**Time to Huddle Up: Keeping Football Players in College**

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**Why we need better retention?**

* Institution has tuition dollars for high quality academics and athletics
* The football team would have more seniors and a deeper bench (more depth)
* Students do not go deeply in debt, with no degree

**Current Characteristics of** **TLU football players from 2011 to 2015**

**Key Terms**

**Practice Players**= players who do not travel but are on the JV team

**Active Players**= players who travel and are on the Varsity team

**Former Players**= players who played on either team and quit, but stayed at the University

**HGPA**= Players with a high school GPA above 2.98

**LGPA**= Players with a high school GPA below 2.98

******Factors that Make a Difference in retention**

**FALL TO FALL RETENTION**

**FALL TO SPRING RETENTION**

Players, who were above the median split for a good high school GPA, had higher retention rates (56%) than those players who were below the median split for a good high school GPA (41%).

Players with a major had a higher retention rate (86%) than the undecided players (76%)

**Biggest Misconception about TLU football players (Taking 15 hours will lose us players)**

Significantly fewer members of the practice squad (73%) take 15 term hours than active players (86%) and former players (100%) who will leave football but stay at school

There is no difference in retention whether you take 15 term hours or not

**What we are going to do about it**

**Step 1: Try out a Major**

* Make incoming freshman choose a preliminary major during player check in
* Like any player, they can change majors
* This may keep them here for the second semester

**Step 2: Study Hall to Win**

* Specialized SI assistance during mandatory study hall for players at risk (below a 2.9 GPA)
* Math and Writing student instructors attending football’s mandatory study hall
* Training in making up assignments before missing the class with peer mentors or senior players

**Step 3: 15 to Finish**

* Make the incoming freshman players sign up for 15 course hours.
* Balance the workload (e.g. take Personal Wellbeing and an Intro course)
* Only withdraw after mid-terms if struggling

**Talking Points**

* Having a preliminary major helps you make friends and connections to the University
* Study is not punishment; it is here to help you be a better student-athlete
* If a player takes 12 hours during season by their sophomore year, they will need to take an extra semester to graduate with the required 124 hours.
* Federal financial aid runs out after 4 years putting players at an unfair disadvantage to graduate or be in debt.

**How do we make this plan better?**

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