

# NCAA urged to beef up testing

By Chuck Schoffner  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The NCAA must begin year-round drug testing of athletes because only the "dumb ones" are being caught now, NCAA executive director Dick Schultz said Thursday.

Schultz also told newspaper editors that it takes more than investigations and sanctions by the NCAA to prevent cheating in college athletics. He said university presidents must make it clear to their coaches that cheating will not be tolerated.

"We've been spending a lot of time with college presidents to make that point, that if we're going to have real integrity, it starts at home," Schultz said during a panel discussion at The Associated Press Managing Editors convention.

Robert Helmick, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said drugs "could destroy the very foundation of amateur sport" and agreed with Schultz that testing will be effective only if it is done randomly throughout the year.

The only athletes tested by the NCAA are those who play in championship events or bowl games.

Schultz said those procedures are inadequate because the drugs most likely to be used, steroids, usually are taken months before the games and are out of an athlete's system by the time he or she is tested.

Last year, the NCAA checked 3,700 athletes and only 0.8 percent tested positive for drugs, Schultz said. Of those who tested positive, 60 percent had used steroids.

Schultz said he was encouraged by the small percentage but said not all drug users are being caught.

"That eight-tenths of one percent sounds exciting,

sounds great, like we've done a terrific job," he said. "But unfortunately, I think we only catch the dumb ones."

"There is so much sophistication, so many gurus out there that are trying to stay one step ahead of the testing techniques that if a person wants to take anabolic steroids today, they can cycle those if they know they are going to be tested and probably pass that test."

Schultz and Helmick said subjecting athletes to random tests is the only way to make testing effective.

"You do your random testing in May," Helmick said. "It's got to be completely out of season. That's when steroids are used."

Several of the national governing boards in Olympic sports have begun random testing. Schultz said legislation to implement random testing will be discussed at the NCAA convention in January.

Helmick said it will take a cooperation by all countries to

rid international sports of drugs. He said the USOC has reached agreement with the Soviet Union whereby technicians from one country oversee drug tests of athletes from the other.

"You're not going to get our athletes off steroids until we can assure them that the world is off steroids," Helmick said.

"Our athletes use steroids. It's not a Canadian problem, it's not a Ben Johnson problem. It's a world problem," Helmick said.

In response to a question, Helmick said drug testing should start at the junior high school level. Schultz said he expects to see widespread testing of high school athletes within a few years.

"When it comes right down to it, athletics, of all size, shape or form has probably done as good a job in dealing with that problem as any segment of society," Schultz said. "We've worked hard, but we're far from conquering that challenge."

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it's something that we really earned and deserved."

"I know that we're really a focused team, and when things don't go our way we're doing a lot better at refocusing," Snyder added. "I think we learned a lot about not letting things get us down and not worrying about the past and just going on from there."

Sophomore middle blocker Dawnn Charroin is another one of those players that is constantly contributing as she lead the Ducks in kills their first eight matches this year.

"Dawnn has always worked hard. I think she's more poised than she was last year," Gregory said.

The Ducks are ranked No. 19 in the nation in the AVCA/Tachikara poll, but were left out of the NCAA's top 20 poll. The 14-3 Ducks travel to Corvallis tonight to meet a tough defensive squad in Oregon State.

"Oregon State is probably the top defensive team in the Pac-10. They may be the best defensive team in the country," Gregory said.

"(Oregon State) is a good team," Snyder said. "They're kind of in the same position we are. They've come real close to beating some good teams. I know that they're going to be fighting especially when it's Oregon. They want to beat us so bad. It's going to be a tough match."

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