

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [No Revenge for Nerds? Evaluating the Careers of Ivy League Athletes](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31753>

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Tweet: Among 400,000 people who graduated from Ivy League schools between 1970 and 2021, athletes earned 3.4% more than non-athletes over the course of their careers. @NateeA1

Summary: Combining team-level information on all Ivy League athletes from 1970 to 2021 with resume data for all Ivy League graduates, we examine both post-graduate education and career choices as well as career outcomes. Athletes are far more likely to go into business and finance-related jobs than their non-athlete classmates. Athletes attain higher terminal wages and earn cumulatively more than non-athletes over the course of their careers controlling for school, graduation year, major, and first job. In addition, they attain more senior positions in the organizations they join. Collectively, our results suggest that non-academic human capital developed through athletic participation is valued in the labor market and may support the role that prior athletic achievement plays in admissions at elite colleges. Related: The Economics of Inequality in High-Wage Economies and Diversifying Society's Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges and Why Do Wages Grow Faster for Educated Workers?

Primary Topic: Education

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