
Refs Want to Put their Own Teams on the Field (Government-sponsored Health Insurance)

By Curtis Coleman
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Arkansas' college football teams are in for some unexpected tough new competition this fall! The Razorbacks, Red Wolves, Reddies, Bisons, Tigers, Muleriders, Wonder Boys, Boll Weevils, Golden Lions, and Bears will each have a new game added to their schedules.

Saying they believe Arkansas football teams need to be more competitive, SEC, Southland, Gulf South, Sun Belt, and Southwestern Athletic Conference game officials are fielding their own teams starting this fall. A spokesperson said that officials do not believe that competition between member schools is adequate, so game officials from each conference are recruiting players from each school to play on their "all expenses paid" teams. Reportedly, "all expenses paid" includes all living expenses, including housing, cars, clothing, meals, and entertainment. (These "officials" are those great guys in striped shirts to whom we'd send Christmas cards every year if we could find any printed in Braille.)

Questions have arisen about potential conflicts of interest since these officials will referee the games in which their teams will be playing. A spokesman for the officials said they were promising only "a level playing field."

Okay...as far as I know, everything above is *fiction*. But everything below is *not*.

Senator Blanche Lincoln's team is proposing that government health care officials field their own team to compete with America's private insurance companies.

"We want some competition," a spokesman for her team said. Apparently, they don't believe that free market competition is adequate. As clearly as I can recall, the goal in competition is to *win*. So let's assume that the government fields its "public insurance" team to compete with America's private insurance teams. Will the playing field be level? Well, let's see...

- Sen. Lincoln's team is proposing that their team be paid for by taxing Americans for premiums paid to the other teams.
- To even exist, the private companies have to make a profit. Will the government's team have to make a profit? Of course not! They've got taxpayer money to sustain their existence.
- Will government regulators hold their own team to the level of accountability to which the private teams will be held? I'll let you answer that question.

Now, here's the big question: When the government's team wins (and it **will** win because the playing field will **not** be level), then what? If there are no private teams left in the game, who will provide health insurance for you? The only team left standing – the government's team. What kind of health care will you have then?

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