

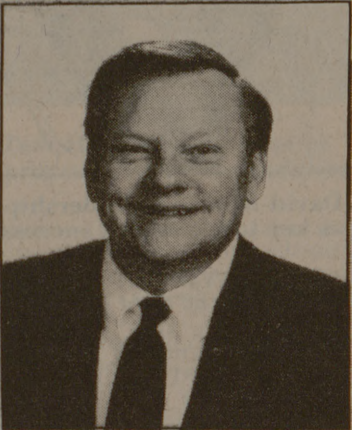
# The Battalion Sports

January 28, 1983 Page 11

## A&M officials in favor of No. 48

### Adair, Hunt call new rules positive step for academics

by Frank L. Christlieb  
Battalion Staff



Charles Thornton: Athletes mustn't major in eligibility

The argument has all but subsided and the volume dial controlling a once-powerful debate has been turned down — at least temporarily.

But the rumblings that began in 11 among National Collegiate Athletic Association members haven't disappeared yet, and it's not likely that they'll fade away completely on this particular issue.

The halls of academia still ring from the explosion of Proposal No. 48, the NCAA legislation that in 1986 will start enforcing tougher academic standards on incoming student-athletes.

Upon passage of the proposal at the NCAA national convention two weeks ago in San Diego, many academicians joked against the plan, while others described the new standards as rules that may bring a glow but sure upgrading of the educational levels of student-athletes.

The plan says that athletes attempting to enter college must complete a "core curriculum" of at least 11 academic courses with a 2.0 grade point average, and these courses must include three in English, two in mathematics, two in social science and two in natural or physical science. In addition, the athlete must score at least 700 out of a possible 800 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test verbal and math sections or a total score of 15 on the American College Test.

Enforcement of the rule will begin Aug. 1, 1986.

Opponents like Dr. Jesse Stone, president of Southern University, protested the measure as being a racist move meant to take opportunities away from disadvantaged minorities.

"I hope that black athletes across the United States got this message," Stone said after the

delegates attending the convention, four were from Texas A&M: Charles J. Thornton, associate athletic director; Dr. Thomas Adair, chairman of the Athletic Council and Texas A&M's faculty representative to the Southwest Conference; Kay Don, assistant athletic director for women, and Dr. Charles H. Samson, a Texas A&M professor, a member of the NCAA Division I Round Table and chairman of the NCAA nominating committee.

The Texas A&M delegation didn't vote for No. 48, but chose to back No. 51, which established the core curriculum and the minimum grade point average, but excluded the test score requirement. As it turned out, the passage of No. 48 did away with the necessity for a vote on No. 51.

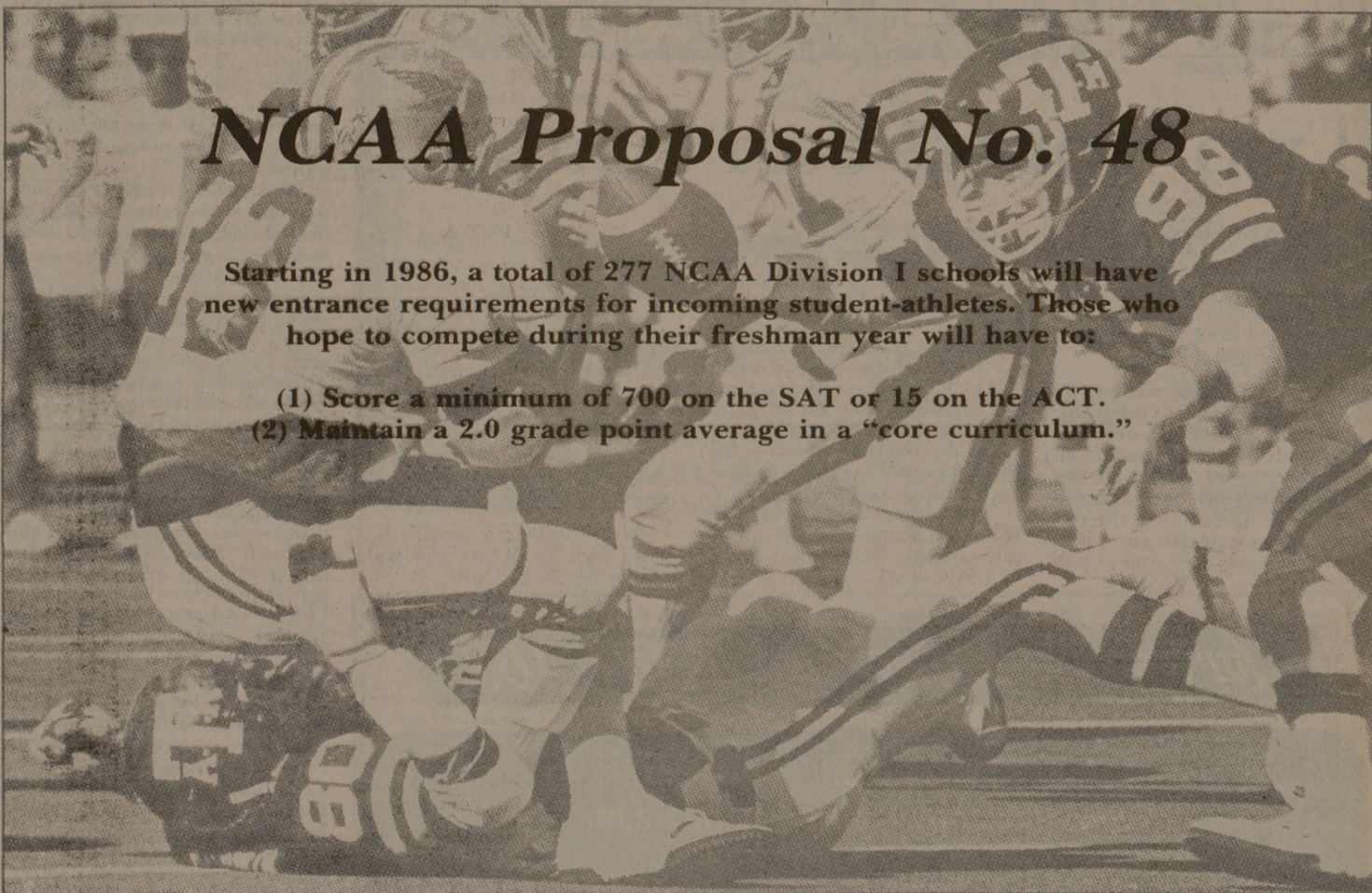
However, the Texas A&M delegates did vote for No. 49B. And Thornton says the combination of No. 48 and 49B should be a step in the right direction.

"We just need to do a better job for our athletes," Thornton said. "There have been too many athletes who have majored in eligibility once they've gotten into college, and not only have they not gotten a degree, but they haven't received an education either."

Thornton, who has been at Texas A&M for a year after coming from the University of Alabama, said No. 48 may see modifications during the next year or two.

"There will probably have to be adjustments to the proposal during one of the next two years' conventions," he said. "I think it's unfortunate that it got to be a racial issue, but there was probably no way around it."

"We have four years to implement it, so I've got to think that, through osmosis, if you're a student-athlete and you've got to



## NCAA Proposal No. 48

Starting in 1986, a total of 277 NCAA Division I schools will have new entrance requirements for incoming student-athletes. Those who hope to compete during their freshman year will have to:

- (1) Score a minimum of 700 on the SAT or 15 on the ACT.
- (2) Maintain a 2.0 grade point average in a "core curriculum."

take these (core curriculum) courses, you're going to learn something from them."

Adair, a professor in the Department of Physics, said that although he and his fellow Texas A&M delegates didn't vote for No. 48, they believe it's a good rule.

"We are very much in favor of it and will support it and work to see that it's supported from all levels," Adair said. "We are certainly heading in that direction anyway."

"I personally prefer the (proposal) without the SAT requirement because I would like to look at class ranking as a criterion. I believe that is a better indicator than raw SAT score. We agreed that we would support No. 51, but as it turned out, we didn't vote on it. I would have been greatly disappointed if we'd come away from the convention and not passed a significant academic proposal."

Adair said a great deal of the push for passage of the new

academic guidelines resulted from efforts of the American Council on Education, which submitted the proposal to the NCAA through the body's governing council.

"I see it as a positive step," Adair said. "It's a signal to the high schools, the counselors and the high school athletes that they must better prepare themselves for college. You've got to give the high school counselors and students the opportunity to satisfy the requirements."

Under Nos. 48 and 49B, a school may allow any student-athlete to attend its institution. But if he hasn't met core curriculum and test score requirements, he can't participate in practices or in games.

"The NCAA rules have now become much stiffer," Adair said. "Some schools have changed their admissions standards for athletes... we have revamped our standards for admitting athletes."

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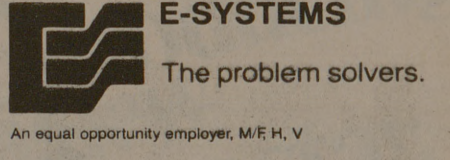
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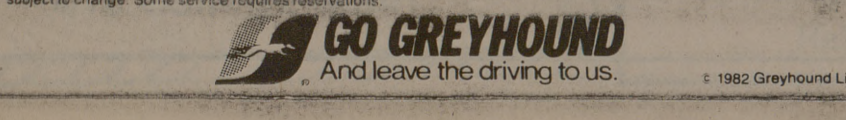
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