

# Athletes at Risk

Supporting student-athletes through education,  
not just performance

Athletes have personality traits  
that make them more vulnerable  
to problematic gambling:

- High levels of energy and commitment
- Motivated by extrinsic rewards
- Unreasonable expectations of winning despite the odds
- Competitive spirit - they don't like defeat
- Distorted optimism
- Quest for perfectionism
- Prepared to make sacrifices
- Often intelligent with high IQ levels

A North Carolina study  
examining sports wagering  
& athletes found:

student-athletes are  
**more likely** to place  
a sports wager

**17%** of athletes vs **9%**  
non-athletes



**female athletes were  
more likely to place a  
sports wager than  
female non-athletes**