

The Interpreter

March 2005



Don't Bet on It !!!

Do you want to bet? Well, 'tis the season. Whether it is the Superbowl, the Oscars, the Grammy's, a game of poker or March Madness, opportunities abound to wager a few bucks or maybe more in a dicey activity called gambling. Studies have shown that gambling is rampant on college campuses, but what about the student-athletes? Well, the NCAA commissioned a study in 2003 to find out.

The 2003 NCAA National Study on Collegiate Sports Wagering and Associated Behaviors is the first national assessment of gambling behavior among student-athletes.

The groundbreaking study compiled results across all three NCAA divisions, reaching nearly 21,000 student-athletes. The purpose of the research was to determine the gambling habits of student-athletes across the U.S. as well as a breakdown among various sub-groups, such as teams or gender. In addition, the survey expected to yield results providing information about the kinds of programs that could be instituted to prevent and discourage the gambling behaviors.

Important findings were discovered in the areas of wagering behavior, effect of NCAA rules on gambling behavior, specific results for Division I football and basketball, and the relationship between gambling behaviors and health variables.

In terms of wagering behavior, 35% of male student-athletes reported some type of sports wagering in the

past year. Of the female student-athletes only 10% engaged in sports wagering behavior in the past year.

Significantly higher were the percentages of student athletes participating in any gambling behavior (including card games, lottery etc). Results indicated that 63.4% of Division I males, and 41.7% of Division I females had participated in any gambling behavior.

Within the men's sports student-athletes from golf (30.3%), lacrosse (29.3%), wrestling (27.7%) and football (23.8%) reported the highest percentages of wagering on collegiate sports. For women's sports golf, lacrosse and basketball reported the highest percentages with 8.4%, 8.3%, and 8.2% respectively.

In terms of the effect of NCAA rules on gambling behavior, the study found the proportion of student-athletes participating in sports wagering increased with a decrease in knowledge of NCAA rules. As an example, Division III athletes reported the highest rates of gambling behavior while at the same time they reported the least understanding of NCAA rules.

Among Division I male athletes 63.9% indicated that the NCAA penalties discouraged sports wagering. While females from Division I reported at a rate of 74.5% for the same measure.



Relating specifically to football and basketball, across all divisions 2.3% of football players and 2.1% of basketball players reported having been asked to influence the outcome of a game.

Gambling behavior was found to be related to health or behavioral attributes such as risk-taking, substance abuse, and illegal activity. Student-athletes with repeated traffic tickets correlated higher with the students with a potential gambling problem. As the study defines them, potential problem gamblers are more likely to have friends and family who gamble and are also more likely to use or abuse drugs or alcohol (including cigarettes).

Extrapolating the percentages to the population of student-athletes, the study suggests that nearly 80,000 student-athletes per year are engaging in some type of sports wagering, all risking their athletic eligibility.

The complete report from the 2003 NCAA National Study on Collegiate Sports Wagering and Associated Behavior can be found online at:

http://www.ncaa.org/library/research/sports_wagering/2003/2003_sports_wagering_study.pdf

Academic Progress Rate (APR) 101

You may have heard terms such as “APR,” “925,” “0-for-2,” and “graduation success rate” bandied about the news as of late. Are you confused? Well, I’m here to help. To put it as simply as possible there are three things to remember. First, the APR is a current snapshot of each team’s academic performance. Second, teams must achieve an APR score of 925 to avoid contemporaneous penalties. Third, teams below the cut-score of 925 will not be able to re-issue grants-in-aid for one year of players who left as academic casualties during the previous year.

You may ask why 925? What does that mean? Well, essentially 925 equates to a 50% graduation rate (under current federal methodology).

Ok, now you know why that score has been in the news, but how did they come up with that score? The APR is calculated using a point system.

There are points for eligibility and retention. Each semester every player can earn up to 2 points. One point is awarded for academic eligibility and one point is awarded for returning to the institution. So, a team’s APR is the number of points received divided by the total number of points possible (then multiply by 1000).

Since the data has only been collected for one year, any missed points on a small team can mean a large drop in the APR score. As a result, the committee formulated confidence intervals or boundaries on either side of the 925 score for each team. These boundaries will only be in place until there is sufficient data to report statistically significant scores.

So, now you might be wondering when do penalties get assessed? The contemporaneous penalties are assessed when a team’s APR score drops below the

However, it is possible for a single student-athlete to go “0 for 2” in points but for the team score to remain above the cut-score. There are also boundaries on the other end as well. No team can be assessed penalties that exceed about 10% of that team’s financial aid limits. For example, in basketball the maximum penalty would be 2 scholarships lost.

Once the data has been collected for a four-year period, historically based penalties may also be assessed. These penalties are intended to target the teams with chronic academic under-performance.

The first round of APR scores (from data from 2003-04) were mailed to presidents in late February. The next set of data may become available as soon as September. Institutions will be notified of any penalties by December.

Article adapted from Brown, G. T. (2005, Feb. 14). APR 101. NCAA News.



From the Interpretation File



Soliciting or Accepting a Bet for a Material Item

The provisions of NCAA Bylaw 10.3 preclude a student-athlete from soliciting or accepting a bet for a nonmonetary material item (e.g., shirt, dinner) that has tangible value. [Official, 11/26/96]

Printing of Point-Spread Information in Institutional Publications

It would not be permissible for a member institution to publish in its game program an advertisement that provides specific point-spread information regarding professional sports contests. [Official, 3/13/90]

Athletic Department Staff Member Participating in Radio or Television Show Involving Predictions of Athletics

Athletic department staff members are precluded from participating in a radio or television show involving the predictions of intercollegiate contests, if related to point spreads. It was further noted that athletic department staff members may not participate in a show primarily for the purposes of predicting the outcome of an intercollegiate athletics contest. [Staff, 8/24/90]

Student-Athlete Subject to Gambling Activities

Once an individual becomes a student-athlete, the gambling provisions are applicable to that student-athlete until the time that his or her eligibility is exhausted. [Staff, 3/17/99]

Gambling on Professional Sports Contests

The prohibition against student-athletes and athletics department staff members participating in gambling activities associated with professional sports events is applicable only to those sports in which the Association conducts championship competition, Division I-A football and emerging sports. [Official, 11/26/96]



In the News....



Free Dental Work to Athletes at Ohio State University?

The compliance staff at OSU is leading an investigation into allegations raised concerning a few present and past women's basketball players.

Athletic Director Andy Geiger commented to the press indicating that the two current players involved are not in danger of being declared ineligible. These two players had visited an orthodontist and subsequently were sent invoices indicating they owed nothing.

The situation has been reported to the NCAA.



Indebted FAU Athletic Department Still Hopes for Div. I-A Status

Despite owing more than \$6 million, Florida Atlantic University's President Frank Brogan said plans are still in place to move to Division 1-A in football in addition to building a new domed stadium.

Recently hired Athletic Director Craig Angelos is working on making the department more financially solvent. A jump to Div. I-A will bring in more money but not enough to cover the debt currently owed to the university and the school's foundation.

FAU will look to donations as well as an increase in revenue through ticket sales to bring in the needed cash flow.

Fresno State Women's Basketball Coach Suspended

Stacy Johnson-Klein, Fresno State's Women's basketball coach was suspended in mid-February with pay, pending an investigation into alleged violations of both university policy and NCAA regulations.

While details of the alleged violations have not been reported, the coach was told they were concerning racial remarks, professional behavior and recruiting violations.

Fresno State President, John Welty, immediately directed Johnson-Klein not to contact anyone associated with the women's basketball program. However, subsequent to the directive Johnson-Klein sent an email to the team asking them to remain loyal to her and apologizing for any pain she caused.

California State University Lawyers have not confirmed whether they will attempt to press charges for the violating of President Welty's order. (J. Davis, Fresno Bee)

Ongoing Neuheisel Saga

In a teary testimony, former Washington football coach Rick Neuheisel called his firing a public disgrace. The tune of the courtroom changed dramatically when UW attorney Lou Peterson cross-examined Neuheisel.

Peterson prodded Neuheisel getting him to admit he knew there were rules about gambling, but that he was scared when the allegations were brought so he denied his participation. Peterson also probed Neuheisel regarding his contract with UW that allows him to be fired at any time.

The case for the University hinges on being able to prove Neuheisel was fired for repeated lying. (G. Wood, The Olympian)

South Carolina Baseball Players Suspended

South Carolina has suspended six baseball players for six games for accepting free rounds of golf.

The players had accepted free rounds of golf at a Columbia course last summer. NCAA regulations prohibit student-athletes from receiving benefits beyond those available to the entire student body. The SEC and the NCAA have agreed to the proposed suspension.

Modifications to NCAA Clearinghouse Procedures

This spring a few changes will take place operationally and procedurally at the NCAA Clearinghouse. First, home-schooled athletes will have the same opportunity as school enrolled student-athletes to view their certification status online. Second, as of March 1, 2005 the Clearinghouse will no longer mail a paper copy of the certification reports to institutions, they will remain accessible online. Additionally, prospects who elect to have correspondence with the Clearinghouse through email will not receive a paper copy of the preliminary or final reports. Students may still elect to get paper copies and students with undeliverable email addresses will also receive a paper copy.

Academically, computer science classes will no longer count as a core class. For computer science courses to be used for initial-eligibility purposes, the courses must appear on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses for math or natural/physical science.



March Recruiting Calendar



Interpreter On-Line

COMPLIANCE STAFF

Football

March 1-31 Quiet

Men's Basketball

March 1-15 Eval/Quiet
 March 16-22 Contact
 March 23-30 Quiet
 March 31-April 5 Dead

Women's Basketball

March 1- 31 Cont/Quiet

Baseball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Softball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Volleyball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

The Interpreter can be found on-line at www.seminoles.com by clicking onto "NCAA Compliance" in the left column. The Interpreter icon is under the "What's New??" section. Past issues are archived here and contain more detailed information than space prohibits in the newsletter form.

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Sports Wagering
APR 101