

Life of athlete not bed of roses

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

Ah the stereotyped college athlete! Glorified as the big man on campus and vilified as the guy who gets a free ride through college — the women, the status, the pre-paid tuition and the springboard to the pros.

In all truth, it's much harder than it looks. Playing sports and staying in school is much like patting your head and rubbing your stomach. They're hard to do at the same time.

The average football player puts in 20-30 hours a week practicing. During the weekend he has the games. When does he have the time to study?

It's not surprising then, that quite a few University athletes spend four years here and end up leaving without a degree. And if they're among the 91 per cent of college athletes who don't make the pros, their job

future isn't too bright.

There is a man here at the University's Career Planning and Placement Service whose job is to make sure those athletes get an education.

"I don't care if they lose games all season," says Ulysses Whitehead, a former college football player himself. "My concern is that they get out of school with a degree."

Ulysses Whitehead is the University's counselor for student athletes. He provides academic and personal counseling, as well as help with job placement. He counsels all male student athletes; those in major and minor sports and those with or without scholarships.

Whitehead hasn't counseled any female athletes yet, "but I will be," he says, "because of Title IX. President Boyd is very interested in that — and all services for men will also be provided for women."

An articulate man whose stature belies his football days, Whitehead is currently working on his doctorate in counseling

psychology at the University. He will be leaving the University next summer to pursue a post-doctoral program at the University of Washington.

A former college athlete, he has no illusions about the role of sports in the University.

"College athletics is a business," he says. "It's the biggest money-maker the University has. My job is to curtail the exploitation of University athletes — and keep them in school."

Whitehead says that student athletes display a wide spectrum of academic ability. He says the minor sports, such as golf or tennis, tend to draw a "middle-class, architecture major" type of student. The major sports, football and basketball, attract students from those who pulled straight A's in high school to those who lack the basic skills to succeed in college.

According to Whitehead, student athletes have problems and pressures not encountered by regular students.

"They're high-school heroes back home. Here they're playing third string. They feel they're not as good as they thought they were — and it affects their self-concept. It also affects their grades."

The student athlete also faces pressure from his coach. Whitehead tells of a student tennis player whose coach wanted him to practice from 2 to 4 every day for two weeks before a big tournament. The student had a class at that time. "There is a priority decision to be made," says Whitehead, "and I make sure the student makes the choice without being intimidated by his coach." Needless to say, he ended up going to his class.

One of the biggest problems encountered by some athletes, according to Whitehead, is determining priorities.

"It's a maturity problem. They spend so much time on athletics that they don't have

much time for leisure. Sometimes the pressures on them are so great that they say, 'Oh the hell with the books — I want to go out and party,' and that's how they get into academic trouble."

Whitehead's relationship with the athletes begins when they enter the University. The athletes take tests to determine their academic capabilities and Whitehead makes up their class schedules accordingly. If the athletes need extra academic help, he assigns them tutors, who are paid by the athletic department. Whitehead also monitors their academic performance during the year to make sure they're "getting through."

Besides the academic counseling, Whitehead also provides psychological counseling, when needed.

Whitehead says he likes his job, but it does have its "frustrating moments."

"When they don't pass their hours or they don't go to class — it gets to me. I get attached to those guys and when they fail it's kind of disappointing, like when your football team loses."

However, Whitehead says he has "no intention of spending the next 20 years counseling student athletes."

"I'm a psychologist," he says, "not an academic advisor. I'd prefer to be working with schizophrenics and neurotics — that's what I'm trained for and that's what I'll be doing at the University of Washington. Football is a means to an end. This job is a means to my getting a Ph.D."

For many athletes, their talents are a means to get an education. Whitehead says that some of the recruited athletes come to the University barely knowing how to read or write — "but man, can they throw a football."

Ulysses Whitehead believes the University owes athletes more than just four years of throwing footballs.



Ulysses Whitehead

Photo by Linda Williams



ART & DRAFTING SPECIALS

25% OFF!

All Stratmore Artist Pads

25% OFF



25% OFF!

All Aquatec Paints

25% OFF!

All Simmons Brushes



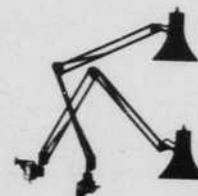
LUXO LAMP SALE

Discount Prices

Crown Lite 2

now only
17.95

In seven great colors. Popular metal shade, adjustable arm. Reg. 22.50



Lumaglo 17.95

"The Lamp with a Mood of its Own" Plastic glo-shade. Mount or clamp base. Reg. 22.50

Flair LS 28.95

8" diameter shade, inner reflector. Adjustable clamp for mounting to horizontal surfaces. Reg. 36.00

Fluorescent 54.50

Study lamp with two fluorescent tubes. Adjustable arm has 45" reach. Heavy duty metal shade. Mounts with clamp. Reg. 68.50

Try our new IBM copier

Dietzgen K&E Post 1/2 OFF

All Sliderules

complete stock
Reg. \$6.95 and up now 3.48 & up

Newsprint Pads Bargains

Compare! 9x12 .69
14x17 1.39
12x18 1.19
18x24 2.19



Now carrying a full line of Art and Drafting supplies for the student and the Professional



CASTELL - TG

10%

• Popular
• Technical

• Fountain
Pen

A whole new concept in technical drawing pens... Castell TG. Ideal for line work... lettering... scribe systems. Simple to operate and handle, uncomplicated in construction. Independent laboratory tests prove problems that plague other technical pens are eliminated. Reg. \$7.00

Also: 4, 7, and 9-point Professional sets reduced 10%



University of Oregon

BOOKSTORE, INC.

895 East 13th Ave. • Mon-Fri 8:15-5:00, Sat 9-1:00 • Phone 686-4331.

ART DEPARTMENT