

The Interpreter

March 2006

NCAA Youth Programs Expand

Through a number of programs and outreach activities, the NCAA is delving into the realm of youth sport. The collegiate student-athletes of tomorrow are the elementary, middle and high schoolers of today. With academic standards and initial eligibility standards changing, the NCAA has increased its efforts to educate young athletes.

The Youth Education through Sports (YES) Program is the NCAA's main outreach initiative to young student-athletes. The YES Program holds sports clinics at NCAA championship sites. Clinics are held in numerous sports including football, softball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, baseball and more. The NCAA recruits current collegiate coaches from around the country to bring one student-athlete with him/her to the clinics. Partnered with the Coca-Cola company, and other private corporate partners, the equipment and t-shirts are provided at no cost to the youth participants.

The clinics focus, in particular, on underserved youth (minorities and females). The clinics are for kids aged 10 to 18 and focus not only on training, conditioning, and other sport drills, but also on fun and participation rather than winning. Participants are also provided with tickets to NCAA championship events in the area.



NCAA Basketball also has a number of youth initiatives currently underway, foremost of which is a Website for kids and others involved in youth sport. The Website has games and other downloads member institutions can put on their own kids club websites. The Website also contains a number of basketball drills that youth coaches can use. Many of the drills are available for download in a video or flash format. Additionally, there is information on JJ Jumper the official mascot for NCAA Basketball, who will make appearances for special events. Lastly, there are a host of resources available for coaches of high school or youth teams to improve the instruction and coaching of youth basketball.



Through the National Youth Sports Corporation (NYSC), the NCAA also reaches out to more than 75,000 young men and women through programs that combine physical skill and educational activities. The mission of the NYSC is "to prepare young people for a lifetime of learning, sportsmanship and physical fitness with the ability and commitment to contribute to their families, schools and communities." For more information log onto the NCAA Website at www.ncaa.org

Know the Rules!



It is not worth the risk! A number of NCAA rules violations were reported in the past few years, either to conferences, or the NCAA, regarding gambling activities. Overwhelmingly, the involved student-athletes and/or staff indicated they did not know the NCAA rules prohibited wagering on professional sports. Below is bylaw 10.3:

Staff members of a member conference, staff members of the athletics department of a member institution and student-athletes shall not knowingly:

- (a) Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- (b) Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;
- (c) Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- (d) Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value; or
- (e) Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling

Recent violations have ranged from \$10 bets on the Super Bowl, to \$300 wagers in entire season betting pools. Football is not the only sport on which bets are being placed, golf, basketball, and other sports are wagered on as well. Also, one school reported a friendly wager between a student-athlete and a local radio show host. Student-athletes and athletic department staff will often be presented with the opportunity to make a bet. As March Madness approaches, please remember - DON'T BET ON IT!

Northern Colorado Institutes "March Awareness"

As part of a proactive program of gambling education, Northern Colorado University's Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance will hold the institution's second annual "March Awareness" program. This year, the entire athletic department staff will receive and wear the NCAA's Don't Bet on It bracelet. A blue version of the rubber bracelet Lance Armstrong popularized.



Increasing awareness of the rules is the first step in preventing a problematic situation from arising. Gambling on collegiate or professional athletics carries stiff penalties for student-athletes, so a proactive program to halt the behavior can save a program from future issues and embarrassment. The bracelets are only one facet of the "March Awareness" program at Northern Colorado.



Student Services Corner

FSU Athletic Department Helps "Race for a Cure"

The longstanding relationship between Florida State and the American Cancer Society continues this year as the Florida State Athletic Department shoots for a goal of entering four teams in the culminating "race for a cure" event.

Along side teams from throughout campus, the FSU Athletic Department teams will walk around the Mike Long Track continuously for a grueling eighteen hours, during which at least one team member must be on the track walking at all times.

The Athletic Department teams in the past have consisted of staff members, student-athletes, and coaches. The department hopes the widespread participation will be replicated this year.

Each team entering in the event must raise at least \$1000.00, as a charitable donation to the American Cancer Society. The Athletic Department has set a lofty goal of four teams, meaning \$4000.00 must be raised for the minimum entry donation.

On February 26th, student-athletes and staff held a car wash to begin raising the funds. Other fundraising events will take place in the coming weeks to procure the needed cash.

Instead of placing any bets this March, put your money into a cause you know will win. If you are interested in donating or would like more information, please contact Jason Williams, Assistant Director of Student Services by phone at 644-3281 or by email at jwillia2@fsu.edu



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 non-monetary 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....



Arkansas Fined For Fan Behavior

After an overtime win versus Florida, fans rushed the court at the University of Arkansas' Bud Walton Arena. Unfortunately, the show of support and jubilation will cost the university \$5,000.

A new policy was put in place in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in December of 2004 limiting access to the court to only student-athletes, coaches, officials, support personnel and authorized individuals.

Fan flooding of athletic courts and fields have led to a number of injuries and even deaths in recent years. This policy sets a high standard for the safety of not only those playing the game, but the fans as well. (AP, sports.yahoo.com, 2/21/06)

Mississippi Reports Recruiting Violations

Four secondary violations were reported to the SEC by Mississippi. The violations took place from October to December and included football recruiting violations. Among the reported incidents, Deuce McAllister (current New Orleans Saints running back and former Mississippi player) made contact with recruits at a high school football game. McAllister contends the contact was just inadvertent, saying hi to players as they entered the field.

Other violations occurred when the Director of Football Operations, who is not permitted to participate in recruiting activities, called four Memphis-area prospects. Mississippi reported the violations upon their discovery, and instituted penalties which were accepted by the SEC as appropriate.

While these violations were considered secondary in nature, repeated breach of similar bylaws in the same

Poker Tourney May Spoil Golfers Chances

Sonoma State men's golf student-athlete, Bobby Neary, qualified for an Australian poker tournament through a satellite tourney at an online poker room. While wagering in poker games is not against NCAA regulations, certain circumstances surrounding Neary's situation may have violated a NCAA Bylaw. By participating in the online poker game, Neary agreed to wear their merchandise during the live tournament, and allowed the site to record his likeness, use his identity and voice during the live event. The NCAA Bylaw reads as follows:

12.5.2.1 Advertisements and Promotions Subsequent to Enrollment.

Subsequent to becoming a student-athlete, an individual shall not be eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics if the individual:

- (a) Accepts any remuneration for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise, recommend or promote directly the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind, or
- (b) Receives remuneration for endorsing a commercial product or service through the individual's use of such product or service.

Neary ended up finishing second in a field of 418 players. Sonoma state must submit a reinstatement request to the NCAA, which will decide if Neary's eligibility can be restored. Reinstatement requests can be processed in a few days or it can take longer if additional documentation and information are required. Neary hopes to have the issue settled as soon as possible, as the golf season fast approaches. (Paterson, B., 2/17/06, Sacramento Bee)



NCAA Faces Yet Another Anti-trust Suit

The NCAA is yet again defending itself in a lawsuit claiming unfair control, only this time it is not about TV rights, but about scholarship limits. The suit was filed in mid-February in Los Angeles on behalf of three former student-athletes from California, as well as all other student-athletes "similarly situated" during the past 4 years at 144 major football and basketball schools.

The central claim is that the NCAA has imposed financial caps on scholarships that do not cover the cost of attending college. Even the NCAA admits that a full grant-in-aid is about \$2,500 to \$3,000 less than what an average college student incurs.

The NCAA has yet to comment on the case. In the past few years discussions have taken place within the organization on this very issue. If the suit prevails, many schools will face enormous financial strain to cover the rising costs. A school that gives 150 full scholarships, for example, would have to come up with an extra \$375,000—\$450,000.

The NCAA is concerned that too much increase in scholarship limits might lead to perceptions that a pay-for-play model has replaced the scholarship model. (Schrotenboer, B., Union-Tribune, 2/22/06)



March Recruiting Calendar



Football

March 1-31 Quiet

Men's Basketball

March 1-29 Eval
March 30-31 Dead

Women's Basketball

March 1- 30 Cont
March 31-April 13 Dead

Baseball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Softball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Volleyball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Interpreter On-Line

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.



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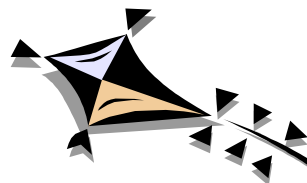
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**NCAA Reaches Out
To Youth**