

KI-JANA

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The oldest son of a single mother who runs her own business, Carter said he decided to leave early to help her.

"In respects, this was not a hard decision because it gave me the opportunity to provide some security for my family," he said. "My mom's worked so hard for the last 15 years to provide for me and my little brother over here. I don't want her to work anymore."

Kathy Carter, 41, politely corrected her son. "Twenty-one years."

Ms. Carter often works 15-hour days at the Columbus, Ohio, beauty salon she owns.

"Now I just want everyone to cater for her and give her what she wants," he said.

Carter usually sports a Cheshire-cat grin, but Monday he broke down several times when talking about how much he will miss Penn State.

"It will be hard because I'll miss coach Paterno, my room-

mate Bobby (Engram), Mike Archie, all the guys that are close to me," he said. "It's been a terrific four years. I'm starting to get choked up now. I really can't explain how grateful I am."

Carter is scheduled to graduate in June. He plans to remain enrolled at Penn State and keep his NFL workouts down to a minimum so he can graduate before training camp opens.

"I made a promise to my mom ... so nobody will have to worry about me leaving and not graduating."

During the 1980s, Paterno told NFL first-round picks Todd Blackledge and Mike Munchak they should leave Penn State early, but both of them had already graduated.

"This is the first time I have told anybody who has not graduated that I felt they ought to leave," he said.

Paterno said Carter was committed to graduating, but joked, "He is missing a class right now."

Minimum scores still required to play

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Athletes will still need minimum scores on college aptitude tests to be eligible as freshmen, but in a significant concession, NCAA schools also voted Monday to let certain athletes practice with their teams and get financial aid.

In the narrowest vote at the beginning of the 89th annual NCAA convention, schools decided not to let "partial qualifiers" have a fourth year of eligibility.

A partial qualifier is a student who compensates for the lowest acceptable level of aptitude test scores with a higher grade-point average. Previously, partial qualifiers could neither play nor practice nor receive financial aid.

Since the original freshmen academic standards were approved in 1983, athletes who did not meet the initial standards have had only three years to compete.

Known as Proposition 16, the new freshmen academic rules are the latest in the NCAA's stormy 12-year effort to set equitable freshmen standards for

athletes at Division I schools from across the entire social and economic spectrum.

They go into effect Aug. 1, 1996 unless modified at the January 1996 convention.

"We've taken a big step, an important step in academics," said Judith Albino, head of the NCAA Presidents Commission.

Earlier Monday, delegates turned down a proposal to let athletes earn up to \$1,500 a year in jobs.

Delegates debated throughout the morning on a complex set of competing academic measures, often arguing over the results of the same research data. Black educators were almost unanimously opposed to retaining the entrance exams because they believe they are discriminatory.

One reason for not granting the fourth year of eligibility was the fear that coaches would use it as a way of skirting academic standards altogether.

"If there's one concern that I do have it's that I do not yet see across all our institutions the implicit level of trust in one another that I would hope we can

all achieve at some point," Albino said. "This organization is very large, very diverse. We will continue to set standards that apply to all but also meet the needs equally of all."

The new standards have two key components. One is a 2,500 grade point in 13 "core" or college preparatory courses — increased from 11 under the original Proposition 48 rule.

The other demands minimum scores of 17 on the ACT or 700 on the SAT college aptitude tests, which is unchanged from previous rules.

But also approved was a sliding scale that permits athletes with lower test scores to be offset by higher grade points in the core.

"If a student has an SAT score as low as 600 (or 15 ACT), the absolute lowest accepted, then the grade point must be 2.75 or higher," said Albino.

These would be the partial qualifiers, who could receive financial aid and practice. Anyone with a test score lower than 600 would be a non-qualifier ineligible for aid or practice.

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