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## Student-athletes: men do worse than women

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP) — Female athletes who started college in 1985 became better students than their male counterparts, according to an NCAA study released Wednesday.

Relatively poor classroom performance by males even caused the overall graduation rate among all 1985 student-athletes to fall below that of the student body in general.

But a general trend of improving graduation rates of male and females was shown over the previous survey, which accounted for athletes who enrolled in 1984.

The information was contained in the NCAA's second annual report on graduation rates of Division I schools. The first report concerned students who enrolled in 1984.

The report will appear annually, giving the graduation rates of Division I schools of the freshman class that started college several years earlier. The survey assumes six years for students to earn their degrees.

The information was broken down by race, gender and NCAA subdivision.

Fifty-four percent of all students enrolling in 1985 got their degrees, compared with 52 percent of all athletes. Female students' graduation rate was 55 percent, compared with 61 percent for all female athletes.

Male students entering in 1985 graduated at a 52 percent rate, while 48 percent of male student-athletes got their degrees.

Black athletes' 36 percent graduation rate was slightly better than the 33 percent of all black students. Broken down by gender, black females showed a 44 percent graduation rate and black males 34 percent. The percentages of all black students getting their degrees was 36 for females and 30 for males.

The survey said 56 percent of white students entering in 1985 graduated, compared with 59 percent of white student-athletes.

White females graduated at a 65 percent rate, while all white female students' rate of graduation was 58 percent. White male students and white male athletes both graduated at a 55 percent rate.

In Division I-A, the major football schools, athletes' graduation rate of 53 percent was lower than the 57 percent of all students.

Among Division I football and male basketball players, academic honors go to footballers. The survey said 48 percent of major college football players got their degrees after enrolling in 1985, compared with 43 percent of male basketball players.

But all were eclipsed by the 57 percent graduation rate of Division I women's basketball players.

The survey showed a marked difference among black and white football and men's basketball players. White males showed graduation rates of 62 percent in basketball and 58 percent in football, compared with the 33 percent for black male basketballers and 34 percent in football.

The rates for male basketball players was up from the 53 percent reflected last year for the 1984 class. The rate of male athletes rose slightly from 47 percent to 48 percent over the 1984 freshman class.

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Spring term 1994: **Jan. 15**



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