59 vs. 82

The number 59 represents the overall percentage of Black student-athletes who graduate from a college or university. This number is well below the percentage of graduation rates among white student-athletes, 82%, and illustrates an alarming fact that black athletes are less as likely as white athletes to surface from college with degrees.

These two numbers relate to each other in a way that is frightening. While the graduation rates amongst student-athletes versus the general student population are better, the disparity between graduation rates for white and black student-athletes remains a huge problem. Who, then, is to blame for this? The individuals themselves are an obvious answer. In fact, they are the ones who are responsible for doing the work, studying the assignment, and taking the test. But could the blame also be placed on their racial counterparts? Many campuses, for instance, Centre, are not very welcoming to students of color. The fact that most institutions across America are dominated by white figures, both within the administrative and student populations, could lead to a conclusion that black student-athletes’ main concerns are on the field of play. In other words, the general perception could be made that black athletes are simply as such -
black athletes.

In the NCAA’s "high-stake/high profile" sports, basketball and football, graduation success rates amongst black players within those sports were well below the rates of white players. According to the NCAA, only 49% of the black men’s basketball players who entered school on scholarship from 1995-1998 graduated within the allotted six years. Their white counterparts graduated at a rate of 76% within the time frame. The overall rate in basketball was 64%. The same exact study, only for black football players, showed a graduation rate of 54%, well beneath the 76% rate for whites and the overall football graduation rates of 64%. 