

Foreign Athlete Immigrants: Impacts On American Professional/Amateur Sports

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John F. Kennedy wrote that America is a nation of immigrants. Moreover, the United States historically has expanded, due to newcomers emigrating from other nations, seeking a piece of the American dream of opportunity and material success. In this context, it should be no surprise that foreign athletes have been actively recruited from other countries by professional and amateur teams in various sports such as: baseball, football, track and field, and basketball, offering these talented individuals a chance to play. Consequently, recruitment of foreign athletes continues to make an impact on, and change the composition of American sports, both in the professional and the amateur ranks. This paper explores this “phenomenon” through posing the following key questions: What are the historical, social/ causes, surrounding this influx of migrant athletes? What are the effects on both professional and amateur teams, organizations, and associations? What are the motivations for these foreign athletes to move, and for their deciding to stay or eventually returning to their country? And, what adjustment problems do foreign athletes encounter upon living in a different culture?