

Court blanks NCAA TV rights

DENVER (AP) — The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday upheld a lower court ruling that broke the NCAA's exclusive control of football television rights and cleared the way for colleges to negotiate their own television contracts.

The appeals court, in its 2-1 vote, upheld the decision of U.S. District Judge Juan Burciaga in Oklahoma and September which gave the universities of Oklahoma and Georgia the right to negotiate their own television deals.

The appellate judges also remanded the case to the lower court for further consideration of the injunction which the National Collegiate Athletic Association said was too broad.

There was initial confusion as to whether Thursday's ruling upheld the portion of Burciaga's decision which voided existing NCAA contracts with ABC, CBS and Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. which total more than \$281 million. The contracts with the two major networks have three years to run.

The ruling "has shown that the NCAA cannot seize an institution's rights" said Charles Neinas, executive director of the College Football Association, which earlier had challenged the NCAA's ironclad control over television rights.

Neinas, who cancelled a series of meetings in Arizona and flew back to his office in Boulder, Colo., when he heard of the appeals court ruling, said it was not too late for the CFA to put together a televi-

sion deal for the 1983 season.

The CFA's 60 members include teams in all major football conferences, except the Big Ten and Pac-10, and independents.

Burciaga's decision last fall held that the NCAA's television contracts with major television networks violate federal antitrust laws and allowed Oklahoma and Georgia to negotiate their own television contracts. His order was stayed by the appeals court.

The two schools filed the suit, contending that they should be free to negotiate individual contracts with television stations or networks.

The NCAA argued that its television policy giving it exclusive rights to college football telecasts does not fit the definition of an illegal monopoly.

NCAA spokesman Dave Cawood said the association would have no comment on the appeals court decision until NCAA officials respond.

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Special meet slated today

Alberto Salazar will join Special Olympian Shawn Lewis in carrying the Olympic torch to kick off the annual Oregon Special Olympics state track and field meet which runs today and tomorrow at Hayward Field.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. with Portland Trailblazer coach Jack Ramsay headlining the event. Almost 2,000 competitors from around the state are expected to participate in this year's meet.

Volunteers are needed to assist with wheelchair events and to encourage the athletes. Anyone wishing to volunteer should report to the west grandstand at Hayward Field to receive an assignment at 12:30 p.m. today and 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

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