

Wives get way paid for bowls

WASHINGTON (AP) — With most of a record-size legislative package still to be considered, the National Collegiate Athletic Association made it official Tuesday that schools may pay the expenses for players' wives to attend post-season bowl games.

That was a common practice until a year ago, when the NCAA discovered it violated the organization's rules concerning extra benefits. However, the NCAA Council waived the rule for the recent bowl games because legislation was on the agenda at the NCAA's 69th annual convention here.

"It would be hard to get a team to vote to go to a bowl if the wives can't go," said Frank Broyles, head coach and athletic director at the University of Arkansas who pushed for passage of the legislation.

Broyles said some players purposely set their wedding dates between the end of the regular season and a bowl game and used the bowl trip as a honeymoon.

The NCAA delegates also ruled that athletes must submit affidavits attesting to their amateur standing to be eligible for NCAA championships.

They voted to retain a controversial by-law—currently in litigation—which penalizes a foreign athlete one year of eligibility for any participation in a foreign country in each 12-month period after his 19th birthday.

Legislation was defeated which would have instituted a standard minimum academic eligibility requirement for satisfactory progress toward a degree. Also turned down were amendments which would have extended the Division I—the major college group—2.0 grade eligibility requirement to the smaller Divisions II and III.

The delegates restricted the awarding of complimentary tickets to an athlete to the sport in which he participates—the limit is four tickets—but rejected a proposal to allow a school to buy back the tickets to "avoid problems in the use or disposal of such tickets"—namely selling them above cost.

Walter Byers, executive director of the NCAA, said the policy-making NCAA Council would introduce a resolution Wednesday which would determine the organization's role in administering athletic championships for women.

The NCAA held its annual honors luncheon Tuesday and gave its highest prize, the Theodore Roosevelt Award, to President Gerald R. Ford.

Steelers' Greene voted best

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Is Mean Joe Greene, the feared Pittsburgh Steeler defensive tackle, really a pussy cat?

Opposing linemen and quarterbacks in the National Football League don't think so, but to hear the 6-foot-4, 205-pound Greene talk Tuesday, when told of his selection as the game's outstanding defensive player for 1974 by The Associated Press, he's a tame tabby — not a wild cat.

"Would you want to be called mean, ornery and dirty?" asked Greene, adding that he doesn't get any pleasure out of his image as a monster.

He recalled a Steeler game in Kansas City when "a kid, he was a Pittsburgh fan, had this picture of a monster with blood dripping out of his mouth, in the hotel lobby. It kind of got to me for a minute.

"But I realized it was a tribute, and the kid really didn't mean I was a monster," said Greene. "But it sure hit me for a little while." That's where Joe played college football, earning all-everything from everybody in his senior year and being picked No. 1 by the Steelers in the 1969 draft.

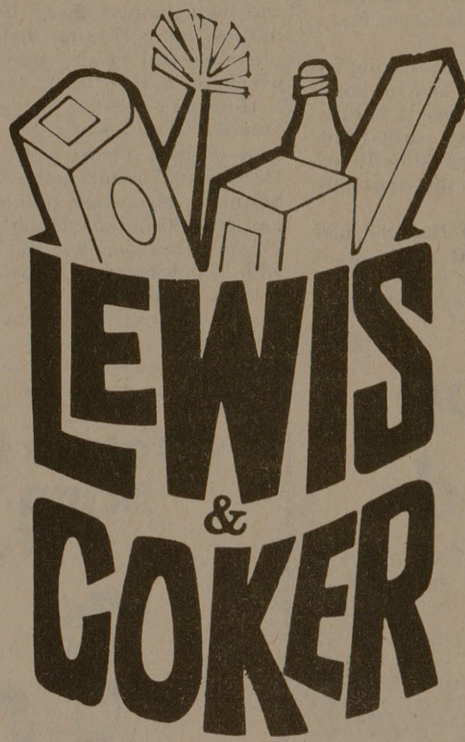
"I wish I could sneak into a game incognito," confided Greene. "They're on guard for Mean Joe. Maybe I could get more done if I played as Sam Jones."

In acknowledging his selection as the NFL's top individual defensive player, Greene said, "I've had a good solid year."

"But he was quick to give credit to the two unsung men in the Steeler front four—defensive tackle Ernie Holmes and defensive end Dwight White — along with L. C. Greenwood, who is the terminal man on Green's left side of the line.

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