**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** Read the questions first and decide what type of question it is—(**black and white** **or inference/extending reasoning**). Then read the article excerpts with a pen to make notations in the text to answer the questions. For each question, explain why you selected the answer that you did.

1. On which point do all three articles agree?

1. Professional athletes receive appropriate pay for their performances.
2. Professional athletes are positive role models for youth.
3. Professional athletes exhibit exemplar behavior.
4. Professional athletes are not good role models.

1a. For #1, put a “1” in front of the sentences in the passage that support your choice of that answer.

2. What point is only made in one article, but implied in the other two?

1. High school athletes enjoy a higher status than other students involved in art, music, or academics.
2. Professional athletes should not be disciplined for their behavior outside their sports.
3. Because of media attention, professional athletes become role models.
4. Society respects the professional athlete.

2a. For #2, put a “2” in front of the sentences in the passage that support your choice of that answer.

3. Which statement best applies to the three authors of these articles?

1. They disagree on the role models of professional athletes.
2. They have differing viewpoints on the value of professional athletes.
3. They are not credible in varying viewpoints.
4. They are credible in their viewpoints.

3a. For #3, put a “3” in front of the sentences in the passage that support your choice of that answer.

**DIRECTIONS: Read with a pen to make notations in the text to answer the questions. For each question, explain why you selected the answer that you did.**

**Athletes Are Role Models Whether They Like It or Not**

Sean Paige

Athletes have been regarded as role models throughout history. Even when athletes say they do not want to be role models, people continue to view them that way. Although the new generation of Americans is not as enamored with athletes as past generations, there are still fans who will cheer their favorite athletes and view them as role models.

While the vast majority of our most celebrated athletes may be good citizens and worthy of emulation, increasingly the sports pages are filled with tales of criminality, greed, drug abuse, illegitimacy, spousal abuse, and sexual license, with our pampered millionaire gladiators showing an impudent disregard for their actions and images.

Perhaps the best news, given the fallen state of America’s sports celebrities, is that even though the youngsters tend to relate to sport figures, ”such heroes and heroines are not likely to be the determining influence on a child’s life unless that child is being raised in a moral vacuum.”

**Professional Athletes Are Not Good Role Models**

Armstrong Williams

Almost weekly, some professional athlete crosses the line and either breaks the law or just embarrasses himself, his teammates and his sport with his behavior. Yet, we continue to pay these athletes huge salaries, and we continue to forgive their actions because of their ability to perform in the sporting arena.

In a society where value is determined by how much money you make, how much more important is an athlete in the eyes of children than a teacher, a police officer, a minister, or parents who don’t make in a year what many of these athletes make in a single game? Or how much more important is an athlete making $25 million a year than the President of the United States, who only makes $200,000?

**Athletes Should Not Be Expected to Be Role Models**

Stephen D. Mosher

Wherever did we come up with the belief that sports build character or that it teaches us teamwork and how to be “good sports,” how to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat? We must understand this before we can even ask our athletes to be our heroes.

Research shows that competitive team sports are more likely to teach children that “winning is the *only* thing” and that “the end justifies the means” rather than that hard work, dedication, and self-sacrifice are the true payoffs. There is no convincing data to support the belief that sports participation prevents juvenile delinquency or reduces drug abuse. There is, however, data that suggests that male athletes develop a view of gender superiority that may explain their higher rates of promiscuity and sexual abuse than those of non-athletes. It is certainly quite clear that in most high schools, varsity athletes enjoy higher status than those students who excel in art, music, and even academics.