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**NEWS RELEASE**

**CONFESSIONS OF A SPOILSPORT**

**My Life and Hard Times Fighting Sports Corruption at an Old Eastern University**

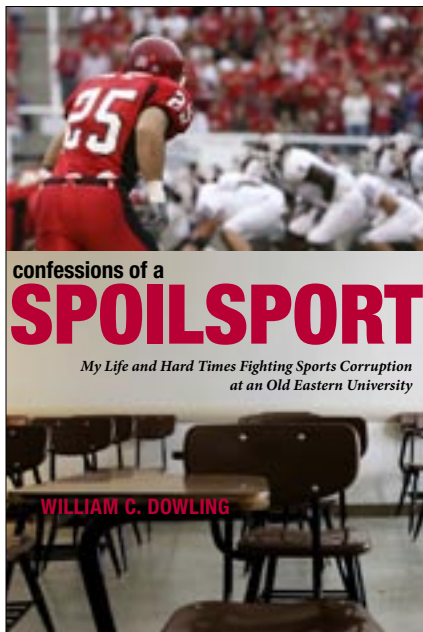
**William C. Dowling**

University Park, PA—William Dowling, Distinguished Professor of English and American Literature at Rutgers University, tells the story of the Rutgers 1000 group of alumni, faculty, staff, and students and their losing battle for the institution’s academic soul and intellectual integrity.

*In Confessions of a Spoilsport: My Life and Hard Times Fighting Sports Corruption at an Old Eastern University*, Professor Dowling gives his first-hand account of the fight against commercialized college athletics at his university. Having witnessed academic decline at the University of New Mexico arising from its scandal-ridden basketball program, Professor Dowling was duly concerned when Rutgers University appeared to be driving down the exact same road with its football program. Rutgers 1000 was organized in an attempt to depose University President Francis Lawrence, withdraw from the Big East conference, and abolish athletic scholarships. The group’s ultimate goal was to de-emphasize athletics and re-emphasize academic excellence before Rutgers turned into the “school of last resort” that it was rumored to have already become.

Now as the 2007-2008 college football season gets under way following a breakthrough season that had Rutgers fans dreaming of a national championship, this book asks some very difficult questions about big-time college sports and the costs that athletic boosterism have had on academic quality. As Rutgers alumnus and Nobel Prize winner Milton Friedman observed, “Universities exist to transmit understanding and ideals and values to students . . . not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes.” Professor Dowling’s book concludes that the administration at Rutgers has unfortunately ignored that astute observation from arguably its most influential and distinguished alumnus, and has done so to the detriment of its academic standards and reputation.

- more -



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## NEWS RELEASE (CONTINUED)

“Universities exist to transmit understanding and ideals and values to students . . . not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes. . . . When I entered a much smaller Rutgers sixty years ago, athletics were an important but strictly minor aspect of Rutgers education. I trust that today’s much larger Rutgers will honor this tradition from which I benefited so much.”

—Milton Friedman, Rutgers ’32,  
Nobel Prize in Economics, 1976

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“Read this book if you care about both sports and undergraduate education. . . . Dowling tells a sad and very personal story of the failed struggle at Rutgers, but readers at other institutions will have no difficulty in substituting the names of their own presidents and athletic directors. Dowling is not against athletics. He is for education.”

—Stanley N. Katz,  
Princeton University,  
president emeritus of the American  
Council of Learned Societies

### THE AUTHOR

**William C. Dowling** is University Distinguished Professor of English and American Literature at Rutgers University. Of the ten books he has published, the most recent include *Oliver Wendell Holmes in Paris: Medicine, Theology, and the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, *Literary Federalism in the Age of Jefferson*, and *The Senses of the Text: Intensional Semantics and Literary Theory*. He has also written widely on college sports in such publications as *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Academic Questions*, and about challenges to the system of scholarly communication in the *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*.