

Sports

Athletes face tighter academic standards

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A rule toughening academic standards for incoming athletes was approved Tuesday by delegates to the NCAA convention after more than three hours of emotionally charged debate that saw the issue sharply divided along racial lines.

The measure, clearly approved by a show of hands, was bitterly opposed by black educators, who asserted that it would be racially and regionally discriminatory.

Drafted by a select all-white committee of university presidents, the measure — which applies only to the 277 Division I schools — was hailed by supporters as an answer to the deterioration of American higher education.

The proposal, No. 48, says athletes must have completed a

"core curriculum" of math, English, social and physical sciences, as well as score a minimum of 700 on the SAT college entrance test or 15 on the ACT exam.

Moments after adopting No. 48, the delegates voted in what could be viewed as a loophole. It specifies that athletes who do not meet the new requirements will be permitted an athletic scholarship but cannot compete their first year.

After a two-hour lunch break, delegates resumed their debate and one of the most eloquent pleas was made by Father Edmund P. Joyce of Notre Dame.

"Far more criticism can be leveled at the system which places the 17-year-old in an environment he is ill-prepared for," he said. "In the eyes of the

nation, we have been sadly delinquent in one area of academics — the talented athlete. For many years, this has been on open scandal. I find it hard to believe the distinguished presidents who sponsored No. 48 would discriminate against anybody. Let us bite the bullet today. Let us delay no more."

Earlier Tuesday, Penn State football Coach Joe Paterno charged during the pre-vote debate that black athletes have been "raped" for more than 15 years by a system that exploits their talents without developing their minds.

"We've raped 'em," Paterno told more than 1,300 delegates. "We can't afford to do that to another generation."

After the vote, presidents of two predominately black

schools, Joseph Johnson of Grambling State and Dr. Jesse Stone of Southern University, vehemently protested passage of the measure.

"I hope that black athletes across the United States got this message," Johnson said. "You've been denied an opportunity. These institutions don't want you."

Stone, asked if he was surprised the proposal was approved, said, "Nothing white America does surprises me. This was very definitely an act of racism. Many of the institutions which supported this may suffer because it will drive many of the good black athletes back to us."

Johnson and Stone said the both planned to speak to civil rights leaders and lawyers to see what action can be taken.

Oregon athletes tabbed in draft

PORTLAND (AP) — Five Oregon athletes, including former Oregon State basketball player Rob Holbrook, were chosen Tuesday in professional baseball's draft of amateur free agents.

Holbrook, a pitcher, was selected by Toronto in the second round.

Two players from Medford were among those chosen in the draft. First baseman Jordan Stevens was selected by St. Louis in the second round of the draft's regular phase and pitcher Brad Arnsberg was picked by California in the first round of the secondary phase.

Jeff Franks, a catcher from Sixes, was drafted by California in the third round of the secondary phase. Richard Rosemus, a pitcher from Portland, was chosen by Philadelphia in the fifth round.

Swann quits Steelers for ABC-TV post

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Lynn Swann of the Pittsburgh Steelers, one of the most graceful and electrifying wide receivers in National Football League history, said Tuesday he is retiring and will join ABC-TV as a commentator for the United States Football League.

"If I chose to, I could have played football for some time," said Swann, 30, a nine-year veteran who starred at Southern

California. "But I'm making a decision to leave football to move into other areas."

"I never wanted to be one of those people who linger on. It was my time. This is something I can do for a lifetime," Swann said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

Swann was an All-American in 1973 and was drafted No. 1 by the Steelers the following year.

Swann spent his first season

as a punt returner and back-up receiver. In 1975, he became a full-time starter and led the team in receptions for the first of four straight seasons. He was the Most Valuable Player in Super Bowl X after he made four receptions for a game-record 161 yards en route to a 21-17 victory over Dallas.

Swann entered the 1982 season as the Steelers' career leader in receiving yardage and

touchdown catches. He finished the year with 5,462 yards receiving. His departure leaves 10 players on the Steeler roster of the 21 who played on all four Super Bowl teams.

"I never had time to sit back and think about what I did," he said. "I always felt I could have done much better. But as I look back years from now, I'll probably be more excited about what I accomplished."

Tuesday's NBA scores

From wire reports

New Jersey 110, L.A. 96
N.Y. 103, Golden State 79
Phila. 109, Atlanta 99
San Antonio 109, Dallas 101
Phoenix 109, Chicago 96
San Diego 105, Houston 97
Utah 106, Kansas City 98
Denver 131, Seattle 119

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