

Scholarships

Financial aid may regulate athlete's funding

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With everyone tightening their purse strings, an extra one-half million would be a boon for the athletic department. Greg Robinson of the Athletic Business Office is dumbfounded by the idea of that much extra money. "What would we do with the extra money? That sure would be a nice problem," he says.

Considering the condition of the athletic offices, and McArthur Court, the money could be used to remodel. "There's a bathroom down there (in the locker room) that if it was in a gas station, and I was walking, I would say 'there's got to be something better' and walk another 20 miles down the road," says Robinson.

Putting escalators into the steep runways at Autzen Stadium would be a relief to both senior citizens, and stupored students. Lights at Hayward Field and Howe Field, and a new east grandstand at Hayward Field are all projects worthy of thought.

However, the most immediate financial problem of the athletic department is complying with both state and federal Title IX legislation. And a big part of that is equal availability of scholarship money. If all scholarships are dropped in preference to financial need, this would no longer be a problem.

Unlike Arizona and Arizona State, the University will probably not receive money from the state legislature to help comply. "We don't anticipate any help with Title IX from the state," says athletic

director John Caine.

There is no room to share funds with the women, yet it must be done. Since the athletic department has its own budget separate from the University, the money must come from within.

Sports commentary

The money is just not there. An extra \$443,693 could better pay for the coaches and better facilities for the women.

At other universities the athletic budget is part of the entire budget, and any extra money could be re-circulated into the system. Most university administrators would approve of any reduced budget demand.

"I think if this thing every goes through, the real force backing it will be the institutional executives that have HEW (Health, Education and Welfare, the Title IX enforcers) on their backs," says Basye.

This pooling of resources between the men and women is long overdue and the fact that it could save money is an added incentive. "I don't know of any institution today that doesn't worry about money in the athletic department," Basye states.

Basye says that in the past, there has been a contingency fund in the athletic department — to be used to cover the budget in an emergency. "If for some reason a couple of football games couldn't be played, there would be a budget tragedy," he says.

A surplus was also commonplace in years past, and Basye says that Autzen Stadium was built with the help of this extra money.

Economics plays a big part in the making of such decisions. "If the university presidents thought that this proposal would save money, it would pass," says Basye. But with a few exceptions, university presidents do not concern themselves with such decisions. "All I can say is that more institutional executives should tell their representatives how to vote," he adds.

President William Boyd is very much in favor of need funding legislation. "We have tried and tried for a number of years, and we always fall a little short," he says.

"The matter of economics carries weight with the NCAA," says Basye, "and both years it (dropping scholarships) was brought before the NCAA it was close." The other of the primary purposes of the legislation — treating all students equally — does not carry as much weight with the NCAA, but it is a very important moral question.

"Philosophically it ought to be a need situation for everyone," says Basye. Theoretically, every student that participates in any extra-curricular activity has the same time restrictions as the athlete. Therefore, band members, speech members, drama members and many others should be given financial aid. Obviously this is out of the question. Athletes in different sports do not even get equal funding.

Track involves more than twice as many athletes as basketball, yet basketball awards almost twice as much scholarship money. The 74 football players on scholarship receive two-thirds of all scholarship money.

"I don't buy the idea that all students are treated the same as far as aid is concerned," says Basye. Athletes claim that their primary function is to be students, yet they

get paid for being students. Equality between all students will never be reached until equal funding is accomplished.

"Philosophically I don't think that it's wrong to base student-athletes' funding on need, because other students are helped by the need system," states Basye.

So why wasn't the measure passed the first or second time? According to Boyd, it is because of last-ditch efforts usually by Notre Dame. Basye agrees, "When Father Joyce of Notre Dame gets up, the thunder rattles and speakers such as he tend to carry the day."

The NCAA convention has been described as "a huge room full of people running around," and there is said to be much politicking. "It's a hell of a poor way to do business," says Basye.

In the last two conventions there was a lack of coordination between the Big-10 and the Pac-10 in dealing with the scholarship issue. Another matter of politics is that many schools are envious of the Pac-10. "In the NCAA, we (the Pac-10) are looked at as the 'haves' not the 'have nots.' To be frank, many schools are envious of our Rose Bowl tie-up," Basye says.

Basye indicates that the 'have not' schools are likely to vote against the measures proposed by the 'haves,' as a matter of survival.

But the need proposal has not been passed because of a lack of understanding. Coaches and administrators are afraid that the proposal is impractical. "I think people are afraid to experiment on the basis that they don't want to make things worse," says Basye.

The new rule could be instituted on an experimental basis and subsequently dropped if it was deemed unfeasible.

Chances are it will work.

University athletic director John Caine agrees with the philosophy of the proposal, but thinks that it isn't practical. "If every school in the NCAA went on the basis of need, despite all efforts, several schools would surface as powerful schools," Caine says. "I have a great respect for human nature."

Under current rules, certain schools have always been powers, and the cheating that Caine insinuates is prevalent now. "I don't think that the cheating would be any different than it is now," says Basye.

The incidence of cheating reflects the method of enforcement. If strict rules and stiff penalties were instituted cheating would decrease proportionally.

Basketball coach Jim Haney has serious questions regarding the determination of one's need.

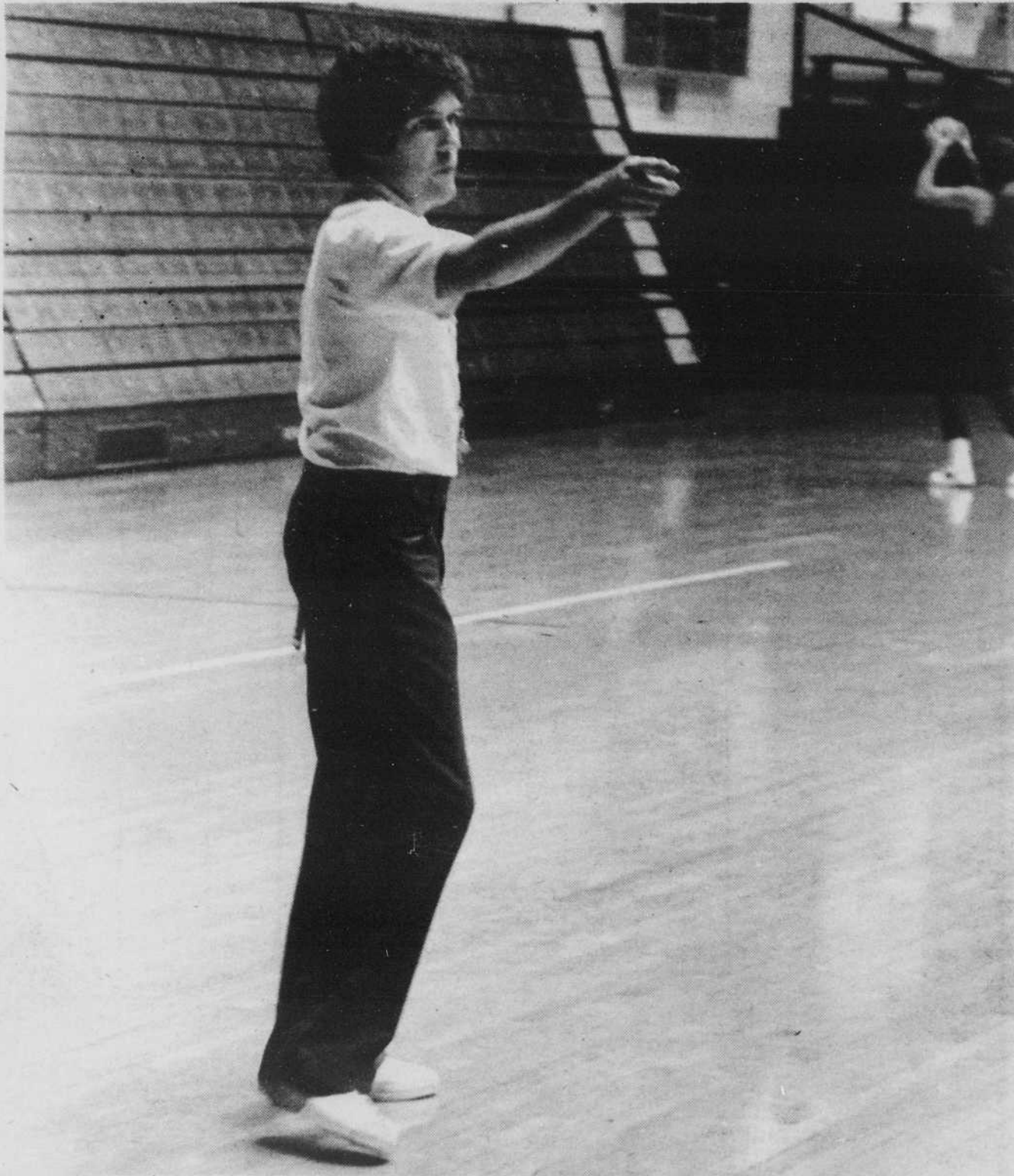


Photo by Dennis Hickok

Basketball coach Jim Haney is wary of any legislative action by the NCAA that would prohibit athletic scholarships. "The difference in what two schools offered could be substantially different," he says. Haney attended the University of Pennsylvania before they gave athletic scholarships, and was proud of it then, but he says he's on the other side of the recruiting coin now.