

In The SAAC

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The Voice of the D-I National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

One Hundred Years of the NCAA: 100 Years of the Student-Athlete!

- Blossom Marimpietri, West Coast Conference

For the student-athlete, the new year brings many renewed opportunities: to get better grades, to achieve new personal records in his/her sport and to further strengthen bonds among teammates. The foundation of the student-athlete is based upon these ideals--excellence in both the classroom and in the game. In addition to another opportunity for new goals and accomplishments, this year brings something special for the student-athlete: The 100th anniversary of the NCAA.

The NCAA was founded in 1906 to establish rules and safety guidelines for collegiate football. Over the years it has expanded to become the governing body for 23 different collegiate sports with 88 championships starting with track

and field in 1921. In the 26 years since women's sports were added in 1980, the membership of the NCAA has grown to include more than 1,250 members with more than 360,000 student-athletes.

But what does all of this really mean for the student-athlete? Besides the growth in participation for both male and female athletes over

the past century, student-athletes now have more opportunities than ever. The NCAA develops rules to promote the safety of the student-athlete, amateurism, gender equity, and a whole host of other issues to protect the well being of the student-athlete and the integrity of the game. These rules are made with the goal of allowing the

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D-I SAAC members take a break from legislation to mingle at the Delegates Reception during the 2006 NCAA Convention in Indianapolis.

Photo Courtesy of The NCAA News

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Women's Championships: 25 Years in the Making

-Jayme Butts-Hall, Sun Belt Conference

What were you doing 34 years ago? How about 25 years ago? Many of us were not even a twinkle in our parents' eye, yet the stage was being set for a breakthrough in women's athletics that would change all of our lives as student-athletes. First, let's look back a few years.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

In 1972, Congress passed the Education Amendments of 1972 which included the infamous Title IX. As seen above, Title IX prohibits discrimination at institutions that receive federal assistance such as colleges and universities. The door was opened to women for the first time.

Although women's athletic programs were recognized, they were mainly considered intramural. The NCAA recognized a need and took action. In January 1980, Divisions II and III conducted championships in women's field hockey, basketball, swimming, tennis and volleyball. In October of that year, the NCAA's first ever Women's Sports Committee was formed as well as committees in Divisions II and III women's basketball.

1981 proved to be an exciting year for women's collegiate athletics. In November, the first association-wide championships were held in women's cross country, women's field hockey and women's volleyball. The championships continued with women's swimming and diving, basketball, gymnastics, golf, lacrosse, softball, tennis and track and field. In 1983, the NCAA added indoor track, and in 2001, women's ice hockey and water polo were added. The most recent women's championship added was bowling in 2004.

The NCAA created the Woman of the Year award in 1990 which recognizes senior female student-athletes who excel on and off the field of play. Colleges

and universities in Divisions I, II and III nominate female student-athletes. The nominations are then presented to a committee which selects 52 winners, one from each state, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. From these 52 women, ten finalists are selected, with one moving forward as NCAA Woman of the Year. This year's NCAA Woman of the Year was Lauryn McCalley, a former diving student-athlete from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"We as a national SAAC realize that women's issues within NCAA athletics persist and are constantly discussing ways to further female opportunity and continue the trend established in the last 25 years. We will continue to work so that the next 25 years see as much progress as the first 25."

As we look back on the first 100 years of the NCAA and remember those who came before us, let us give thanks to the first women to participate, the women who paved the way for the rest of us to excel. These women fought for equal rights on the field and it is my hope that future generations realize the privileges we have because someone stood up for women. ^{SAAC}

Corrections

There were no corrections from the previous issue of "In The SAAC." If additions or subtractions need to be made, please contact the editor via e-mail. For any errors the editor sincerely apologizes. Please forward your concerns to Chas Davis: CharlesDavis@Creighton.edu

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Student-Athletes at Brigham Young University take the opportunity to spend time with children and families of the Children with the Cancer Christmas Foundation. This year the athletic department raised over \$10,000 for the members of the CCCF for their annual Christmas event.

SAAC Spotlight

Each issue we will feature a campus SAAC that is making waves in their athletic department, on campus, and / or in the community. These are real students, real lives that are making a positive difference for others. If you have a great SAAC that you would like featured in the next issue or would like further information regarding the programs in this piece, please send an email to:BD2928@albany.edu

- Bradley Daniels, American East Conference

Last November at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Brigham Young Cougars defeated the Lamar University Cardinals in a regular season men's basketball game 97-74. This bout, however, was *not* just a regular game for the team or the Children with the Cancer Christmas Foundation. This charitable organization is dedicated to helping children and their families affected by cancer cope around the holiday season. For the past eight years this foundation has collected and distributed toys to its members at an annual holiday party. Since 1998, the first year of the Cougars' involvement, the BYU athletic department has been a vital ingredient in the organization's recipe for success.

Cougar volunteers stood at all of the entrances on the night of the game. These fans and BYU family members collected money from the game's spectators who wished to donate on their way in or out of the game. By the end of the game, they had collected an astonishing \$10,000, which was used to directly enhance the CCCF's members' holiday experience. Hundreds of gifts bought with the money and donated by a local Wal-Mart were collected. In mid December, the parents of the children were allowed to come and pick out gifts to take home and put under their tree for Christmas day.

The CCCF was able to hold their annual Christmas party for its members on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. Thanks to donations from cougar fans and local businesses, over 60 families were able to enjoy a fun filled evening. The children and families were able to partake in a wide variety of games and activities directed by Cougar coaches, student-athletes and fans. Members of the BYU family feel that this event is more than just a party. It is a spirit-lifting experience that allows children and families suffering from cancer to unite and use each other as support for their everyday struggles. ^{SAAC}

Protecting Student-Athlete Amateurism Status

-Kristine Lara, C-USA

Athletics is a huge part of our society. The unique difference between professional sports and collegiate athletics is money. Collegiate athletics is built on the concept of amateurism. There are very specific rules restricting those athletes from accepting money or other benefits because of their athletic ability. The rules all boil down to one simple concept; if an athlete has received any of these things, they are no longer considered an amateur. During the legislative cycle each year, proposals pertaining to amateurism arise. This year there were a few particular proposals that we, as a Division I SAAC, felt were very important to student-athlete well-being.

Currently, universities are able to sell and promote an individual student-athlete's name or likeness. Things such as bobble heads or jerseys with a student-athlete's name on it are currently allowable. We are concerned that universities are exploiting their standout student-athletes. Not only can time be taken out of their busy schedule to help make this merchandise, but these student-athletes often feel cheated when their name is being used to make money for their universities.

At the national leadership conference last May, a student-athlete voiced their concern about this very subject. This student-athlete felt it was unfair that his name was being sold while he did not receive a cut of it. There was nothing that could be done about the situation. The current legislation does not restrict any university from doing this. The dilemma is quite clear: While receiving a cut of the profit would compromise a student-

athlete's amateur status, the institution is still profiting off of his or her name.

The proposals being discussed this year pertaining to amateurism would restrict what our universities can do. It would not allow them to use an individual student-athlete any longer. In order for a university to sell merchandise with the name, likeness or picture of a student-athlete, it would have to be of more than one student-athlete such as a team poster or shirt. The idea is to help shift the focus from an individual student-athlete to the team. After all, the idea of a team is what makes sports so great. Victory or defeat does not depend on a single member of the team to get the job done but on every member of the team. Shifting the focus from an individual to multiple members of the team would help eliminate the exploitation of the standout student-athletes.

By not allowing our universities to use the standout student-athletes, an even greater separation between professional and inter-collegiate athletics can be fostered. The line placed around the word amateurism would become much more defined. Right now, some universities are trying to push that line to the limits. As student-athletes we must push the other way, supporting the concepts of team and amateurism which define us as student-athletes. ^{SAAC}

100 years

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student-athlete to compete at the highest level without sacrificing academics or general well being. However, despite intention, sometimes these rules can seem overbearing, detrimental or unnecessary.

This is where the celebration of the student-athlete comes full circle. A lesser-known dimension of the NCAA is the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Formed in 1989, the SAAC was designed to give student-athletes a voice in the legislative process. On the Division I national level, this committee is made up of a student-athlete representative from every conference in the NCAA. These 31 members meet three times yearly to address issues pertinent to student-athletes, give the NCAA governance structure student-athlete opinion on various proposals submitted throughout the year and promote student-athlete general well-being. There are also SAACs at the conference and individual school level to ensure that every student-athlete may have his/her opinion heard. Information and opinion is passed up the ranks so that the national SAAC member truly represents the views of his/her conference when association administrators are listening.

100 years ago, the association was formed to protect rising injury and even death rates in collegiate foot-

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Q&A In The SAAC

- Corey Steven, Horizon League

Q: My baseball coach is abusing the 20-hour in-season rule. We are practicing about 30 to 40 hours a week. I rarely have time for school and am always exhausted. I don't want my coach to get upset with me but who should I talk to about this?

A: First off, this is very disappointing to hear and I am sorry that you and your teammates are bearing this rigorous schedule. You must talk to your compliance administrator about this situation. It is crucial that you let him/her know about this because if it is reported to the NCAA, your team could face consequences and that would ultimately hurt you and your teammates. Let your compliance administrator know and hopefully he/she will have a talk with your coach and get the situation fixed. Your student well-being is most important.

Q: I heard that there was a proposal passed about financial aid recently? I am a straight-A student and pride myself on my grades. Earlier this year I was forced to decline academic aid because of a NCAA rule. What are the new rules and regulations?

A: I am very pleased to inform you that yes, there has been a change. Hopefully this will give more student-athletes the opportunity to excel in academics. There are two proposals that were passed.

The first allows student-athletes in all sports other than football and basketball to receive institutional academic scholarships without it counting in the financial aid team limits if you have completed at least one academic year at your institution and you have also earned a 3.3 (on a 4.000) after that year in courses at the certifying institution.

The other accepted proposal allows a recruited football or basketball student-athlete who receives only non-athletically related institutional financial aid (for example, academic scholarships and need-based aid) to compete without counting in the institution's financial aid team limits if: Before your first year of collegiate enrollment, your high school record includes **any** of the following:

- (1) Ranked in the upper 10 percent of your high school graduating class;
- (2) Achieved a core-course grade-point average of at least 3.500 (based on a maximum of 4.000);
- (3) Minimum ACT sum score of 105 or a minimum SAT score of 1200;

Or the student-athlete has a cumulative 3.3 GPA (on a 4.000 scale) after his/her first full year of college in courses at the certifying institution.

If you meet any of these requirements, then talk with your coach or compliance administrator to get the details and they will be glad to help you. ^{SAAC}

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ball. While the issues at this year's NCAA convention were not as pressing, the national SAAC continued to make sure the NCAA had the student-athlete's best interests in mind. Your National SAAC representatives voiced your opinions on student-athlete amateurism, financial aid limitations, medical insurance, time demands and increased overall opportunities for student-athletes.

So next time you step out to the court, field, pool or course, remember that this year's celebration is for you—the student-athlete. Make the goal to take advantage of the opportunities in place for you; make your voice heard! Talk to the SAAC at your school and make sure that you play a role in the process designed to protect and support you. The student-athlete's role has evolved over the past 100 years...take an active role to make sure it continues to thrive! ^{SAAC}



Student-Athlete Megan McGrane, Big East, discusses vital student-athlete well-being issues at the Board of Directors Breakfast. The Board of Directors consists of multiple school presidents and the annual breakfast gives the D-I SAAC an opportunity to speak about important issues one-on-one.

Photo Courtesy of NCAA News

Shirts vs. Skins: Male practice players, are they enhancing or crippling opportunity?

-Anna Chappell, Pacific -10 Conference

-Jessica DePalo, Patriot League

Over the past several months, the issue of male practice players has been a hot topic throughout several Division I women's sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball and field hockey. College-aged male students are being used as practice players, utilized in drills to challenge and develop female athleticism. The NCAA is taking a serious look at whether or not to ban the use of male practice players, due mainly to concerns for safety and opportunity for female athletes.

There are two very different views in regards to the usage of male practice players. Supporters look at the issue from a different angle, seeing that by practicing against men, it challenges their team with size, speed and quickness that they can not get from other female student-athletes. They often serve as extra bodies in practice, when the team might be short on players. They are also used as scout players, so the entire team can work on defending the opponent they might be preparing for. Finally, they are used to make female athletes better. For many programs, male practices players have been their key to success, giving their players the ability to compete at a higher level everyday.

When examining the issue of male practice players, it is important to look at the injury component in regards to female athletes. An NCAA report showed that overall, knee injuries were more common among female soccer and basketball players than among their male counterparts. In basketball, women were four times as likely to sustain an ACL injury as were men (0.29 vs. 0.07 percent, respectively). (Moeller) Many institutions do not have the financial security to award all 15 scholarships allowed, usually awarding 12 scholarships and filling the rest of the roster with walk-ons. If this is the case, then what happens if one or two scholarship players develop an injury? Will there be enough players to scrimmage during practice? Are the non-injured players put at a higher risk of injury due to a lack of players for substitutions in practice? Are the main players, playing 30-40 minutes in games, not receiving enough recovery time in practices? Finally, are there other females on campus that can replace the scholarship player's level of athletic ability and flexibility in time schedule for practice? These are questions that need to be thoroughly examined by the NCAA.

If injury is not a factor and there is adequate competition, then does permitting institutions to use male

practice players take away opportunities for current scholarship female athletes not in the game-time rotation? For some female athletes the answer is no not at all, for several more the answer is yes, constantly. The amount of time male players practice is very valuable time that is being taken away from young female scholarship athletes, the ones who need to be coached and improve everyday. There are athletes across the nation who are not only playing limited minutes in games, but are also losing developmental opportunities in practice, sitting on the sidelines watching guys in their place. Since these girls are the recruited athletes, you would think they should be the ones practicing and getting better everyday. Also, some question whether the women are at a greater risk for injury when playing against stronger, more aggressive males.



Connecticut's Diana Taurasi honing her dribbling skills against Mike Cofrancesco, a practice player.

John Dunn for The New York Times

Practice players can, without a doubt, be beneficial to the performance and capabilities of female student athletes. However, does the NCAA need to put forth regulations that control the usage of male practice players, such as a limit on male practice players on the field or court at one time. A limit of a particular number in accordance to the number of injuries on a team is another possibility, or should it be left up to the individual coaches discretion? ^{SAAC}

NCAA Stat found on: <http://www.physsportsmed.com/issues/1997/04apr/moeller.htm>