



Lenny, Lefty, and the Chancellor: The Len Bias Tragedy and the Search for Reform in Big-Time College Basketball

C. Fraser Smith

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
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Where were you on June 19, 1986? That's the day when Len Bias, one of the greats of the college basketball game, a player seemingly destined for NBA stardom, died of a cocaine overdose. For the next several months, millions followed the continuing, unfolding tragedy at the University of Maryland at College Park. Six years later, where is big-time basketball, the big-money game whose vulnerabilities began to come to life with Bias's death? How far has it come in reforming itself against the abuses that contributed to the Bias tragedy? In *Lenny, Lefty, and the Chancellor*, *Baltimore Sun* reporter C. Fraser Smith answers those questions through the microcosm of the University of Maryland. He demonstrates how, despite numerous obstacles, the University of Maryland has been reforming its program during the five years since Bias's death—actually transforming it from sinkhole to national model. In so doing, Smith provides the first book to look at the problems of intercollegiate sports from the college president's perspective, a point of view crucial to getting balance instilled in such programs.

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