WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

Community Concerns

Dealing With Gambling Addictions in Colleges

5.5 Million College Students At Risk for March Madness

Washington, D.C. The NCAA Basketball Tournament, known around the world as "March Madness," is a time of widespread wagering—especially among college students. An estimated 30% of the 18 million college students will gamble on sports this year alone. And for at least 3-4%, gambling has become a mental health problem with serious and even life-threatening consequences.

A number of factors place college students at particular risk, including:

- **Participation:** The rate of gambling on sports by college students is twice as high as that of adults.
- **Financing:** College students find numerous ways to finance their gambling, including the easy avail ability of unsecured credit.
- **Accessibility:** There are over 2,000 websites that offer gambling opportunities, and the point spread is highly publicized in the media.
- **Early Onset:** The earlier an individual starts gambling the more likely he/she are to develop a problem.

"What many students see as a harmless recreation may lead to devastating consequences," states NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte. "College students in particular may be at higher risk for developing problems with gambling. Students, parents, coaches and administrators must realize gambling can be just as dangerous as using drugs or alcohol."

Colleges are urged to utilize two sets of free materials to promote responsible gaming on campus, especially during March Madness. A free public service announcement for student newspapers is available through College Newspaper PSA Program™ sponsored by the Campus Media Group, Inc.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem call:

1-800-GAMBLE-5

"My son, Jason, was a compulsive gambler and was murdered along with two other young men by a 19 yr. old University of Wisconsin student from Taiwan who was an addicted gambler as well. In all 5 young men are dead due to the compulsive gambling addictions of these two young men."

Risk of Passing It Down

According to an article from crchealth.com studies have shown that children of pathological gamblers are more prone to becoming gamblers themselves. Eighty percent of teens with gambling problems had at least one parent who gambled, according to the "Pathological Gambling" report. With the rise in Internet gambling, it is becoming easier for your children to model their behavior after you and become pathological gamblers themselves.