

Sports

NCAA rules 'inherently' unfair

By Mike Riplinger
Of the Emerald

The new sanctions that the NCAA convention passed last week which will toughen academic requirements of student athletes may be "inherently" unfair, but their results are worth it, says Oregon athletic director Rick Bay.

"Inherently there is some evidence that it is unfair, but I think that it is good legislation," says Bay, who attended the convention.

Among the statutes passed, a new rule calls for incoming athletes to have completed a "core curriculum" of math, English, social and physical sciences, as well as score a minimum of 700 on SAT college entrance tests or 15 on ACT exams beginning in 1986.

The new regulations have drawn fire from black educators, who label them as racist.

"Traditionally, black schools, or at least their administrators, have been against SAT tests because they are inherently unfair," says Bay. "Certainly there is some validity in that. Essentially they are white, middle-class tests drawn up by white, middle-class administrators."

"I think that part is true. According to statistics I have seen, the average black scores above 700 on the test, but the median is below 700."

Bay points out the "so-called loophole" statute does allow athletes who don't meet the new requirements to keep their athletic scholarship, but doesn't let them compete their first year until they meet the standards.

University Pres. Paul Olum agrees "the loophole will allow athletes who aren't very good students to adjust to college and improve themselves, and still keep their scholarship."

Olum was one of the leading proponents of the change in a letter drafted by the presidents of both the Pac-10 and the Big Ten Conference

urging the convention to adopt the tougher academic rules.

"I firmly believe that the student is first and the athlete is second," says Olum. "I think the new rule just shows they have to make it academically before they can play. And of course since we are an academic institution first and foremost, that is our main concern."

"I don't think it is racist, because in the first place it's just reasonable education to have the student prepared for the curriculum rather than come in unprepared and unable to handle it," Olum says.

Bay sees a trend toward improving the quality of academics nationally in actions like the proposal by Chancellor Bud Davis to raise admission standards for all incoming freshman to Oregon institutions, the Los Angeles School Board's decision that athletes must maintain a 2.0 grade point average with no F's if they want to participate, and the convention's decision.

"The number of university presidents and chancellors at the convention — where because of the proposals, there was at least four times as many attending as I ever heard of before — shows there is a move throughout the country to keep step with the rising of standards in academics," says Bay.

Another proposal the NCAA adopted specifies athletes must fulfill requirements in attaining a degree, and won't be able to just "pass classes to stay eligible, with no real direction and still be two years away from graduation after their eligibility is gone," says Bay.

"This requires that counseling will be such that the athlete is heading in a specific direction, with a specific result — graduation with a worthwhile degree."

"Isn't that the primary goal of any university?"

Bruins jump to No. 1-ranking in poll

From Associated Press reports

The UCLA Bruins became the fourth team to hold the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press college basketball poll this season, vaulting from fifth place to first Monday, following a week

of upsets in which the top three teams were beaten.

The Bruins raised their record to 11-1 with three Pacific 10 Conference victories last week — 87-76 over Arizona State, 97-69 over Oregon and 99-77

over Oregon State. They received 22 first-place votes and a total of 1,099 points in the latest weekly balloting by a 57-member national panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

In the extremely close balloting, the Bruins finished only eight points ahead of runner-up Indiana. The Hoosiers, 12-1, fourth last week and No. 1 earlier in the season, collected 29 first-place votes — seven more than UCLA — but only 1,091 points.

UCLA replaced Memphis State as the No. 1 team after the Tigers were upended by Virginia Tech 69-56 last Monday night. Memphis State, 12-1, bounced back with an 80-63 victory over Cincinnati, but still slipped to sixth in this week's poll with 810 points, including one first-place vote.

Ducks sweep Sacramento

After a three-day road trip netted only one victory, the Oregon men's and women's swim team held off Sacramento State to record dual meet victories Sunday at Leighton Pool.

The men, led by double-winner Jamie Dull, squeezed out a 60-53 win while the women, sparked by three double winners, edged the California team 61-48.

Dull, a senior, took top honors in the 100 and 200 freestyle

events.

The women's duo of Babette Brundage and Tina Helm continued their winning ways with the freshman Brundage taking first in the 200 and 500 freestyle, and the senior Helm scoring wins in the 100 and 1,000 freestyle.

Junior Lori Hoffman had wins in the one and three-meter diving events, and her one-meter win put the Ducks on top after the sixth event.



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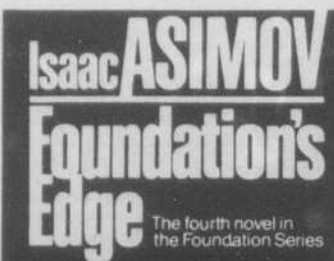
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