

## Native Elements: Native College Athletes

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# NATIVE ELEMENTS

March

2025



Divisional breakdown of  
Native American  
student-athletes in  
2023-24:

**544**

Students in Division I

**981**

Students in Division II

**790**

Students in Division III

Sports with most Native  
American student-athletes  
in 2023-24:

**407**

Students in Football

**187**

Students in Baseball

**169**

Students in Softball

In the 2023-24 academic  
year, the number of Native  
American student-athletes in  
the NCAA reached 2,315,  
**marking a 31% increase of  
550** athletes compared to  
the 2013-14 academic year.

In a study conducted in  
Oklahoma in 2022 involving  
Indigenous public school  
respondents,  
**60% of male participants**  
indicated they were aspired  
to pursue a path as  
basketball players.

Sports with the highest  
percentage of Native  
American student-athlete  
participation in 2023-24:

**169** Softball  
athletes: **0.78%**

**54** Men's wrestling  
athletes: **0.64%**

**103** Women's basketball  
athletes: **0.62%**

There are a total of  
**35 accredited  
Tribal colleges**  
with  
**75 campuses.**

While not all of the  
Tribal Colleges have  
sport programs,  
some offer  
intercollegiate sport  
programs such as  
basketball, volleyball,  
and football.

Native Athletes  
participating in  
March Madness  
this year:

**Jason Amador**  
(Navajo/Mojave), Grand  
Canyon University

**Lance Waddles**  
(Standing Rock Sioux),  
University of  
Nebraska-Omaha

**Dalton Forsythe**  
(Chickasaw Nation),  
University of Oklahoma