and to play a game. Let them do both.

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