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The Sporting Culture of Two Nations

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What does sport mean to the world? The sporting world is an extensively large business, with a lot of training, hours, time and effort, competitions and events that include win and losses as well as passion and hard work. What is the world without sports or having some sort of sporting culture? What would the United States be without their major leagues and what would Australia be without the Australian football league and test match cricket. However the even bigger question is what is your country without sports? When we think of sports most people think about the Olympics and the United States and their major leagues such as the NBA, MLB, and NHL.

Some other people also think of it more as a social event, love, pride and commitment for a certain sport and bringing nations together as one. Sports overall is changing over time and this change is in a positive way as it is becoming more popular for people to participate, it also allows people to get together and join a sporting association and team of some sort. In my paper I am going to write about the sports culture and how it differs between countries.

The two countries that I want to focus my paper on are the United States and Australia. By the end of the paper you will be able to understand what the differences are between these two countries as well as their similarities. You will also have a clear understanding on how these countries can be so similar yet so culturally different. Remember both these countries are thousands of miles away from each other.

The reason for choosing this topic is because my major is bachelor of integrated studies (BIS) and health and physical education so this is the type of information that I am going to need to know for my future. My main aim is to become a physical education teacher, a personal trainer or a sports coach. To start of my paper I am going to discuss the sporting history in both countries and compare and contrast the different leagues that they have.

One of the most famous quotes about Australian sports is by Kevin Rudd who was once the president of Australia. He states “Australia’s sporting history is marked by a lot of great successes, great stories and truly great moments. Sport speaks a universal language in this country – we are a nation of players and enthusiasts”.

Sports in Australia goes as far back to the early 1800s and was established by the late 1920s which was during the colonial period. Sports in Australia were also performed by both male and female and they didn’t have any discrimination rules where only men could play sports, everyone was involved. When people started competing in sports in the early 1800s the country was run on a economic system where the upper class would play on the weekends and the lower class would play on public holidays but this changed fairly early and everyone was able to play sports at will and with each other no matter there social economic standings. Also most of the sports that a person can compete in are done through a club, association or an organization and it can be played at any age.

Over the years Australian sports has made a remarkable improvement and increased from a small variety of sports to now having a vast majority of sports, it is expanding very fast. In Australia there are now over 90 recognized sports that are being played in Australia.

Australia has also established some major leagues and associations that are very unique to Australians and to the Australian culture. These associations include AFL (Australian Football League), which was established in 1896 in the state of Victoria, and is the most popular sport within Australia by far. Most people within the country call it “footy” or “aussie rules” for short instead of Australian football.

The first games that were ever played were club teams and theses teams were Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Melbourne, St Kilda and South Melbourne who are all teams that come out of the state of Victoria. Then later on in 1908 there were other

teams that were added and these include teams from interstate. Overall to date there are now eighteen AFL teams with nine interstate teams and nine Victorian/Melbourne teams.

Americans could never quite understand this sport and would think it was either soccer or rugby but really it is its own unique game with distinctive rules. The United States has no sport like the AFL in their country.

AFL is a game played between two teams and is a very highly contact sport and athletes play with no padding at all. The game is played on an oval shaped field nearly twice the size of an NFL field. The aim of AFL is to kick an oval-shaped ball that is very similar to an American football through two tall goal posts, which is shown in the picture on the right, making your team score six points. If the ball misses the two main goal posts and is kicked between the two lower posts directly beside the two taller posts then the team would be awarded one point. So having a six point and a one-point rule system this means that the game at the end of the match will be very high scoring.



There are four quarters in AFL and all of these quarters are 20 minutes each so the team at the end of the game with the highest number on the scoreboard wins the game. The way that players move the ball around is usually by kicking the ball, handballing the ball and running with the ball. The game of AFL is so unique especially to Australia and it is also so different to the NFL and American football that will later on be discussed in the paper. The AFL however has always been an Australian sport and a very male dominated sport, and females were not involved but that had all changed this year as the first women's AFL teams were created in 2017.

The next association and sport is the AFLW (Women's Australian Football League), which is new to Australia and very popular. AFLW was just established this year and the first games were played in 2017. This is a league played only by women and has the exact same rules as the men's AFL. The first game was between Carlton and Collingwood, which are both Melbourne teams. This was the first match to be played and there as a total estimation of around 24,568 fans who packed into the stadium and then by the end of the first quarter they were over capacity and a lockout was declared and the gates were shut. For being a first season sport and selling out on games there is a positive look for women's football in Australia. Overall there are eight women's AFL teams, there are four teams from interstate and four teams who are Victorian/Melbourne teams.

AFLW is played on the same size field and the men and they also play without padding and is also a high contact sport. According to theage.com, which is a large Australian online newspaper, they issued that there are "a total of 18,609 girls and women that play Australian football" which was according to "2005 and in 2006 there was a total of 48,054". The only difference between the men's league compared to the women's is that the men's have a total of 23 rounds not including the finals and the women only have 7 rounds including the grand final. Australian Women's Football is one of the fastest growing sports among women in Australia and it has had a lot of very positive comments about the upcoming and rising women's league and it can only become better over time.

The next competitive sport in Australia is the NBL (National Basketball League). This is a league made up of men only. The NBL was founded in 1978 and still to this day is very popular in Australia. Basketball in Australia has grown overtime and become so popular that they had to move to bigger and better venues to cater for more people each year.

There are eight teams to date and all of them are from Australia except for one team, which is from New Zealand. According to sportsknowhow.com the “The NBL in Australia is now considered to be one of the most prestigious basketball associations in the world”. The eight teams in the NBL are The Adelaide 36ers, Brisbane Bullets, Cairns Taipans, Illawarra Hawks, Melbourne United, Perth Wildcats, Sydney Kings and New Zealand Breakers.

The NBL has a different season compared to the NBA in America as the season starts in early October and finishes in late March. Each regular season team gets to play a total of fourteen home games and fourteen away games equaling to have eighteen overall regular season games not including finals games. Since the NBL has started basketball in Australia has grown tremendously and is one of Australia’s most participated men’s team sports played today.

Soon after the NBL was introduced in Australia the WNBL (Women’s National Basketball League) came soon after. It was introduced to Australia for women’s basketball and is the women’s competition that is counterpart to the NBL. The WNBA was founded in 1981 and is a professional women’s basketball league that is made up of eight teams.

The WNBL is known to be the second best league in the world for women’s basketball after the WNBA. However the WNBA uses the WNBL in Australia as a scouting ground to pick up players with the right caliber to play overseas in a higher league. The teams in the WNBL are the Canberra Capitals, Dandenong Rangers, Adelaide Lightning, Melbourne Boomers, Townsville Fire, Perth Lynx, Bendigo Spirit and South East Queensland.

The rules to the WNBL is the exact same as the NBL and also the NBA which is the American league. The first WNBL game was played on June 19, 1981 between Adelaide and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). Since introducing the WNBL it has picked up

women's sporting involvement in the country and they are also having issues where they need to move venues to cater to more people and be able to accompany more money and a bigger crowd.

Basketball for women in Australia is also a highly plaid sport for women and it just keeps expanding. Basketball Australia has been labeled as the second best country for basketball and Australia is very proud of this to be number two in the nation; it is now becoming very prestigious.

The next Australian League is the BBL (Big Bash League), The Sheffield shield and the ashes (Cricket). The BBL is an Australian cricket match that was established in 2011 and is the professional Twenty20 league that was established by Cricket Australia.

This cricket league is made up of eight teams and is a sport that is mainly played in the summer time as a summer league sport. This league is run through the months of December and January. According to smh.com by Chris Barrett (2016) this article states that the BBL is now placed sixth in the list of biggest crowds as well as most attended sports leagues and this is all within respect to how many people and come out to the games as well as crowd involvement and the average attendance of crowd per match ratio.

The BBL is a league played only for men so soon after they made a women's cricket league (WBBL), which enabled women's to also play the same sport. This was established on February 19th, 2015 and was played the exact way that the men's cricket is played. The WBBL also had a total of eight teams; there were two teams from Melbourne as well as two team from Sydney, and one team from Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart.

The Sheffield Shield is also run through cricket Australia and was established in 1891-1892 by a guy named Earl Sheffield, which as you can see, was named after his

surname. The Sheffield field is very similar to the BBL and has the same cricket rules. This league has six teams compete that all come from different states.

Cricket is so unique to Australia because it is labeled as Australia's national sport. It originated from Australia and isn't a popular sport to be played in America. According to cricket.com.au it expresses that "Cricket is Australia's number one participation sport and has a strong number of people who enjoy playing. Cricket has record numbers of athletes and many people have chosen to pick up a cricket bat and cricket ball and started playing cricket".

Between the years 2015-2016 facts also show that there was "A record of 1,311,184 people who decided to played cricket across Australia and in the years 2015-16, which made a 8.5 per cent increase compared to the year 2014". Stating these facts it places cricket as the number one sport in the current participation rate in Australia. Cricket CEO James Sutherland mentions in the article as well that "Cricket is clearly the most dominant sporting choice for many Australians and Australia is very proud that cricket is one of the biggest participating and enjoyed sports for Australia".

Cricket was established in 1892 and since then it has grown tremendously and is still known to be the national sport of Australia.

The next big league is the Football Federation of Australia, which is the A-League (men's soccer), and the W League (women's soccer). The A league is a men's soccer league that is professional and it is run by the Football Federation of Australia (FFA). The A league is a new sport to Australia and was ran in previous years but then discontinued and established again in 2004.

To this date there are twelve total teams. These teams are Melbourne Victory FC, West Sydney FC, Sydney FC, Adelaide United FC, Brisbane FC, Central Coast Mariners,

Newcastle Jets, Wellington Phoenix, Melbourne City and Perth Glory. The women's version of the A League is the W League and this is also a professional women's soccer league that is also ran by the same committee at the Football Federation of Australia.

The W League is also a fairly new league and was established in 2008 and has eight teams in total. To this date there is now nine teams. Soccer has become very popular in Australia as well, even though it is more of a newer league they still have a great amount of participating athletes.

Since then the Australian men and women's soccer teams have both have chances to play on the world stage and in the world cup, this was a reason to start soccer and invest money into the soccer major leagues. Both the A League and the W League have had a rough time in Australia as both of these leagues were ran and then discontinued and then ran again, however Australia is a country that excelled at this sport even when it wasn't the main sport played. They don't get much television time but when Australia had qualified for both world cups for men's and women's soccer they had no choice to bring it back and have a very competitive league again. Soccer is a growing sport within Australia.

The next league is the NRL (National Rugby League), Super Rugby and The Rugby Union. The NRL is the professional league of Rugby and is played by teams within Australia as well as New Zealand and Asia Pacific. The NRL however have sixteen teams, all which are Australian, and then there is one team from New Zealand. The NRL is one of the most viewed sport as well as one of the most attended sports in the world.

The Super Rugby is a bit different in that it has more involvement with other teams and other countries. Super Rugby is also a men's rugby competition but it is competed in Japan as well as the Southern Hemisphere and has more of a variety of culture to it. Teams

included in Super Rugby where the same teams from Australia and New Zealand but also Japan and South Africa.

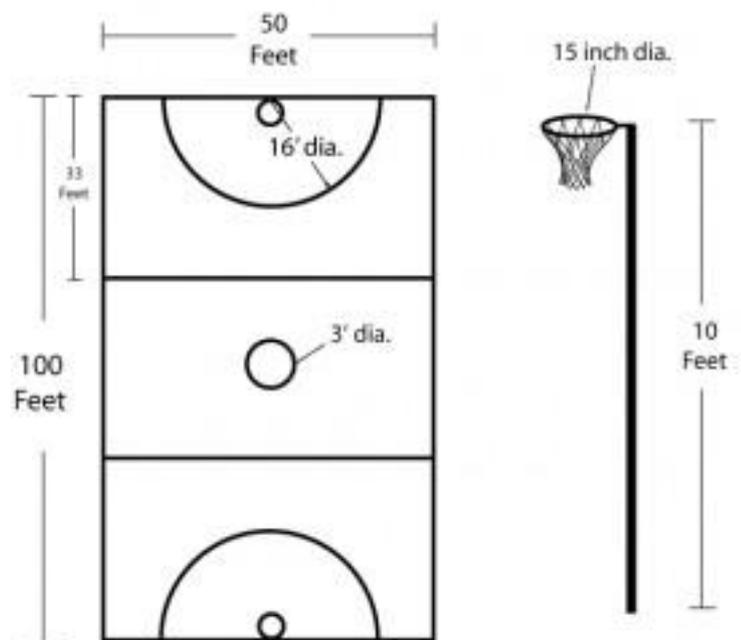
Before it was called Super Rugby it used to go by the name of Super 12 and it was given this name because there was only twelve teams that competed, then it was changed to super 14 when two more teams joined and then once it kept on expanding it just got too big so they decided to just change it to Super Rugby. Rugby is one of the most popular sports within Australia and it is only getting bigger. Rugby is a highly contact sport with bare minimum padding. The aim of rugby is different to American football but also very similar at the same time. The aim is to run with a ball in the hand and to run through the line with the ball (touchdown) to get points. There are also H-shaped goalposts and a try line.

Along with Rugby there is the ANZ Championship (Netball). Netball is the biggest sports in Australia for women and it is mainly a woman played sports. Not many men play but when it comes to professional Netball it is a female only league. It is a sport that is very unique to Australia and not too many people know about the game of Netball but Australians, as they go crazy for it.

Netball is a sport that is very popular within the commonwealth and only a small number of other countries play netball. Countries that compete are countries including New Zealand, Jamaica, South Africa, Hong Kong, England, and Fiji etc. According to netball Australia “Netball remains the top sport for women and girls, according to the sport commissioner” and also explained in the same article is that “Data was collected from October 2015 through to September 2016, and data was shown that 562,698 athletes participate in netball over the course of the year”. Netball is a hard sport for Americans to understand because they have never really seen or heard of it, but netball is very similar to basketball however the rules, equipment and amount of people on the court are very different.

There is no bouncing or dribbling the ball, no running with the ball, and the ball must be passed within 3 seconds. There are seven players on the court per team and the court is the same size as a basketball court. The basket where the ball is scored is slightly similar to a basketball hoop but it is different because it does not have a backboard and it is just a pole, which as you can see from the picture above and the pole is just stuck into the ground with a smaller circular rim. Also in netball you cannot just run around freely like you can in basketball, this is because people are placed in certain areas of the court and have to stay in there designated areas. Netball is very similar to European handball and ultimate Frisbee.

Netball was a sport founded by a lady named Sendra Berenson. She wanted to make a sport just like basketball that would be good for women and something that women could enjoy. She took the rules of basketball and changed them around. She noticed that women didn't really enjoy basketball because it was too physical for them so she decided to section the court off into three equal sections and explained that people had to stay in there section. In basketball people were free to run around where ever they liked so she made it to where in netball you are not allowed to do this and had allocated sections so that in the end you will not become exhausted. Sendra Berenson also made it women friendly by not letting other players snatch the ball from their hands and too make it a more fast pass game players where not allowed to hold the ball for more then three seconds otherwise it would be a



violation. Overall it wasn't until the 1960's that this game was called Netball and this sport didn't really excel within the United States but it did make it to Australia and all other commonwealth countries. Since then it has become the number one women's team sports in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, England, South Africa, Hong Kong and Fiji. To this day "Netball is played by over 20 million athletes in more than 70 countries" and has also been recognized as an Olympic sport.

Overall as mentioned in my above paragraphs about sports in Australia and the sporting culture it is easy to see that sports is becoming a national obsession and the growth is doing great things for Australia, Now that sports and having a culture full of sports it is now becoming an everyday thing. Australians are very crazy "footy" fans as well as rugby, soccer, basketball, cricket and Netball and it will only get bigger. Australia also has a unique style of football that is played nowhere else in the world. According to Australia.com (2017), Australians play backyard, beach and street cricket and there are thousands of people that will watch the iconic Boxing Day test of cricket at the Melbourne Cricket ground also known as the MCG.

Living in a country with great weather also allows the summer time a season to come out and watch summer cricket tournaments that are held. Australian sports and sporting events also attract hundreds of thousands of people of all different ages and genders. Sports is loved just as much as it is anywhere else in the world, sometime more than other countries.

Now that I have discussed the history of Australian sports the next paragraphs on my paper will be explaining the history of American sports and how it was established over time. The United States have had a lot of sports inventions and these sports that were originated to

the United States include volleyball, basketball, skateboarding and snowboarding which are all very popular sports.

The most popular sports and major professional leagues are the MLB (Major League Baseball), NBA (National Basketball League), NFL (National Football League), NHL (National Hockey League) and this is all based on revenue per year which will be discussed later on in my paper. The major sporting events and their history go many years back and I would like to mention the major historic events that will never be forgotten in American history. The United States has a very rich history when it comes to sports.

On November 6, 1869 the first college football game was played and it was between Princeton University and Rutgers and since then football has excelled and overall became one of the most watched college sports. According to FootballBible.com it is stated “tailgating dates all the way back to the first football game, which was played between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869”. It is said that fans take much pride in grilling sausages after the game at the “tail end”. Tailgating is not something that happens in Australia and is solely an American tradition as it also originated from the United States. Tailgating also occurs in the parking lots of the stadiums before and sometimes after the football games.

On January 30th, 1878 William B. Curtis established the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union), which introduced Track and Field into the United States. Track and field to this day is a very popular sport and can be performed both indoor and outdoor. Even though William Curtis founded track and field in 1878 in America it wasn't until 1899 for the first track meet took place.

The first annual track meet was in Los Vegas, Nevada however the first stand alone meet was in Atlanta Georgia just a year later in 1899. Track and field at first went by the

name of American Athletic Union and it wasn't until 1992 that it was changed from that to USA Track and Field (USATF). The reason for the name change was to increase and grow the overall recognition of track and field in America. Track and field in the United States is the same as track and field in Australia, the only difference is that track in field in Australia is called Athletics and there aren't nearly as many indoor competitions.

The next historic event was on December 13, 1891 and that was the invention of Basketball. James Naismith invented the game of basketball when he was a physical education teacher at the local YMCA. At first they used a soccer ball and a basket and eventually they had changed the game and moved on to a basketball that can come in two sizes for both men and women and a basketball ring with a backboard. This was one of the most historic events in the United States and one of the most popular and general sport invented. James Naismith has a famous quote about the game of basketball and he expressed that "The invention of basketball was not an accident. It was developed to meet a need. Those boys simply would not play 'Drop the Handkerchief'"

On October 4th, 1895 the first United States Golf open was played. The first golf event was played on a nine-hole course at a country club in Rhode Island. At the U.S open there was a 36-hole competition that was played out in one day and there was only eleven people who entered, ten of them were professional golf players and the eleventh man was an amateur. Golf had been around for many years before it had come to America but the game of golf was invented when two drunk men were arrested one night from breaking windows by hitting balls with their clubs, in Albany New York.

Another very memorable date was January 19th, 1896 and that was when the first college basketball game was played. It was played between the University of Iowa and the

University of Chicago and this game was all for an experiment and at the time was a very low scoring game. The score at the end of the game was Chicago 15 and Iowa 12. Since then basketball has really evolved as now it is known to be a very high scoring game.

The next date that is historic is the First World Series Game and this happened on October 1st, 1903 and this was between the Boston Americans and the Pittsburgh Pirates. Then on August 15th, 1913 soccer was played and the United States had been granted membership by the FIFA (Football International of Football Federation) and over time the name had been changed to the U.S Soccer Federation. Not long after the invention of baseball and the first baseball world series women's baseball started on May 17, 1943, and this was the day that spring training had taken place on a field out in Chicago called Wrigley Field. The all American baseball league had four teams overall.

Another momentous date in history is January 15, 1967 and this was the very first Super Bowl. It was played between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. The first Super Bowl was called The World Championship Game but was then changed many years later to the Super Bowl. The final historic event that I would like to mention is the invention of beach volleyball, which was on September 4th, 1976, and this was when the first beach volleyball tournament was played. It was held at Will Rogers State Beach in California.

Like I mentioned before Australia has many popular sports and some leagues of their own which originated from there which include the NBL, WNBL, AFL, WAFL, BBL, RUGBY etc., but America also has their own major leagues. Nothing can really compare to the leagues and associations in the United States. These leagues were mentioned before in my

paper and include the NBL, NFL, NHL and MLB, which I am going to discuss in more detail in the next few paragraphs. Something to keep in mind while reading thought this paper is that the NBA, NHL, MLB and NHL are the “wealthiest professional club in its sports worldwide” and are also generally referred to as the “Big 4”.

The NBA (National Basketball Association) is the most famous professional and premier league in the world. It is a men’s basketball league located in North America. The NBA in total has 30 teams, which include 29 from the United States, and 1 from Canada. The NBA has become one of the most successful sports especially in the 20th century. Not only is the NBA very popular within the United States but it has also grown outside in places such as Europe, Asia and so on.

The NBA being as premier and professional as it is it makes it one of the worlds best paid leagues in the world by average annual salary per athlete, which will be discussed later on in my paper. The NBA all started on June 6th 1946 in New York City and at first it was given a different name, it went by BAA (Basketball Association of America). It wasn’t until August 3rd, 1949 that they changed the name to the NBA and both leagues of the BAA and the NBA came together and joined. Since the NBA has started the league has only increased over time. According to SBNation.com by Tom Ziller (July 2nd 2016) it is said that there are a total of 30 teams all with 15 roster spots on each team. This means that there is a total of 450 NBA players all receiving a decent to great annual salary, also according to SBNationa.com “the average annual NBA salary is rough \$6.7 million”. This means that the NBA is the highest paid league in the world.

The next professional league is the National Football League. The NFL is another big league that is associated within the United States and is the most professional league for

baseball in the world. The NFL overall has a total of 32 teams. The NFL is known for their super bowl, which is played between the best 2 teams within the league. The NFL was formed on September 17th, 1920 and it all happened with a group of people got together in Canton, Ohio and the outcome and results of them getting together was the beginning of the NFL. Before it was called the NFL it was called the American Professional Football Association (APFA), which was changed over to the NFL in 1922. The NFL has been running now for a total of 96 years.

The reason why the NFL became so big over time and during the name change was because they merged the American Football League (AFL) and more athletes and coaches became involved and then more money also became invested. The very first ever super-bowl was played off in 1970 and ever since there has been a super bowl every year. The NFL is known to be one of the greatest sports in America and it is shown by average annual attendance.

The NFL has the highest attendance ever recorded with an average of 67,591 and it has also been named the most popular sport. As well as being the most popular sport the Super Bowl is also very popular worldwide and is one of the most watched television-sporting event. It is also the biggest sport event watched in the United States. Overall the NFL has 32 teams with a 53-player roster. Even though each team has a 53-player roster they can also have 5 extra players to make up a practice player squad. "As of 2011, the NFL has 32 teams, making a total of 1,696 players". Also "According to an estimate by Plunkett Research, Clayton Brown (2008) mentions that the average NFL player salary in the 2010-2011 season was \$1.9 million". Even though the NFL is the most popular sport the NBA still wins on overall average annual pay.

The next major league is the NHL (National Hockey League). The NFL is a professional sport for Ice Hockey, which is made up of 30 overall teams, 23 of these teams are from within The United States and 7 come from Canada. The NHL is the biggest hockey league and association in the world and was founded on November 26, 1917. In 1917 there were four teams that played and these were the first recorded NHL games. At this point in time there were only five franchises and as time went on teams and players were added to make it to the league that we have today.

Each team gets to have no more than 23 players and they have to at least have a roster of 20 athletes, this included 18 strikers and 2 goaltenders. The NHL is also know and famous for the Stanley cup as it is one of the oldest sports finals in The United States. This is an event that is done every year at the end of each season and the winning team is awarded with a trophy. Even though the NHL is not as big as the NBA and NFL the athletes involved still make a very good annual salary. It is stated "The NHL minimum salary is \$500,000 with players making an average annual salary of \$2.4 million". Top paid hockey athletes rake in upwards close to \$10 million per year.

Professional Hockey is also a very expensive sport to play as basketball just involved a basketball and football just involves a football but hockey involves an expensive sticks and ice skates which also cost a lot of money. Hockey however is still a very popular sport overall and is continuing to grow and expand over time.

The next league that I am going to talk about is the MLB (Major League Baseball). The MLB is one of the most popular sports within America and is sometimes called or known to be America's game. The MLB is also the oldest league out of all the four associations that I have mentioned. MLB has also been internationally recognized and places like Central and South America as well as Asia are on board.

Overall there are currently a total of 30 teams with 15 teams. There are two different leagues, which is the American League (AL), and the National League (NL). There were 15 teams placed in the American League and then 15 teams in the National League. Before the MLB came together and merged both leagues in the AL and the NL were separate organizations and the reason they merged was because the commissioner of Baseball allowed it. Not only has the NFL grown within America but it has also grown internationally and overtime their revenue salaries have increased at the same time.

According to chon.com (2008) "NFL players earn an average salary of \$1.9 million in 2010" but according to chron.com that there salaries have also increased and "players salaries have continued to creep up since 2004, which the average salary in 2011 reaching almost \$3.4 million". This is a big jump from 2010 to 2011 meaning that there is a lot of potential in the MLB and salaries are continuing to grow. Even though the NFL is known to be the sport of America they salary isn't as high as other leagues such as the NBA and this is because there are more people to be paid. NFL players ear less per year and on average because the teams are bigger, with more athletes and other individuals that need to be paid. There are also more teams in the league.

Overall both Australia and the United States have a very strong past that both have very strong histories that date way back. This is showing that sports in both countries is on a come up and it will only keep increasing because there is so much more to it than just a game that is played. There is a story behind every sport as well as money, media and iconic inventions that come out of both countries.

Now that I have discusses the history and inventions of both countries I now want to move on to my next topic in this paper and that is the topic on high school sports and how it

is ran very differently in both countries. I also want to talk about club sports and how this differs between America and Australia as well as having a GPA to be eligible for college after graduating high school.

I first want to start of with the high school system in the United Sates and how that is ran and I will add in how this is similar of different compared to high schools in Australia. Firstly American high school sports are a very big deal within the country and Australia has never had such high expectations like the American system.

Generally overall high school sports in Australia does not count for anything, but this is not the case in America. Within America and the five years that I have been over here studying I can see that high school sports is a “VERY BIG DEAL”!!!! And more high school students are starting to get involved and join high school sporting teams. According to the annual High School Athletics Participation Survey which was released by the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) it is said that for “the 22nd consecutive year, there are now more high school students that are playing sports”, and it is only increasing each year. I want to discuss some facts with you in this section of my paper because you will soon realize that high school sports in Australia is not like this at all and will add stats from both sections to give a clear understanding.

According to usnews.com (September 2nd 2011) there are “More than 7.5 million students who played sports during the 2010-2011 school year, which is an increase of nearly 40,000 students compared to 2009-2010. The organization estimates that 55.5 percent of all high school students play a sport”. Not to mention this state came from the year 2010-2011 so as time has moved on this number has probably tripped coming into 2017.

When trying to find stats and facts on high school sports in Australia not much really comes out because everyone over there generally plays club sports. So just by searching it shows that Americans clearly win with the high school sports and overall had a stronger high school organization with sports. This really shows that high school is a big deal in America and it will remain a big deal in the future years coming and that high schools sports will always be embedded in the American school system in a way that no other country can compete or compare to.

Not only are high school sports large but there is also a vast and well-built amount of sports that are offered in high schools. America has way more to offer than the Australia system and these sports can include all type of different sports such as badminton, baseball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, cross country, dance team, hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, indoor and outdoor track and field, lacrosse, soccer, softball and swimming, tennis, volleyball, water polo, wrestling, diving and weight lifting and there are others depending on what state your high school is allocated in, but still the Australian high school system does not have a big list of sports to participate in and generally only the popular ones are played and offered. The main sports that would be offered in most high school program include basketball, AFL, cricket, hockey, softball, table tennis, soccer, tennis, volleyball and rugby. Another other sport that you can think of is generally played for a club team or you would have to go to a specialist sport school.

Even though the American high school system offers so much more according to usnews.com and a survey that they conducted is that “The most common sport is basketball: 18,150 schools nation wide have a boys basketball team and 17,767 school have a girls basketball team. American Football has the most participants among all high school sports in

America, with more than 1.1 millions students playing at 14,000 schools. It is safe to say that high school sports is highly cared about and not only is there a lot of different sports to offer but there is also money that is becoming involved to hype it up even more.

The United states is a country that routinely would spend more tax money and dollars on high school sports and high school athletes rather than high school math or English and this would not be the case in Australia, as the sports department does not have such an extensive amount of sports and high school sports isn't a huge deal like it is in America. Not only are high schools sports bringing in media, money, advertisements, TV commercials, pages in sports magazines, but also now it is being nationally televised. Therefore high school sports are out there with all the other big businesses in sports that are also televised. Of course the money is not going to be no where near the pro sports such as the NBA, NFL and NBL, but this is still a gateway for schools to make their money as well as trying to turn there athletic programs into a money making sport business.

High schools believe that the ultimate goal is success and with success that means more money for the school and eventually it will build their program. This is making it easier for schools to bring in money because people pay to watch high school and not only do people, parents and crowds pay but there student body and students are all along side them cheering them on in their fan zone sections.

According to cnbc.com (2012) "The money began slowly pouring into high school sports in the 1980's when local networks along with ESPN and other sporting networks, started featuring high school events". This overall means that broadcasting rights and money really exploded and boomed making it an successful program even though it wasn't the most popular thing on the networks. The reason that the nation knows that sports is successful on television and making money is because "The new york city public school system negotiated

a two year \$500,000 contract with the MSG Varsity Network which is a cable television network to broadcast all types of high school athletic events” according to cncb.com (2012), and not only that there was also a California interscholastic federation who also signed just like the new york public schools to a 15 year deal and that was with Time Warner cable which is a well known TV station and their deal with them was to broadcast high school football games for \$8.5 million dollars.

Also as time has moved on and sports have become even more popular ESPN has also jumped on board and they have started to broadcast around 24 high school football and basketball games and to take note some of these games are even on live broadcast and they will show a game at least every week through the season.

Overall, no high school sports in Australia would ever have the luxury of being broadcasted on national television, in fact there has never been TV time or TV coverage of any high school sport ever in Australia.

Not only does high school sports in America include lost of money as well as television broadcasting it also has a lot of publicity in magazines. Magazines allows athletes names to get out there so that they can go on further to play their chosen sports. It also provides an in depth coverage on the high school sporting world. There are more then just one magazine that gets printed yearly but to just name a few there is ESPN, VYPE, Sports Illustrated and SLAM that are all magazines that will show off high school sports results and some of the best players in the country.

An example of this that I think many people can relate to is a basketball player named Ben Simmons coming out of the best high school basketball program called Montverde in Florida. He was ranked number 1 in the nation as well as the number one prospect coming out of Florida. This allowed the media to become involved, making posters, TV game time,

national coverage of the signing to LSU and highlights all over the internet. This just goes to show that America is the place to be when playing high school sports because Ben Simmons is a an athlete from Australia but then moved over to America to play high school Basketball. This allowed him as an athletes to seen and have more exposure which in the end worked out as the best market for him.

This can be a great entity for high school athletes as it is an outlet for them to move on to a four-year school and a great way to expose players so that they can get full scholarships after high school. Overall college scholarships can also help a player out as it rewards high school athletes and can help them down the track as it is also allows them to go to school for free because they play a sport. Having attention from sports magazines is also another thing that would never happen in Australia, and all my time living there I don't think that I have ever seen athletes exposed the way that they do in America. I also have never seen a magazine on the shelf that talked about the rise of high school athletes or have any sort of exposure like that.

Another thing that goes along with media and money is that high schools can also get big sponsorships from sports companies like Nike, Under Armour, Adidas, and Jordan etc. Most high school programs are actually ran and rely very heavily on sports sponsorship as it is like another form of income. At the start of every season some programs give each player free shoes, free t-shirts, free travel gear and some high school teams get the luxury of being able to supply more gear through the season. This is all because sponsorships can ran a program and not only do they help fund a program but they make sure that all the teams that they fund look good in the latest gear. It is the best way for them to promote their gear as well as promoting the school.

Schools generate revenue from their sponsorship and this allows athletes to be able to get this gear for free with no payment from their parents at all. This is also something that does not happen in Australia, and no type of gear would be free. This is the difference in the way that the high school system works. Australia doesn't get the luxury of getting money from sponsorship and free gear to all athletes and all different sports. If you would take it from my personal experience then high school athletes in the United States are threatened with luxury.

Today, nearly every high school in the United States has some sort of sponsorship as it is becoming very popular for high school programs and sponsorships. In the end it is a win-win situation for both American high schools and the sponsorship cooperation because there sponsors use multimillions of dollars to give out free gear and supplies which places their name and brands all over their athletes so that brand awareness is made possible to the public eye as well as enhancing their image of their brand through stadiums to get their name out there.

According to scholarworks.edu (2012) it states a good point, which is "The more sponsorship a school has the better resources they have at their disposal, which also increases exposure for the student athlete which makes the sponsorship look good in the gear they are wearing".

After researching more about sponsorship for high school and how it all works I have come up with some high schools and sponsors that have had major benefits from this which was also stated on scholarworks.uark.edu (2012) "On September 2011, Gloucester High School in Massachusetts, which is located in the same town New Balance owner lives, sold the naming rights to the Massachusetts High School stadium to New Balance for \$500,000. The city is contributing \$1.5 million on the new stadium for the high school and the total cost of

the project estimates to be around \$3.5 million. Within the United States more than 130 other corporate and individual donors have committed to financially aid also”.

Another benefit for both high school and a small grocery store is the Brooklawn School District in New Jersey. This is because this was the first high school program that used sponsorship as a helping tool to the small grocery store. This allowed a positive profit for both the small grocery store as well as the school.

ShopRite is also another store that was allowed the naming rights to a basketball gym in the same town and they did this in exchange for \$100,000. Overall it's a win-win thing for Americans and it is something that isn't seen over in Australia. In Australia you barely see any sort of sponsorship at all and as well as there big stadiums there is barely any sponsorship signs around the venue. America also has a big foot in the door over Australia for sponsorship money and naming rights.

The next thing that I would like to talk about is travel teams and how that works. A travel team is a team that travels all over to compete with other teams in different states and cities and they rarely play games in their hometown. This is more like the Australian system because travelling is something that the Australians do.

In America most of the travel teams are sponsored, been fund raised or given donations so that teams can afford to travel everywhere to play there given sport. However even though there are sponsorship and money coming in from somewhere sometimes parents will still have to pay for their child to be on a travel team. This is how it is run in Australia but instead it is called a representative team also known as “rep squad” where you play for the town you live in.

However even though in Australia the team might be sponsored parents still have to pay out of pocket for their child to be on the team, they also need to pay for any gear that

goes with the team and there is a uniform fee. Also a child will never be given free shoes no matter what type of sponsorship or deal the club has and that all has to come from the child themselves or from their parents. Also parents must be able to drive their children to games and practices, as there will not be a team bus provided.

Overall it is similar but also very different at the same time. Australia takes pride in travel ball and rep squad and it the most popular thing to do, as high school really doesn't count for anything. Travel ball in Australia is a big deal and I would like to say that it is bigger than the American system.

Another very valuable service for high school sports in The United States is a online website that ranks each player and there sports out of the whole nation. This is something else that doesn't happen in Australia as high school students don't have the luxury of being ranked and it is harder to get their name out there.

MaxPreps is a website that is the "nations leading high school media company" and in the end there main goal of the website is to offer recognition to high school athletes as well as their teams. This website doesn't only help high school athletes but it helps high school coaches as well as its main goal is to promote their team. It will have schedules and results, rosters and player individual stats.

It also helps parents out in a variety of ways making it able to get their child's stats and highlights and be able to send it out to colleges later on. Also having a rank makes it easier for colleges to know that they are ready for the next level. The other main reason that MaxPreps is so reliable is because advertisers also get involved and information is available at any time. MaxPreps is a good source for everyone and in the end will rank the top 500 athletes in the nation. This is something that is only done in the United States and something that doesn't as big meaning that websites and rankings like MaxPreps isn't needed at all.

Overall it is a good source for athletes over here in America and can be a good thing for their future after high school.

One thing that I would also like to mention with the difference between high schools in both countries is that Australia in fact do have specialized sports schools which can be attended by students to play their desired sports. To get into schools that are specializes in sports you need to try out and be good enough for the head coach of that high school. This is as competitive as high school sports get and even with this there is no media involved. The one thing that is good about this is that it offers students scholarships which allows them to get free gear and things like that but generally at the end of the year most sports schools will ask for the gear back.

There really isn't too much money involved like there is in America but it is still one of the things that Australia is doing to be on the same path at the high school system in America. It also helps athletes be ready for college if they choose to take the college route later on in life.

Overall talking about the differences between the high school system in America compared to Australia it is very easy to conclude that high school sports in America is a huge deal compared to Australia where it doesn't really count for anything in the sporting world. Also it shows that there is no country out there that even comes close to the way that high school sports is ran in America or what America has, the high school athletes are very lucky with the amount of exposure that they get.

America also has a bigger variety to choose from and to sign up for, and high schools in America spend way more money on sport than all the other countries. I also think that it is

safe to say that sometimes Americans care more about sports than education as more money is sometime spent on sports, gear, stadiums and athletes.

As well as money there is also more media involved, more advertisements and commercials and they try to get their athletes as well as their high schools name out there as much as possible. Not only does America have money and media but some high schools get the luxury of being on national television and get TV time and sponsorships and deals with big sporting corporation such as ESPN, which is not a normal thing for other countries especially Australia, who get no TV time at all no mater what sports they are playing and how popular it is.

Another thing that America has over Australia is that high school sports leads them to college scholarships and earning a free education for the next four years of there degree, not one cent is paid if a high school athlete is good enough and lucky enough to receive a scholarship.

In my previous paragraphs I had explained the way high schools sports works in America and how it differs in Australia, but the one big point that stood out to me and many other Australians that I want to go into further detail is the money in high school sports and there state of the art facilities in high school programs. I want to talk about how a lot of money is put towards high school facilities. In the United States high schools take a lot of pride in the facilities they use and they make sure that their facilities are up to date and big enough to please everyone. The main sports that all the money goes towards is Football and basketball and most schools want to have to best facilities in the nation.

However don't get me wrong high schools also spend million on other sports such as baseball, lacrosse, soccer, track and filed hockey and it is noted that "a grass field can cost more than \$20,000 a year. However firstly I would like to talk about football and basketball

stadiums and some of the best built and largest in the country and why some of these stadiums are nicer than a lot of four year college programs.

The first thing that came up and in my head when it came to high school football was Texas and how that state is known to be the high school football state in America. Not only is it the known state but it is also the state with the biggest and best stadiums in the country and when they say “everything is bigger in Texas” they were not lying. The first high school stadium that I would like to talk about is Allen Eagle Stadium in Allen Texas.

Allen High School Eagles play in this stadium, which is very spectacular. This stadium is a \$60 million dollar stadium that can seat a total capacity of 18,000 people. This stadium also has a lot of very large scoreboards with high definition all around the stadium. This is one of the largest fields in Texas that a high school uses. This is a special place because Allen High School is a very good team and it allows for such a large crowd.

The next stadium is also a high school stadium out of Texas and that is Memorial Stadium in Mesquite Texas and this is the stadium of West Mesquite High School. There are also five other high school teams that use this venue and these are all the other five high schools in Mesquite.

Memorial Stadium cost up to \$2.7 million to build and then it was later renovated in 2015 where they added restrooms, expanded concession stands, restrooms areas, new locker rooms and new state of the art press boxes for coaches as well as three elevators. This stadium seats up to 20,000 people and it is also used for the Texas High School Football playoff games at the end of each year.

The next stadium, which is also from Texas, is a stadium out of Odessa Texas and is home to Odessa High School. This stadium has also had a lot of coverage, as it was the

stadium that was featured in Friday Night Lights, which is a popular TV show about High school football. This stadium has a capacity of 19,500. All games in this stadium are very highly out there as they are all rebroadcasted for everyone to watch again. It is also named to be one of the best high school Football fields in America.

The next stadium that I am going to talk about is a stadium that is not from Texas but is from Arizona instead which is Round Valley Ensphere from Eagar Arizona and is home to the Round Valley High school. This stadium is very unique because it is the only domed high school football stadium within the United States. This stadium cost \$11 million dollars just to construct.

Other notable high school football gyms include San Angelo Stadium in San Angelo Texas home of Central High school and Lake View High School as well as Stadium Bowl in Tacoma Washington, also Washington High School Stadium in San Francisco California are just to name a few. America is known to have some beautiful state of the art football stadiums and there is nowhere else in the world that can compare. Australia doesn't live up to these standards because American football is not a sport there and there are no stadiums like this. The only similar stadiums that Australia has will be discussed later on in my paper but they are all AFL stadiums.

The next thing I would like to mention after stating some of the best high school football stadiums is some of the best high school basketball stadiums. Most of the best high school basketball gyms come out of Indiana as well as Texas. Indiana is known to be one of the stronger states when it comes to basketball in general. The first that I would like to talk about is the New Castle Fieldhouse, which is home to the New Castle Chrysler High School Trojans. This gym is located in Indiana and is the largest high school basketball gym in the

United States. The capacity of this gym is 9,325, and is bigger than some of the best college gyms such as SMU, Notre Dame, VCU and Duke to just name a few. This gym has been open since 1959 and is an 81,000 square-foot-fitted house and there really is no bad seat in this stadium. It is a very special stadium. The next basketball gym is also out of Indiana and is John A. Barratto Athletic Center in East Chicago Central and home to Central High School. This gym can fit up to a total capacity of 8,296 fans. This stadium has been opened since 1986 and still to this day is in the top ranks of high school basketball gyms. The next basketball gym is Lloyd E. Scott Gymnasium, which is also in the state of Indiana and is home to Seymour High School. This is also not only one of the best gyms but it is the only gym that is located in the Seymour school district. This gym was opened in 1870 and can hold up to 8,110 fans.

The final gym that I am going to discuss is the Tiernan Center, which is also located in Indiana in a town called Richmond and home to the Richmond Red Devils. This gym can seat up to 8,100 people. The Tiernan Center is the fifth largest high school gym in the United States. Other schools to note include Muncie Fieldhouse also in Indiana, which can hold up to 7,635. Another gym that is not out of Indiana and is from Dallas Texas and is called Alfred J. Loos Fieldhouse and can hold up to 7,500 people. Overall this is just a few basketball gyms that I have mentioned and the United States has plenty other gyms that live up to the same expectations and you can clearly see that high school basketball is really popular and there is a need to have state of the art facilities. Australia does have some state of the art facilities but the high school basketball gyms back there are very undeveloped and average compared to the ones in America.

The previous pages I explained in great detail about high schools sports and how the Americans empower over every other country when it comes to high school sports. Major Universities and colleges also have a great deal of money, media and sports to participate in. Now what does college sports mean to Australians.

The real answer is it actually means nothing, nothing at all. No one goes to college in Australia to play sports and in fact it isn't even a known thing to have college sports. The college sports that happens in Australia will be at a random venue, with no locker rooms, no trainers and the only people you will see in the crowd are family members and friends which will not even fill up one fourth of the smallest stadiums.

On the other hand University sports in America is even bigger than high schools sports, which will be discussed, later on in my following paragraphs. For most Australians going to high school they play sports and enjoy it while it lasts but most students after high school either get a job or further their education. This is why it is now common for Australians to come over to America to participate and compete in their chosen sports abroad because everyone knows that to participate and have a good opportunity and to unite in both your chosen "sport and education at a higher level is at a near impossible in Australia".

Most high school sports coaches and teachers will also tell you that the US college path might be best for them to excel and to continue playing their sports and this is because the United States is the only country in the world which will allow people to have a high class education as well as being able to play sport at the elite and close to professional level. People in Australia also encourage this because not only will studying abroad and being able to play sports at a high level but it is also an experience that will last a lifetime.

Another reason that I want to talk about with the difference between Australian colleges and American is reason such as school pride, being able to play sport on the world

stage and being nationally televised as well as being able to travel, getting a world class degree for a very low cost and for you to have a successful future.

The first point that I want to talk about is school pride and how school pride and sports pride is very different from the United States compared to Australia. Now this might be because Australia takes no pride whatsoever in their high school sports so there really isn't too much to talk about because frankly let's be honest no one cares about college sports or any of the university teams and half the time Australian students don't even know that these sporting teams exist.

When you go on an Australian university campus you will hardly see anyone wearing their school attire or university hoodies, but when you are going through an American college campus nearly every student will have on their college hoodie or t-shirts and people in America really take pride and effort to show their school colors, they will breathe their college colors even long after they have graduated from that college. Also walking through an American college campus there is a store where you can buy sporting merchandise and not just clothing you can buy almost anything for example shoes, car license plates, socks, jewelry, luggage, pillows and bedding, home wares, pet clothing and accessories, office supplies, book bags, shoes and many more and the list goes on.

That's the biggest difference between the countries and even in some towns where the colleges are located it is as simple as going to Wal-Mart or a Walgreen's and buying merchandise in these stores. The whole town has pride and supports their college team all year round. This is something that Australia lacks overall.

The next point that I want to talk about when it comes to the difference in university's in Australia compared to America is that America allows their athletes to play the sport of

their choice on the world stage, as well as being nationally televised and exposed at the same time. They are also able to travel a lot more than what Australian can it is not a bad thing that students miss classes because of the sport they play.

On top of being televised on TV and being able to travel, it also allows athletes to get a world class degree for a very low cost and in some cases for no cost at all. This enables them to have a very successful career when they are done with college. In Australia it works very differently and no college sports are on TV at all and only professional sports would be televised. It is also not okay for students to miss schools because of sports; actually in fact all sports that they play have to be done in their own time or the weekends when there are no scheduled classes.

Another big thing is that the American college stadiums are state of the art and even sometimes better than professional stadiums and Australia lack this as well because the stadiums that they play university sports in is usually in a local YMCA or community center which are generally average stadiums.

In this part of my paper I want to discuss how the American college system really makes the Australian University system look bad in there facility area. First I would like to start with some of the finest Football Stadiums. The first stadium is the Rose Bowl, which is used by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). This stadium was built in 1921 and has a total capacity of 95,542. This is a very simple stadium that every high school athlete or college athlete would dream of playing at. The next is Tiger Stadium which is home of the Louisiana State University (LSU), which is located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Tiger Stadium was built in 1924 and can hold up to 102,321 in total capacity.

Tiger stadium has actually been overall regarded as one of the toughest college stadium to play in as a visiting team. It is also explained that sometime the stadium gets so

noisy on the field that it sounds like your inside a giant drum. Another stadium that is ranked in the top ranking for football stadiums include Memorial Stadium, which is where The University of Clemson play.

Memorial Stadium is located in Clemson, South Carolina and was built in 1942 and can fit a total capacity of 81,500. This is one stadium that is known to be called “Death Valley” because this is a place that is never easy to win in for the opposing team. Other mentionable stadiums that I am going to mention are also very high-class stadiums but America has so many to choose from. Others are Michigan Stadium at the University of Michigan, which holds over 113,000. Likewise, Ohio Stadium home to Ohio State University, with a capacity of 104,944, as well as Autzen Stadium home to Oregon University which has a capacity of 54,000.

Overall America goes crazy for football and they also have very enjoyable football stadiums to watch their favorite college team play in. Australia doesn’t live up to these standards, however it makes sense because there is no American football over there and the closest thing you will find is AFL stadiums that do live up to these standards however there is not as much in Australia as what America has got.

Next I would like to talk about some of the best college basketball stadiums in the United States. Basketball is one of the most popular sports within America and their stadiums really do leave a good impression on the basketball competition in America. The first stadium is Allen Fieldhouse which is home of The University of Kansas. Allen Fieldhouse was opened in 1955 and has a total capacity of 16,300. There is a lot of history behind Allen Fieldhouse because the court is names after James Naismith who was previously mentioned at the start of this paper, and who was the inventor of basketball. This stadium is so exceptional that ESPN had names this area as one of the loudest arena in college basketball.

Next is the University of Kentucky also known as Rupp Arena. This gym opened up in 1975 and has a total capacity of 23,500. This is one of the stadiums in America where they will regularly pack 23,00 fans in to watch the Kentucky wildcats play. This arena is names after a legendary coach who used to coach at Kentucky known as Adolph Rupp. Rupp Arena is one of the best college basketball stadiums in Kentucky.

Other stadiums include Dean Smith Stadium, which is home to the University of North Carolina. This stadium was opened in 1986 and can hold up to 21,750 fans. Thus stadium was names after a legendary coach who was once the coach of UNC. This gym also has so much history and legacy behind it and was once home to one of the best basketball players ever Michael Jordan. The colors of the stadium have remained the same and are baby blue and white.

Other great college stadiums include St. Johns University and there home is at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Madison Square garden was opened up in 1968 and can fit up to 19,812. This stadium is very unique because it is also home to NBA teams and is NBA arena and it is also one of the most famous indoor basketball stadiums in the world, and it is right in the heart of New York City.

There are many basketball gyms that are state of the art and other notable gyms include Assembly Hall home of the University of Indiana, Memorial Gym home to the University of Vanderbilt and Marriott Center home to BYU. There are also many other gyms but it would go on for many pages for me to name them all.

Overall some college stadiums are bigger than stadiums that are used in professional leagues and America takes great pride in having the best gyms around. The get a good crowd, generate millions of dollars each year so why not have the best gyms. Australia it doesn't

really work like this, there are many nice stadiums but they don't really have high standards as what college stadiums do in America.

The next thing that I think is one of the most important as well as different aspects in American and Australian university is the amount of money that American college sports bring in compared to Australian. In the United States college sports is a money making, multibillion-dollar company. There is always debates going around thinking that college athletes should be paid because these are the athletes and individuals who are bringing in all the money to the schools, and they are the athletes who fill up stadiums and bring in most to all of the investments.

However college sports are for amateurs and if they were to get paid then it would be illegal. Lets start of with college football coaches and naming some of the top paid coaches in the country in no particular order at all. One of the most top paid football coaches is from the University of Alabama and is Nick Saben who received \$5.2 million a year and that's without other income and total compensations. His other income comes out to be around \$150,000 and his total compensation is \$5.545.852, maybe he is paid so highly because his overall school record is 100 wins to 18 looses which is a great win to loss percentage and overall his careen record is 191-60 and that's within the SEC. He also used to coach at other big time football schools before Alabama and those schools where Michigan State, LSU and was also a NFL Miami Dolphins coach. While at Alabama and in the Big Ten conference he has been to four national championships titles and five championship appearances.

Another highly paid football coach is the coach from the University of Michigan names Jim Harbaugh who gets paid \$9 million just by the University of Michigan. His career record overall at the University of Michigan is 68-30 which is also very good. He is not only a great coach for Michigan but he is also an alumni and former quarterback and then he went

on to play in the NFL for 14 seasons. He has also coaches many other football teams such as the San Diego Toreros the San Francisco 49ers as well as the University of Stanford.

The next coach is also from a Big Ten School is from Ohio State University and is Urban Meyer which has a career record of 165 wins to 29 looses which is also very consistent. Urban was also a college football player himself and played at the University of Cincinnati. Urban Meyer has also coach a bunch of college football teams which include Illinois State, Notre Dame, Colorado State, Bowling Green, Utah State, Florida State and he is now still currently at Ohio State. He has also won a bunch of championships including the national championship in 2006, 2008 and 2014. Also this is another coach with a lot of experience under his belt.

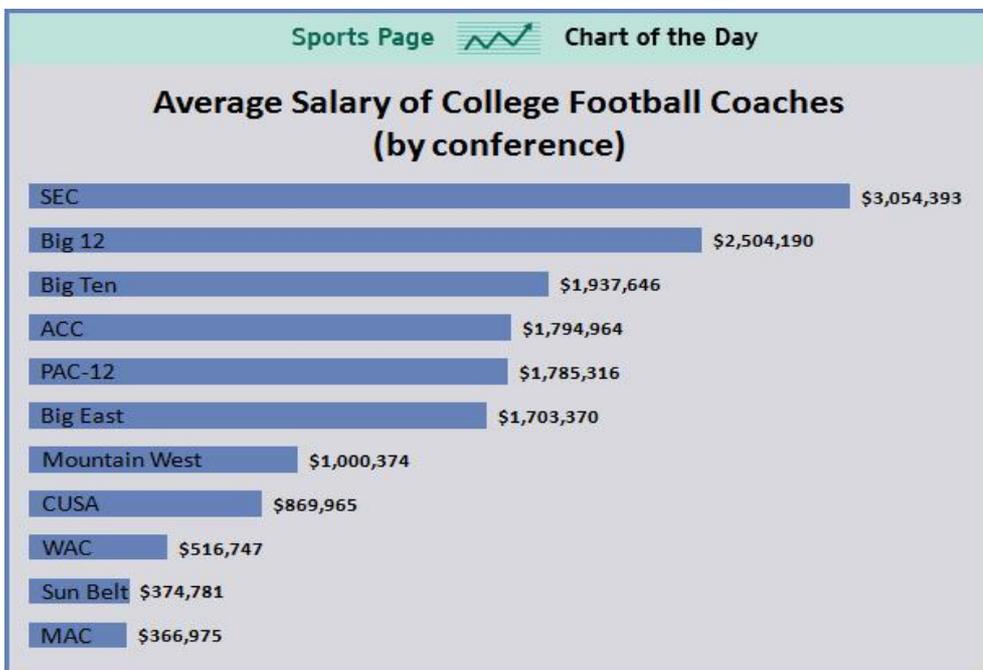
Another coach is Bob Stoops who is the head coach at the University of Oklahoma, which is a Big 12 school. Bob Stoops is paid around \$4.5 million a year and has also coach at many other big time programs such as Iowa University, Kent State, Kansas State and Florida. His overall coaching record is 190 wins to 48 loose and he has won one national championship that was in 2000. He has also won the award of being the Big 12 coach of the year 6 times.

Other coaches include Jimbo Fisher who is currently the head coach of Florida State University. This is another coach who played college football and he played at Samford University. He gets paid around \$5 million a year and he also played in an arena football league for the Chicago Bruisers before becoming a coach. This is another coach who has coach at many other football schools and these schools include Samford, Auburn, Cincinnati, and LSU and now present at Florida State. His coaching record is 78 wins and 17 losses.

The next coach is Kevin Sumlin who is currently to head football coach at Texas A&M University. This is another coach who has coaches at many other programs such as

Washington State, Wyoming, Minnesota, Purdue, Oklahoma and Houston. His salary is around \$5,000,000 a year and his coaching record overall is 79-88. The coaches that I have mentioned previously are all examples of the highest paid football coaches. Other coaches included are Gus Malzahn from Auburn, Hugh Ferentz from Mississippi, and Les Miles from LSU and Butch Jones from Tennessee, however there are many more that get paid just as much or even higher than these football coaches.

The United States takes great pride in their college football programs and the head coach of these football programs are set to very high expectations. Within the United States these big time programs will pay anything to get their college football team to win a national championship at the end of the year. The higher the conference then the greater amount of money that coach will get. The SEC is the biggest and best conference in college football following the Big 12 and the Big 10 then the ACC that is shown in chart below. Other coaches are also displayed on the other chart with roughly how much they make a year.





Highest-Paid College Football Coaches (in millions)



Now moving on to basketball college coaches and how much income college basketball coaches make a year. First I want to start with the University of Kentucky and coach John Calipari. He has been

the head coach of the Kentucky Wildcats for 8 years now and has coached at other programs such as the University of Memphis, University of Kansas, University of Massachusetts, Pittsburgh as well as NBA teams such as the Philadelphia 76ers and New Jersey Nets. Not only is he one of the highly significant college coaches but also he was also a college athlete himself and played basketball at the point guard position for the UNC Wilmington, as was a Clarion University.

John Calipari also leads the league in college men's basketball to be one of the most paid coach and it is estimated that he will make around \$8 million dollars a year which is not including all the different kind of bonuses that coaches get. His overall coaching record is 648 wins to 190 losses in the SEC conference for college basketball and for the NBA it was 72 wins and 112 losses. His experience and professionalism is what makes him one of the highest paid college basketball coaches.

The next coach who is also very close to John Calipari is the basketball coach from Duke University names Mike Krzyzewisji. He is said to average around \$9.8 million dollars annually and is also another highly paid coach. Duke is in one of the toughest basketball conferences in the nation being in the ACC conference. Coach K is what he is known by also coaches at other university before such as the University of Indiana as well as Army and now is still at Duke.

Coach K is also the USA men's Olympic team coach and has won a number of gold, silver and bronze medals and was coaching the national team for 7 years. Overall his coaching record is 1,071 wins to 330 losses in college basketball and has lead Duke to a number of accomplishments. Duke has won five NCAA championships has appeared in 12 final fours as well as winning the ACC regular season 12 times, as well as 14 ACC tournament championships. Coach K is a very valuable coach as he also has the Duke University stadium names after him.

The next coach that I am going to talk about is Tom Izzo who is the head coach for Michigan State University. Tom Izzo has been the coach at Michigan State for a number of years and has been coaching the men's basketball since 1995 and he is also a very prestige coach as he is in the basketball hall of fame in 2016, which is very recent. Tom Izzo hasn't cached at that many other schools compared to the other coaches but has coaches at Northern Michigan as an assistant before being the assistant and the head coach at Michigan State in the BIG10 conference. His overall record is 544 wins to 220 loose and overall in the NCAA he has a 71 percent win streak with 41ooses to 19 wins. It is estimates that Tom Izzo makes around 3.7 million a year.

The next coach is another coach that is in the ACC conference and that is coach Rick Puttino who is the coach of the men's basketball team at The University of Louisville. Rick

Puttino has been the head coach of the Louisville cardinals since 2001 and has had a successful coaching career there. His overall coaching records are 770 wins to 269 losses, which is a great percent of 74 percent. Rick Puttino has also coaches at a number of different university's including The University of Hawaii, Syracuse, Boston University, Providence, Kentucky and other NBA teams include the New York Knicks and the Boston Celtics. This is another coach that has been inducted to the Basketball Hall of Fame which was in 2013 and he is also estimates to make an annually salary of 5 million dollars.

Above I have just mentioned just a few coaches that earn million of dollars a year to be coaches at a division one men's basketball program. There is so much money involved but they all have the same aim and that is to win as many games as they can as well as taking there team to the NCAA tournament and being successful. Other notable coaches include Bill Self who is the coach for the University of Kanas, Sean Million for Arizona University, Bob Huggins from West Virginia University, Gregg Marshall for Wichita State University and Jim Calhoun from the University of Connecticut. These are all a bunch of coaches who are putting world-class teams together and are set a high bar to win basketball games. This just goes to shows that both college football and basketball program are multimillion dollars business and it will only expand from here. This is a good thing for America.

The difference between the college sporting coaches and the coaches of Australia is that college coaches dont get paid at all and that is all because college sports isn't a big deal in Australia but even the professional sports such as AFL the coaches are not nearly paid as much. Yes they are some caches who top the 1 million and above mark which include coaches such as Mick Malthouse who is the coach for the Carlton Blues, as well as Paul Roos

who is the head coach for the Melbourne Football Club and Chris Scoot for the Geelong football club.

Most of the coaches in the AFL make up to 700,00 a year and depending on if they make finals then they will receive bonuses each month, Even though the AFL is the spirit of Australia they still don't get paid as much as college coaches in America but they do have good salaries that can have them set for life.

The next point that is very interesting to me is that even though the United States has a more sport dominate high school and university/college system then Australia. Australia however still has some of the best facilities and sporting events in the world.

Outside of the United States, there is another world filled with noble facilities, great athletes and teams and also a huge culture. Melbourne, Australia has been named the sporting capital of the world and it wasn't just names it this year but it has been thee sporting capital for decades. Melbourne has taken this away from other big cities such as Barcelona, Tokyo, London, Berlin, Sydney and New York. This really goes out to show that Melbourne, Australia is really growing in the sporting world and has gave the city its name of the top sporting city.

The reason that Melbourne won this award and was names the sporting capital and top sporting city in the world because the city does a fantastic job in taking pride in sporting events and producing a world class sporting calendar of events yearly. The popular is slightly lower than the other cities that have been names the sporting capital of the world, as Melbourne has a population of just over four million people.

This explains and will give people a better understanding of why club sports is more of a bigger deal than high school and college sport in America. It has made club sports really boom and be able to take off people sports clubs use the same facilities as these world class

sporting events and when people sign up for club sports it enables more money into the system to be able to build state of the art facilities for the whole city and state to enjoy. All the facilities that Melbourne uses are smack band in the middle of the city.

This is a positive and smart thing that Melbourne has done because it enable people from everywhere to be close enough to use and see these facilities. Making everything in the heart of the city makes it better as well because the transport system makes it easier for people to get to these facilities and easier for fans to attend sports, you don't even need to have a car to get there.

Now tell me what is better than not being able to have a car to attend some of the biggest sporting events? there is no hassle of being stuck in traffic, there is also no hassle for paying those expensive parking prices, there is no hassle in parents having to take off work to take their children to sporting events because there is always a way to get there.

Melbourne also takes great pride in how much they invest into these state of the art facilities and overall they spend a lot of money. Investments however still continue today and Melbourne believes that "if you build it, they will come," which is what happened in Melbourne and is a very accurate statement.

For a city that hasn't had an Olympic game host since 1956, the faculties really exceed and even if not are better than countries that have hosted Olympic Games within the past 20 years. The facilities of Melbourne really does exceed almost all of the other cities around the world. Melbourne had even stole the title from Sydney, Australia which was also names the sporting capital of the world during the time that the 2000 Olympic games where held there.

So what does this tell you about Melbourne? It tells us that Melbourne has a very rich legacy when it comes to sports and even has venues better than Olympics world-class venues. All these facilities as well are in walking distance of each other and not many other cities in

the world will have world class venues all placed in one area which are all less than one to two miles away from each other. Also its simple public transport and a transport system can cater and hold up to millions of people such as fans, supporters and athletes themselves. Melbourne also caters for every sporting event and the attendance number that comes with that sporting event.

Next I want to talk about the facilities that make Melbourne the best sporting city in the world and the great infrastructure and money that the city has spent. There are multiple stadiums all within walking distance from each other but the first is the most popular one and it is known as the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground).

Football games have been held there since 1859 and it is also the main ground for cricket as the first ever test cricket match was held there in 1877. The MCG also hosted the 1956 Olympic Games as well as the 2006 Commonwealth Games. There are very few stadiums in the world that can compare to this type of stadiums and it is known to be the biggest stadium in Melbourne and the 10th biggest in the world. It has one of the best atmospheres in the world and is always being fixed and upgraded every year as the MCG has a multi-year \$700 million investment. The MCG was built in 1853 and it really is the heart of Melbourne and I think plays a big role in why Melbourne is the sporting capital.

Other events that have also been held at the MCG include world cup soccer, rugby league and state of origin, which is also rugby. There are also large concerts that are held there on a monthly basis. The MCG has a seating as well as standing section and there are overall a total of 95,000 seats and an additional 5000 for standing which brings the MCG to a total capacity to 100,024, which will reach this every year for the AFL grand finale. According to Greg Baum "The MCG is a shrine. It is to Melbourne what the Opera house is to Sydney, the Eiffel Tower is to Paris and the Statue of Liberty is to New York; it is a

stadium that symbolizes Melbourne to the world. It's a great stadium that really inspires reverence.”

The next stadium that also helped Melbourne receive the sporting capital is a stadium named Rod Laver Arena, which is known to host the world's most elite tennis tournament called the Australian Open. Rod Laver Arena was built in 1988 for the main purpose of tennis and to host the Australian Open and the Tennis Grand Slam. There have also been many different names for it such as Kooyong Stadium, National Tennis Center at Flinders Park and center court. Finally in 2003 they changed the name for good to Rod Laver arena, which was named after a famous Australian tennis player Rodney George “Rod” Laver.

Rodney was known as one of the best tennis players of all time history and had been in the top ranks for many years. Since being open Rod has been through major construction and redevelopment on this arena for many years and it was finally done in 1987, which had a total cost of AU\$94 million. This beautiful arena can seat up to 14,820, however in basketball season it can seat up to 15,400 when extra seats are added around the court. It can also seat up to 16,200 for concerts with extra floor seating being available. This area is something special to Melbourne because not only is the biggest tennis tournament and games held there but it also allows a venue for Basketball, Netball, concerts and performances and the stadium overall attracts over 1.5 million people per year.

Another state of the art building is Hisense Arena, which is a velodrome, and the reason for this building was for the 2006 Commonwealth Games that were held in Melbourne, so this stadium is a fairly new stadium. Hisense arena can hold up to 11,000 in capacity for events such as concerts and live performances. The Basketball and Netball games can hold up

to 10,500 where they can also place other seating around for more spectators and for tennis without all the extra seating put in it can comfortably fit 9,500.

The arena had been reconstructed many times but it wasn't until the year 2000 that it was done. There was a \$363 million dollar upgrade. Hisence arenas host many events for both domestic and international people and has got its name from the major sponsorship brand Hisence. On May 12th, 2008 the name was changed from Vodafone Arena to Hisence for a 6 year deal when there was a multimillion-dollar deal and then in 2014 this deal was extended for three more years and to this day the area has still kept its name of Hisence Arena.

The next stadium that also contributed to Melbourne's sporting city is Olympic Park and this is a stadium that was used for track and field as well as rugby and soccer. The reason for the stadium and as you can see from the name Olympic park was for the 1956 Olympics. Even though this stadium was so unique to Melbourne and used by millions of athletes every year this stadium was demolished in 2011 and replaced with an Australian football field for training purposes and now is the main practice facility of the Collingwood Football Club.

In 2011 Olympic park was moves and renovated and replaced by a new stadium called Lakeside Stadium. Lakeside stadium also caters for the same events that Olympic park did including track and field, rugby and soccer but the new venue was a better-fit overall for sports in Melbourne. It can fit a total of 12,000 people, which equals to 6,000 seats.

This also is a great location in Melbourne because public transport also makes it very accessible and easy for athletes to get to and from and it is also across the road from the next stadium that I am going to talk about and that is the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Center.

The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic center (MSAC) is one of the most highly and favorable world class sporting arena used in Melbourne. MSAC was opened on the 24th of July 1997 and at that time it had a construction cost of \$65 million Australian dollars and this was money that was put to good use.

MSAC had been used for many events such as the commonwealth games that were held in 2006 as well as the World Aquatics Championships in 2007 and NBL basketball games. This stadium is not just for aquatics but included 10 indoor basketball courts and 1 big game court for professional use, as well as 12 badminton courts, 18 table tennis courts, 3 volleyball courts, 10 squash courts and a large gym.

The next stadium that I would also like to talk about is the State Netball and Hockey center which is similar to what MSAC has to offer however it just offers different sports. This is also a multipurpose arena, which opened on the 16th of March 2001. This State Netball and Hockey stadium is mainly used for Netball and has a total of 5 indoor netball courts as well as 4 outdoor netball courts. Overall it fits a capacity of 3,500. This stadium also included sports such as basketball, volleyball, concerts, martial arts and indoor and outdoor soccer.

This stadium also has hockey courts that our outdoors and can fit up to 8,000 spectators on the main hokey court and 250 on the other hockey courts. Also all hockey games for the 2006 commonwealth games where health at the state netball and hockey center which has exceptional facilities for hockey. This stadium is also very unique to Melbourne and caters for all different sports and athletes.

The next two stadiums that I want to talk about are also very exclusive to Melbourne and they are also right next to each other are the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Center which is also known as the Westpac center and AAMI Park. First the Melbourne sports and entertainment center was originally used for swimming and diving. The facility was opened

in 1956 and was used as a sole purpose in the 1956 Olympic Games for the aquatic center that it provided.

However, in 1983 the Olympic size pool was soon replaced to become a home facility for baseball as well. It was home to the NBL and was used for indoor basketball games. It is also used for concerts as it holds a total of 7,200 people.

The next stadium that is also wanted to mention is right next-door and in walking distance from each other is AAMI Park that is a well-known stadium because of the way it has been built. AAMI Park is an outdoor stadium used for events such as the NRL and soccer such as the A League and the W league. This is a fairly new stadium that was brought to Melbourne and was completed in 2010 and was officially given the name of AAMI Park on March 16th 2010. AAMI Park was given a \$190 million dollar to make a 20,000 seat rectangular stadium and was actually increased to 30,000 when built. This stadium is so rare because it was a big stadium for rugby and soccer and Melbourne never really had big things for these two sports so it enables rugby and soccer to expand in Melbourne.

Other notable stadiums in Melbourne that also contribute to making Melbourne the sporting capital of the world include Etihad Stadium, which fits a total of 56,000 people and is a multipurpose sports facility mainly for football. Princess Park is also notable as it is a 38-hectare park used mainly for recreational purposes such as running, walking and bike riding.

There is also Princess Park stadium that is used for football, which can fit a total capacity of 24,000, but this is mainly used for a practice facility for the AFL. Flemington Racecourse is also a very big deal especially when it comes to horse racing. It hosts the biggest horse race of the year known as the Melbourne Cup and is also a public holiday for this event. Overall Melbourne has a huge selection of world-class sporting facilities and venues as well as being able to cater for nearly every sport possible.

This really shapes Melbourne as a city and certainly lets Melbourne stand out from all the other cities and countries especially in the sporting world. Melbourne has been the sporting capital of the world and I don't think that it will change anytime soon as the rate that Melbourne is going.

The next thing that I would like to mention in my paper is the Olympic Games and how the United States and Australia compare and differ on the world stage. Which country is better at which sports and in what sporting areas have these countries won the most medals.

To begin, Australia and their great tradition of the Olympic Games. Australia is a very competitive team when it comes to the Olympics and they are always very high on the medal tally at the end of the games. The Australians also take the Olympic games in particularly very seriously and having success on the international stage is even more important.

The Australian Olympic Committee was founded in 1895 and the first Australian athlete to compete in the Olympics was Edwin Flack and it was in the track and field for the 800 and 1500 meters as well as the marathon and also he competed in tennis. Since then Australia has sent athletes to every summer Olympic appearance as well as most winter Olympic Games excluding the years 1924, 1932 and 1948.

Australia has been host to two Olympic Games and this was explained earlier in my paper, which was the 1956 Olympics held in Melbourne, Victoria and in 2000, which was in Sydney, New South Wales. The Australians are known to be historically strong at events such as field hockey, cycling, rowing, equestrian, sailing, swimming, beach volleyball and basketball.

Overall Australia has won 150 gold medals, 167 silver medals and 190 bronze medals, which equals out to 507 overall. This is a great outcome for Australia because

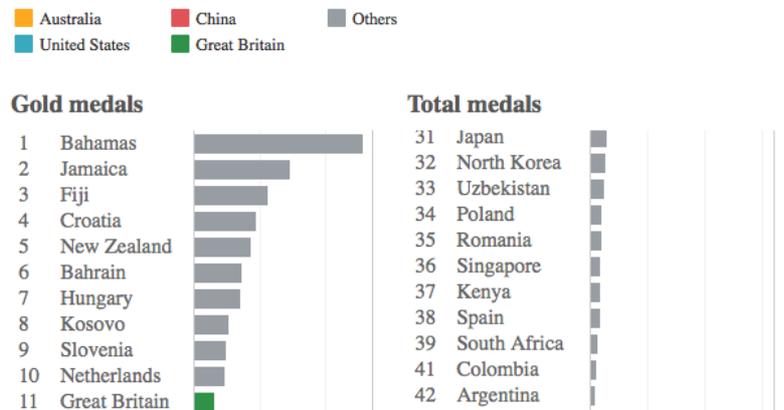
Australia has a relatively small population of only 22.5 million people. Australia uses sport as an identity to express their country and they have been doing this for more than 200 years.

Sports in Australia is a mean of expression to the country and a major cultural element. However I really want to overemphasis the population and the major difference between Australia and the United States. The reason as to why Australia doesn't get as many medals compared to Australia is because Australia has a significantly lower population, but if the medal counts of the Olympic games were adjusted to population and size then Australia would get surprisingly far and even be better than the USA. I'm going to show a table that u found only at The Sydney Morning Herald which is one of the most looked at magazines in Australia and it shows that with

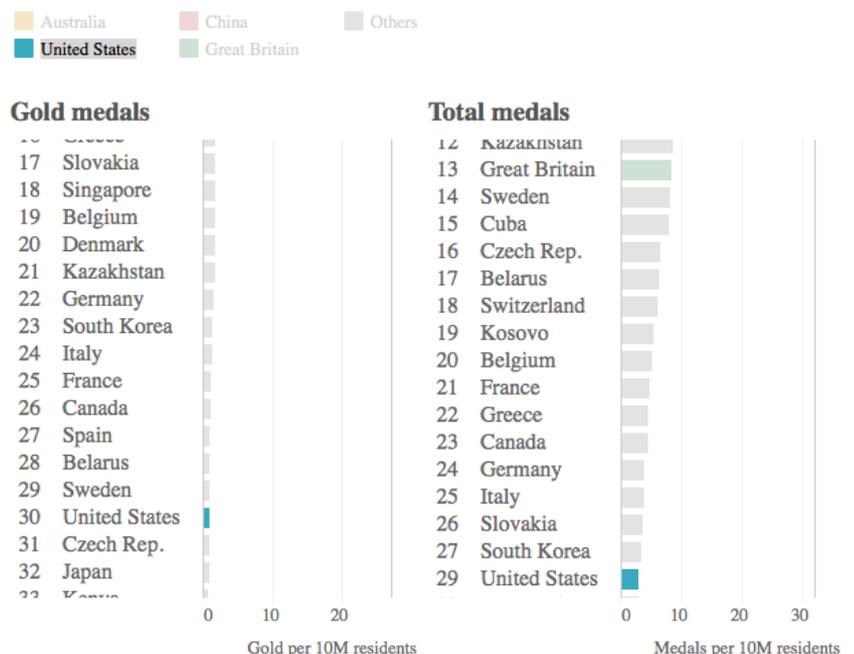
population in the medal count Australia would overall be 12th in the world and that would be much better than the United States.

This goes to show that Australia does a great job across the board when they compete at the Olympics especially for the amount of people and population of Australia. Now moving on to the Olympics in the United States, the Americans are just as good when it comes to the Olympics.

If medals were adjusted for population size, the Bahamas would win for gold and New Zealand would have the most medals.



If medals were adjusted for population size, the Bahamas would win for gold and New Zealand would have the most medals.



As previously mentioned, the United States has a bigger population and even a bigger land mass and overall there is 309.35 million people. The Americans have also been at every summer Olympic games since 1896, which was held in Athens, Greece.

The competitors for America were all mostly college athletes and came out of some of the best universities such as Harvard and Princeton or were members of the Boston Athletic Association. The United States is also a country that competes very highly and finished near to top of the medal tally at the end of the games. Overall the American athletes have won a total of 2,520 medals and out of those medals 1,022 have been gold medals. They have also won 282 medals at the winter Olympic games. At the last Olympic which were held in Rio, in 2016 the United States had actually finished first out of all the countries that competed and this really goes to show that America takes great pride in their sporting performances and that they are among some of the best athletes in the world. According to insidethegames.com by Michael Pavitt it was also explained that the United States have finished at the top of the medal table at the last five summer Olympic games and this is a record set by a country. Pavitt, M. (2016, April 15). One Year To Go to Gold Coast 2018! Retrieved April 19, 2017, from <http://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1036488/united-states-projected-to-win-99-medals-at-rio-2016>

Projected Olympic medals - Rio 2016					
United States		43	28	28	99 ↑
China		31	26	25	82
Russia		22	21	20	63 ↓
Germany		13	16	20	49 ↓
Great Britain		13	18	16	47 ↓
Australia		16	15	11	42 ↓
France		10	10	21	41 ↑
Japan		12	13	14	39 ↑
Korea		12	5	11	28 ↑
Brazil		10	10	7	27 ↑
Netherlands		6	9	12	27 ↓
New Zealand		11	7	5	23 ↑
Italy		5	4	13	22 ↑

Above is a table that shows the medal table at the end of the Rio Olympic games which were held in 2016. Overall the Americans won 42 gold medals, 23 silver medals and 28 bronze medals. The table above shows the United States in comparison to the top 13 countries, Australia was also up there and finished in the top 6 countries.

Previously I had mentioned that sports that Australia was good at certain sports and these sports were field hockey, cycling, rowing, equestrian, sailing, swimming, beach volleyball and basketball, however America is better at different sports than what the Australians are. These sports include Track and field, swimming, basketball, shooting and Diving and the Americans are also ranked number 1 in the world in each sport that I just mentioned. It goes to really show that different parts of the world are better at different sports.

The United States has also been host to many summer and Olympic games and they have hosted the Olympics 8 times making it more than any other country to ever host. They have had 4 summer games and 4 winter games. The first games were held in 1904, which was for the summer games and was held in St. Louis Missouri.

The next was the winter Olympic in 1932 and that was at Lake Placid, New York. Then it was the 1932 summer games in Los Angeles California, then the 1960 winter games in Squaw Valley, California. The next was the 1980 winter Olympic which was held again in Lake Placid, New York, then it was the 1984 summer games in Los Angeles, California for the second time. After that it was the 1996 summer Olympic games in Atlanta, Georgia and the final 2002 winter Olympics was in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Overall both the United States and the Australian athletes are very competitive and dominate when it comes to the Olympics and these two countries are notable teams coming

into the games this goes to show that both these countries take pride in there sports and the commitment and dedication that each country has for sport is very high and both these countries take pride in there athletes and there performances, especially on the world stage.

In conclusion doing this research paper has taught me a lot of information that I will need to know for my future and I think that this paper has helped me in a way that I will eventually benefit from. Whether I choose to teach physical education, being a sports coach or a persona trainer I now have a better grasp on how this work in both countries. I now know the history of Australian sports as well as the American history. I also know all the major leagues and associations involved in both countries. I can also distinguish the difference between high school sport in the United States compared to Australia so if I was to teach in either country I would know what is going on as far as what to expect. I also now understand that America clearly wins the pathway when it comes to high schools sports and media, money and advertisement but I do see Australia coming on a come up in many years to come.

Also by explaining the facilities is also another good indication of what type of environment I could be working in and gives me a good idea of how to approach that. Also writing about the difference between college sports in America compared to Australia you can clearly see that America is a few steps ahead or even maybe a hundred steps ahead. Australia clearly wins the education department but America wins the sporting departments.

Along with this is will also give me a excellent understanding that if I do go into the coaching career than I know what my aim is as far as making it to the top and being able to get paid what some of the best coaches get paid in America. College sports in America is a multimillion dollar business which is something I was aware of before writing this paper as I was a division one athlete but I never knew that the salaries of some coaches could be so high.

Also adding in that America has a good sporting history coming from high school and

university but I also mentioned that Australia actually has the capital of the world in Melbourne. Also I am very familiar with this as that is my hometown and I live 10 minutes away from Melbourne. This goes to show that Australia excelled more in club sports and associations rather than through school. America has some great facilities but so does Australia.

Overall both countries are very competitive when it comes to sports and this is great for both nations. This paper has taught me a lot and I am glad that I choose this topic for my senior project.

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