

Studies determine athlete's futures



Graphic by David Peters

By KEN SANDS
Of the Emerald

"Dumb jock" — It's a phrase commonly used to describe anyone whose physical appearance is clearly athletic. Like all stereotypes, the phrase derives partly from historical fact and partly from careless rumor.

According to Athletic Director John Caine, athletes are as diverse as the rest of the world, with

tutoring and help through the Learning Resources Center, most athletes are progressing toward a degree.

Coaches make this successful program. Basketball coach Jim Haney places the education of the athlete before anything else. His athletes realize this emphasis on academics — and are usually motivated by it.

Football players are most victimized by the "dumb jock" stereotype and coach Rich Brooks fights that with his "studies-come-first, football-second" philosophy. All during a player's career, he is reminded of academics and this helps the majority of football players to graduate on time.

Perhaps the biggest problem is the player who does not extend himself in the classroom. Anyone can take the "Mickey Mouse" courses and graduate in four years.

This wasting of four years can, as Haney indicated, channel a person's entire future into a series of failures. Success will come to those who try, regardless of their previous educational experience. When an athlete goes out into society, it makes no difference how many points he scored in college.

Sports Commentary

educational backgrounds of wide variety. This is true, but the University is composed of individuals who have traditionally excelled in academics, except for some student-athletes, who may just be here to play.

Some athletes would not go to school if it weren't for their interests and abilities on the field of play.

The University is taking a positive step in helping the percentage of athletes whose educational experience is limited. By special



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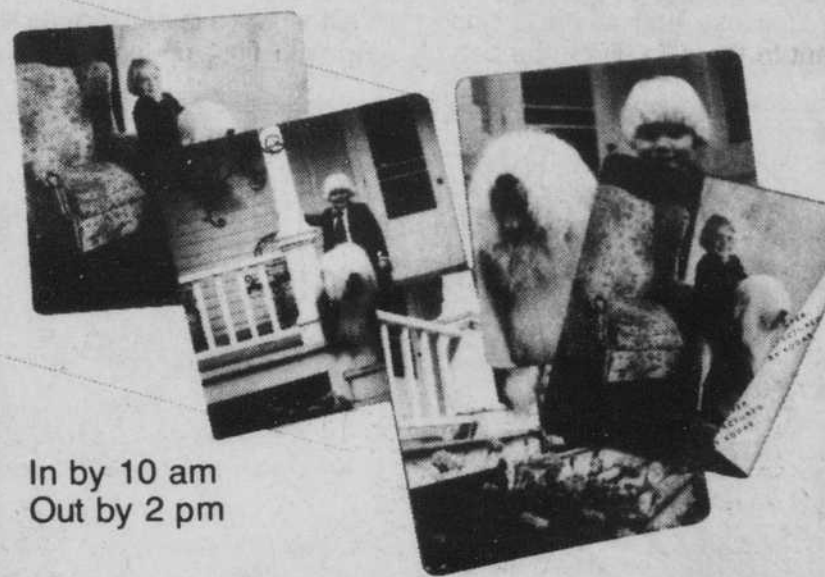
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