

Commission approved \$79.8M in NIL since June

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The College Sports Commission, charged with overseeing revenue sharing over the current “Power Four” conferences, issued a report on Thursday touting over 8,000 deals totaling nearly \$80 million since the implementation of a name, image and likeness (NIL) system on June 11 of this year.

More precisely, the report said there have been 32,729 registered users, 8,359 deals cleared, 332 deals not yet cleared and \$79.8 million in cleared deals.

Aimed at addressing the \$2.8 billion settlement of the House vs. NCAA anti-trust lawsuit, the Commission was established in June with the participation of every school in the

current Power Four: the Southeastern Conference, Big Ten Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Big 12 Conference.

Several schools outside of those leagues also opted into the arrangement on a case-by-case basis.

The result of those moves establishes a revenue-sharing cap of \$20.5 million that those schools are allowed to pay their athletes.

The entity gained notoriety in July for issuing guidance to schools that all deals involving NIL collectives -- typically school- or booster-affiliated money raising operations -- would be rejected.

That guidance was later amended to allow for collective deals, but only if the athletes involved promote “for-profit” goods or services.

FBS committee votes for single transfer window

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A key NCAA committee has favored a move to a single, 10-day transfer portal window starting after this season.

Following an initial report by Yahoo Sports, the NCAA confirmed that the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) Oversight Committee voted on Thursday to recommend multiple changes to the recruiting calendar, chief among them a more streamlined transfer window.

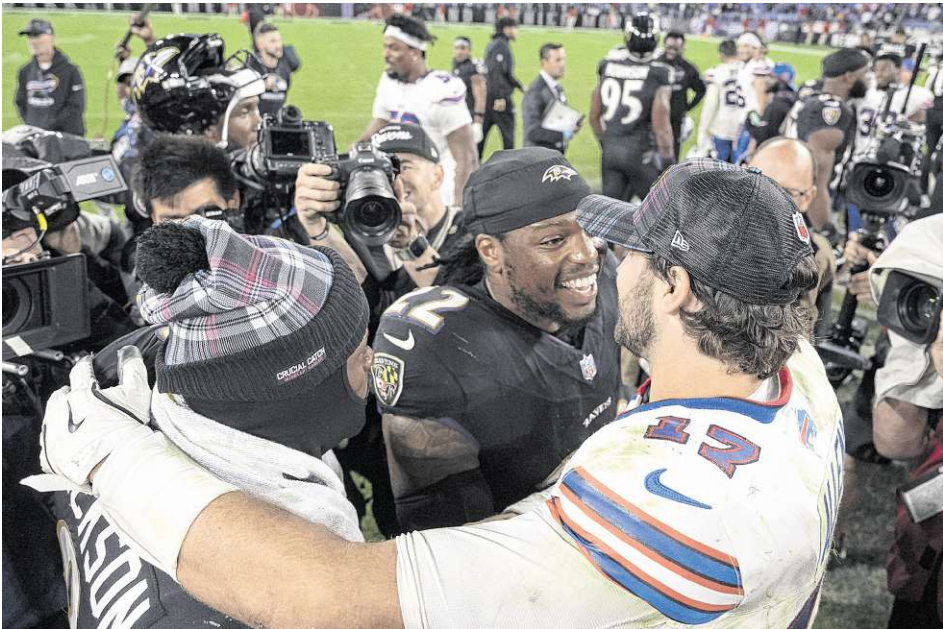
The recommendation, should it go into effect, would restrict college football players to enter the window only between

Jan. 2-11.

Currently, there is a 20-day period starting in December -- which overlaps with the College Football Playoff and bowl season -- and another 10-day spring window during April, coinciding with spring practices.

The rule -- which represents a major change from how transfer business has been conducted over the past few years -- needs approval from the Division I Administrative Committee. That vote must happen before Oct. 1 for it to go into effect this winter.

Another element to this recommendation: December would become a recruiting dead period.



TOMMY GILLIGAN Imagn Images

Bills quarterback Josh Allen, right, and Ravens running back Derrick Henry (22) and quarterback Lamar Jackson are all plausible MVP candidates again this season.

Ravens roll into Buffalo, where made-over defenses draw MVPs

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Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen are comfortable toting the NFL Most Valuable Player award, and more determined than ever to claim another coveted piece of hardware.

“Anytime Lamar is on the team, you know you have a chance to hoist the Lombardi,” Ravens linebacker Roquan Smith said on Wednesday as Baltimore prepares to travel to Buffalo to tackle reigning MVP Allen and the Bills on Sunday night.

The quarterbacks who’ve claimed the last two MVP awards also fight for the AFC’s spot in the Super Bowl. Allen knocked Jackson, league MVP in 2019 and 2023, and the Ravens out of the playoffs in a classic 27-25 duel in the AFC divisional playoffs in January, avenging a 35-10 regular-season loss before being bounced by

the three-time reigning conference champion Chiefs.

With the league’s No. 1 offense (424.9 yards per game) last season – and the first in NFL history to post at least 4,000 passing yards and 3,000 rushing yards in a single season -- there is likely margin for error as the Ravens reveal their new-look defense in primetime Sunday night.

Baltimore plotted a defensive revival in its 2025 reboot. On Sunday night, Allen and the Bills present an atypical test. Much like Jackson, Allen is a running threat, too. He leads the NFL with 206 total touchdowns since entering the league in 2017, 61 more than Jackson.

“To win, you’ve got to be at your best,” Allen said of the mutual respect for Jackson. “When you’re going up against another quarterback that’s great, talk about Lamar, he’s one

Hairston in the first round and defensive tackle T.J. Sanders in the second. Bosa, a five-time Pro Bowl selection with the Chargers, was signed to spice up the Bills’ pass rush.

The Ravens invested in defensive upgrades, too. Baltimore picked up Packers’ castoff cornerback Jaire Alexander and drafted Georgia safety Malaki Starks in the first round.

“They have a really good front – best run-stopping front in the league,” Allen said. “On the back end they’ve invested a lot of first-round picks. They’ve got some studs.”

Smith aligns at the heart of what was the No. 1 run defense in 2024 and discussing the beefed up secondary brought a smile to his face. Smith believes Baltimore can be in the driver’s seat in every game this season if it collectively avoids self-inflicted wounds. When Allen is on the other side of the line of scrimmage, that can be easier said than done.

“Going up against him, it starts with stopping the run, truth be told,” Smith said. “Stopping James Cook, making them one-dimensional and making it a dropback game.”

Neither team strained to put points on the board last season, averaging more than 30 points per game.

Cook and Ravens running back Derrick Henry tied for the NFL lead with 16 rushing touchdowns – along with Lions running back Jahmyr Gibbs – and signed contract extensions to remain linchpins going forward.

Sunday night is the first shot at retribution for Ravens tight end Mark Andrews, who came out of the two-point loss at Buffalo in January as the goat, even blamed for the defeat in some circles. Andrews dropped a pass with 1:33 remaining that would have tied the game late in the fourth quarter and described his emotional state as “gutted” one week after the fact.

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