

BE A PRO ATHLETE? DON'T BET THE RANCH ON IT!

Do your students dream of becoming the next Michael Jordan, Greg Maddux or Derrick Brooks? They shouldn't give up their dreams...but they should know the odds.

Many high school athletes feel that good skills with records to prove their abilities will open the doors for them to become a professional athlete. Sometimes it happens but becoming a professional athlete these days is not easy. While the payoff may be big the “jobs” that are open are very few. For example...Major League Baseball has 30 teams with only 835 players. The NBA has 29 teams and has only 12 openings for each team. The NFL has 30 teams and only 1,350 players. The chart below has some interesting nationwide statistics that you may wish to share with your students regarding their future.

<i>Sport</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>College Division 1</i>	<i>New Major League Pros Per Year</i>	<i>Odds of High School to Pros</i>
<i>Football</i>	956,000	50,750	192	5,000 to 1
<i>Basketball</i>	505,100	13,930	48	10,000 to 1
<i>Baseball</i>	393,900	22,300	300	1,300 to 1

Students need to be reminded of the fact that most professional careers are short lived and that preparing for their dream goals should not be discouraged but they should also prepare for a skill to fall back on.

Careers in sports are abundant. Many of these can be obtained through a two or four year program. Some of these include: Business, Equipment or Ticket Manager, Sports Statistician, Event Coordinator, Athletic Director, Sports Writer, Broadcaster, Photographer, Health Club Manager, Sporting Goods Store Manager or Physical Therapist.

Source adapted from: Texas Career Success