

# The Interpreter

March 2004



## Don't Bet on It !!!



A recent survey by the University of Cincinnati indicated that gambling is alive and well on college campuses. Of the 648 Division I intercollegiate men's basketball and football respondents, 25.5% had gambled money on college sporting events, 3.7% had gambled money on a game in which they played and 0.5% received money from a gambler for not playing well in a game. But the perception that this is a football or basketball issue is just not true. Gambling can happen to **anyone**, including any student-athlete.

The NCAA has a clear, direct policy regarding sports gambling. The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by a message that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of sport. Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches and institutions in fair contests, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition.

NCAA Bylaw 10.3 states that athletic staff members and student-athletes shall not knowingly:

- Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;

- Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value; or
- 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.

In addition, in 2000, the membership imposed stricter sanctions on those who violate these rules. Student-athletes who participate in point shaving activities or who solicit or accept bets that involve their own institution will lose all of their remaining eligibility. Those who are found to have bet or accepted bets on intercollegiate or professional athletics are ineligible for intercollegiate competition for a minimum of one year and lose one season of competition.

The NCAA membership has adopted this legislation prohibiting athletics department staff members, conference office staff and student-athletes from engaging in sports gambling activities, which includes Internet wagering.

While the Internet offers tremendous educational potential, this technology should not be used to circumvent state and federal laws. Accessibility to the Internet is perhaps the greatest reason for concern regarding Internet gambling. Many students have unlimited use of the Internet and

most residences are wired for Internet access. In fact, there may be no group in the country who has more readily available access to computers and the Internet than students. For the NCAA, the potential exists for a student-athlete to place a wager via the Internet and then attempt to influence the outcome of the contest while participating on the court or playing field. Our students, many of whom have access to credit cards, are lured into online gambling by unscrupulous operators. A recent Nellie Mae study revealed that 90 percent of 20 year olds have credit cards, with the average of four cards and the average debt of \$2,264. The proliferation of Internet gambling is fueling the growth of illegal sports gambling on college campuses across the country.

A recent study estimates more than \$3 billion has been wagered at 1,800 Internet gambling sites in 2003, with 50 to 70 percent of that total coming from the U.S.

Among the NCAA's primary functions are those of providing athletics participation opportunities within the framework of higher education and providing protection to our student-athletes. The mission of the NCAA is to build an infrastructure of awareness and support to equip those involved with student-athletes with the tools to educate them about damaging influences, including sports wagering.

# Freshman Eligibility Gets Another Look

The Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, a group pressing for reform in college sports, is considering supporting a plan that would exclude freshmen from competing in athletic events sponsored by the NCAA.

The 12-member commission, composed mostly of university presidents, met to discuss that and other proposals. William Friday, the panel's chairman, told reporters after the meeting that he hoped the commission would endorse the freshman-ineligibility proposal.

The plan would require freshmen and transfer students from community colleges to take a year off from competing in sports. The goal would be to better acclimate the athletes to their colleges' academic culture, a step that could lead to higher grades and graduation rates.

This is the third incarnation of the commission, which released reports in 1991 and 2001 calling for college presidents to control abuses by coaches and athletes, and the spiraling costs of running football and basketball programs.

Dean Smith, the former men's basketball coach at the University of North Carolina, told the commission that he supported the plan for basketball players. He was among a panel of current and former basketball coaches who talked to the commission about reforming college sports.

But others who spoke before the panel expressed reservations about having freshmen sit out a year.

Oliver Purnell, head coach of men's basketball at Clemson University and a board member of the National Association of Basket

ball Coaches, said such a plan would not be fair to freshmen who excelled academically. "We need to see if other things work," he said.

Myles Brand, president of the NCAA, also said that the idea might be too harsh for academically successful students and those who have ambitions to compete in the Olympic Games.

"One shoe does not fit all," he said. "You need to give physical prodigies the opportunity to shine." He said he preferred a proposal that would require students to compete in college athletics for three years before turning professional.

Mr. Friday said that the commission would recommend to the NCAA that it accept the recommendations of the academic incentives/disincentives package.



## *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....



## FAMU Athletic Director Resigns

The architect of Florida A&M University's move to Division I-A in football has resigned as interim athletic director.

J.R.E. Lee III submitted his resignation to Florida A&M President Fred Gainous. The news comes one week after Gainous asked the trustees to consider delaying the move to Division I-A at its next meeting.

## Colorado President Wants Probe

The University of Colorado suspended four football players for violations that included one player taking a recruit to a strip club.

The violations came to light during a mandatory team meeting on news that police in neighboring Broomfield are investigating allegations that CU's football program hired an escort for recruits in 2002 and 2003.

Football coach Gary Barnett said in a statement that players denied the claims about the escort service, but did admit to other infractions.

Barnett learned that linebacker Chris Hollis took a recruit to an 18-and-over strip club in Boulder. The other players were suspended for violations of team rules. The violations were related to recruiting activities, but no other details were released

The University of Colorado's president said that she wants to create a special committee to investigate allegations the school used sex parties to lure football recruits.

President Betsy Hoffman urged the Legislature not to take the "extremely unusual" step of establishing its own investigation. She said that would signal a "loss of faith in the university's ability to manage its own affairs."

## Clarett Can Enter NFL Draft

Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett was ruled eligible for the NFL draft by a federal judge who concluded that the league's rule violates antitrust laws. U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin ordered the NFL to let Clarett enter April's draft, a decision that could clear the way for others. The league will appeal.

Clarett sued the NFL last summer to challenge the league's rule that a player must be out of high school three years for draft eligibility. This ruling, if not successfully appealed, could allow teenage football stars to turn pro the way younger athletes in other sports can.

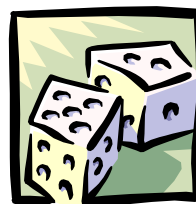
The decision comes at a time when Clarett's NCAA eligibility status may be in jeopardy again.

Clarett was suspended last September for accepting thousands of dollars in extra benefits from Robert Dellimuti, and attempting to conceal those gifts from NCAA investigators.

Cell phone records acquired by ESPN.com show that Dellimuti made 27 calls during the Buckeye's title season to a prominent sportsbook in Costa Rica, SBG Global.

SBG Global is considered by industry observers to be one of the larger sportsbooks in the world, and one that markets to a college football audience.

Bill Saum, NCAA director of Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities stated that at a minimum, the athlete would be asked to disassociate himself from the gambler. For Clarett, the consequences grow in severity if Dellimuti is found to have profited from the relationship. An NCAA bylaw prohibits athletes from providing team information to gamblers.



## Trouble at Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island has reported six possible rules violations by its men's basketball program to the NCAA.

The school, following an internal investigation which began last March, acknowledged possible violations during the coaching tenures of Jim Harrick and Jerry DeGregorio from 1997-2000. The violations included a coach giving about \$250 in cash to a player and a former secretary in the men's basketball office typing course papers for players.

It also acknowledged several players used telephones and computers in the men's basketball office without authorization, and a member of the coaching staff gave a ride to a player.

The investigation followed allegations by former men's basketball secretary Christine King in 2002, who said that Harrick had grades changed for players, had student managers write papers for players and arranged for players to receive lodging, cars and money from boosters. She also alleged that his son, Jim Harrick Jr., falsified hotel and meal reports for recruits.

## Texas State Fires AD & Coach

Texas State University fired its athletics director and football coach after it discovered a dozen rules violations, mostly involving football players.

Among the more serious accusations were that players had been forced to practice beyond weekly limits set by the NCAA, that coaches inappropriately contacted recruits and players missed classes to prepare for a game.

 **March Recruiting Calendar** 

**Football**

March 1-31 Quiet

**Men's Basketball**

March 1-15 Eval/Quiet  
 March 16-22 Contact  
 March 23-31 Quiet

**Women's Basketball**

March 1-April 1 Cont/Quiet

**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](http://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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**March 2004**  
**Sports Wagering**  
**Freshman Eligibility**