

# DEL MONTE ROUND-UP SALE!

## Athletes get help in school

By PAUL McGRATH  
Staff Sports Writer

In bygone days, a man played college sports for personal glory, to impress the women and to win one for the Ol' Alma Mater. In short, he played for fun.

Well, fun is a thing of the past now. The games are the same but the participants aren't. Many modern athletes play college athletics because that is the only way to keep a scholarship and for a chance to play for pay in the pros.

Just what is an athletic scholarship? Where does it come from? What does it do? Athletic scholarships probably originated at about the same time college sports became big business. According to A&M Assistant Director of Athletics for Business Affairs, Wally Groff, the money used for athletic scholarships is provided for by the donations by former students, ticket sales and student activity fees.

The scholarship covers book costs, room, board, tuition, parking and all other required fees. Ten dollars a month is allotted for laundry fees. The total cost rounds out to about \$2021 per year per student. This amount is based upon what a student living in the Krueger-Dunn complex and taking an average of 16 hours a semester has to pay.

Partial scholarships can be given which pay out \$100, \$250 or \$500 a semester or just cover the student's tuition. All other fees are handled by the student.

This is the second year of a rule which permits scholarships only on a yearly basis. That is, athletic scholarships are continued from year to year rather than covering all four years as in the past. Before, "a guy could quit and be on a four year ride," said Groff. "Now if a guy quits we can terminate him at the semester." However, since this is only the second year the rule has been in effect, some athletes still have scholarships of the four year variety. The rule did not affect the scholarships of these athletes.

Once obtained, the scholarship cannot be taken away unless the player quits. An athlete who is injured and cannot participate usually does not lose his scholarship. "We would feel obligated to him (the injured player). There's no doubt that all coaches would keep him on scholarship," said Groff. "We can drop him, but it would not be a very wise move." Groff is referring to the viewpoint future prospects would take to such moves which would probably have a negative effect.

Limitations have been set on the number of scholarships that can be given in a year for each sport. There are 30 scholarships allowed for football, 23 for track, 19 for baseball, 19 for swimming, eight for golf and tennis and six for basketball. In addition to these limits will be maximums on the total number of scholarship players out for a sport. For example, 105 football players at a time may have scholarships and 18 basketball players. This maximum number rule goes into effect in 1976. "We now have available the maximum number of scholarships as allowed by the NCAA," said Groff. "We have funds for scholarships in all sports but swimming." The limits have "changed the style of recruiting" and puts "pressure on the high school student to make a committal sooner," Groff said.

As of yet, scholarships for women athletes are unavailable. This is because the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women does not permit women to obtain scholarships. Groff, however, feels this will change in future years with recent developments in women's sports.

Athletic scholarships have been involved in controversy for quite a while. Former University of Texas player, Gary Shaw, in his book, *Meat on the Hoof*, said that Texas coaches put marginal players through more strenuous drills in attempts to get the players to quit the team and subsequently give up their scholarships so the scholarships may be used by other players. A former A&M player said that coach Gene Stallings did just about the same thing. Another shady practice involves the hiring of athletes at exorbitant wages. Some schools have been known to offer more scholarships than they actually have available. One school that did this just failed to show up at the homes of prospects they did not want.

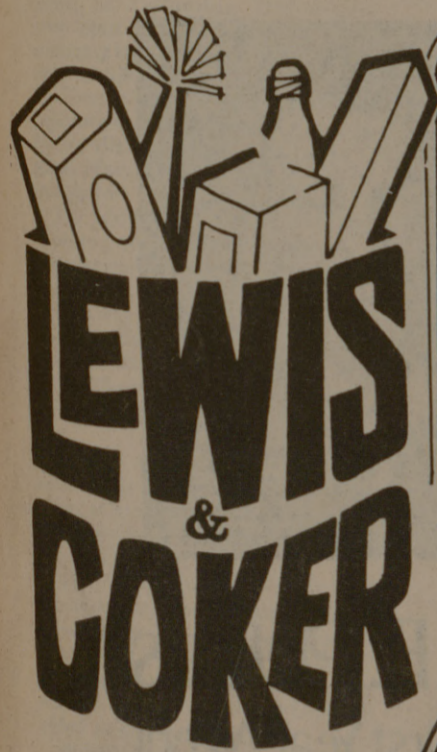
Groff said concerning these cases that they are bound to hurt the offender in future recruiting. Since Shaw played when there were only four-year scholarships, Groff said he could understand what the coaches were trying to do but that they went about it in the wrong manner. As for A&M, he said, "I hope we haven't done anything like that. The Athletic Council certainly wouldn't look favorably upon it."

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