

NCAA delegates approve tougher stance on drug abuse

DALLAS (AP) — The NCAA closed its rocky 1990 convention Wednesday by approving harsh penalties for drug use, especially steroids, and launching year-round testing of athletes.

The year-round program will begin by testing football players at every Division I school for steroids and masking agents — an admission, delegates said, that colleges don't have drug use in check.

"The punishment must be more persuasive than it has been," Pittsburgh athletic director Ed Bozik said. "This indicates we are no different than society, (only) a reflection of society's problems."

NCAA executive director Dick Schultz told the 1,900 delegates earlier that the tougher anti-drug program was needed because "we are only catching the dumb ones."

The drug-testing measures were approved overwhelmingly — in sharp contrast to earlier sessions, where delegates fought over reforms designed to enhance academics at the expense of athletics.

The convention approved reducing the basketball season by three games to 25, shortening spring football practice, releasing each school's graduation rate for athletes and relaxing Proposition 42 to allow athletes who don't meet all the incoming academic requirements to earn regular scholarships based on need.

Schultz said he knew of no

other convention where so much had been done for student-athletes, and the NCAA Presidents Commission now has momentum to work toward more meaningful reform.

"There is now within the membership a very strong and urgent feeling that we need some reform, that we need some change," Schultz said after the convention had concluded.

"This was a good first step," he added.

But few of the reforms approved at this 84th annual convention appeared to be chiseled in concrete.

Athletic directors stung by the loss of revenue from three basketball games — said to be up to \$1.5 million a year at some schools — say they'll try for a compromise to restore some contests before the 25-game schedule goes into effect in 1992-93.

"It wouldn't be the end of the world if we got a lot of other reform and the number was 27. The number is arbitrary," Big 10 Commissioner Jim Delany said.

The relaxing of Proposition 42, which would have denied any scholarship money to students who meet some but not all of the NCAA's grade-point average and standardized test score minimums, appeared to at least temporarily satisfy opponents.

Under the changes approved Monday, those "partial qualifiers" can receive need-based

school scholarships but not athletic scholarships. They still lose one year of competitive eligibility.

"A half loaf is better than nothing," said Edward Fort, chancellor at North Carolina A&T University, but the battle over the use of standardized test scores will continue.

Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson, who boycotted two games last year to protest Proposition 42, said he won't comment on the revision until he consults with his athletic director, who attended the convention.

Under the new drug-testing measures, first-time offenders could lose an entire year's eligibility. Those who test positive a second time for "street drugs" will lose another year of eligibility, but athletes caught using steroids twice will be banned for life.

Schultz said the NCAA expects court challenges to its program, but also expects to prevail.

Presently, the NCAA tests only at championship events and bowl games. If they test positive, NCAA athletes now face only the loss of eligibility for postseason competition for 90 days.

The year-round testing will cost the NCAA \$1.6 million a year. It was approved for all divisions, but with only enough money to begin with Division I football players. The year-round program also was approved for only two years, with

the understanding that it will be continued.

Three dozen players will be tested at each school at least once a year, probably twice, said Edward Booth of Nebraska, the chairman of the NCAA's drug committee.

The harsher penalties were

approved by a 659-25 vote, and the year-round program 569-111.

Both changes take effect Aug. 1.

Delegates also voted to offer scholarships to incoming athletes for summer school before the freshman year.

OSU game sold out

Saturday's civil war basketball game in Oregon's MacArthur Court is a sellout, the University's athletic department announced Tuesday.

Reserve seat and general admission tickets sold out Monday, with only 1,000 student tickets remaining as of Tuesday. The last of the student tickets was claimed Tuesday afternoon, making the game a sellout. A crowd of 10,063 is expected for the game.

Oregon will be trying to break a three-game losing skid that started with a 71-68 loss to the Beavers in the final of the Far West Classic. The Ducks lost to California and Stanford on last weekend's trip to the Bay area.

Although the Ducks will be a decided underdog coming into the game, they have what has turned out to be a big home court advantage. Oregon is undefeated at home this season in five games in Mac Court, including a wild 68-63 upset of the then-No. 2-ranked Arizona.

Oregon's last win over the Beavers came March 5, 1988

when the Ducks stopped Oregon State 62-61 in Mac Court. Since then, the Beavers have beaten Oregon three straight, including the Classic win.

The game also marks the Mac Court finale for Oregon State's star point guard, Gary Payton. Payton will very probably break the all-time assists record in the Pac-10 conference Saturday night. Payton needs just four assists to break Jerome "Pooh" Richardson's mark of 833.

As well as being an outstanding passer, Payton has also developed into an excellent scorer. Payton is averaging 27.1 points per game heading into Saturday's game and is third on Oregon State's career scoring list with 1,778 points.

The Ducks are led by sophomore point guard Terrell Brandon. The 5-foot-11 Brandon is averaging 16.5 points and better than 6 assists per game coming into Saturday's contest. He is shooting better than 50 percent from the field through the Ducks' first 13 games.

The game tips off at 7:30 p.m.

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