

*An Examination of Athletic Identity and Identity Foreclosure among Male Collegiate Student Athletes*

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Until recently there has been little investigation of identity formation among college athletes. However, in the past few years, researchers from various disciplines have begun exploring the degree or strength of athletes' commitment to their athletic role/identity (Brewer, Van Raalte, & Linder, 1993; Miller, et al., 2003). This study was designed to extend the previous investigation of athletic identity and identity foreclosure among male college athletes. Specifically, utilizing previously developed scales: Athletic Identity Measurement Scale (AIMS) and the Objective Measure of Ego-Identity Status (OM-EIS), this study assessed a sample of college athletes' AIMS and OM-EIS levels in order to investigate college athletes' levels identity formation and foreclosure. Second, through the use of analyses of variance, the study sought to determine if there were significant differences in athletic-identity and identity-foreclosure levels, based on selected independent variables: ethnicity, academic grade, sport, parents' socioeconomic class, and educational attainment. Participants were members from the men's football, basketball, lacrosse, and track and field teams at an National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division-I institution.

This presentation will present the study's results and discussion the results' implications for academic support staff, "student-athlete development" staff members, coaches and other athletic-department personnel. In addition, the presentation hopes to spark discussion of the implications of such role identity and foreclosure to the future of college sport reform.