

Sports

Allowances for scholarship athletes may become necessity of college life

Editor's note: This is the first segment in a two-part series on the question of whether an athlete on scholarship should be given an allowance for monthly living expenses.

By Doug Hall
Sports Writer

With the New Year's Day bowl games barely a month behind us, already college football programs are making the papers — this time to see who wins the bidding wars for the country's top high school prospects.

These same prospects will attend their selected schools next fall and be put on either full or partial athletic scholarships.

A full athletic scholarship to a major college constitutes free room, board, books, tuition and related fees. Partial scholarships vary in many formats to cover some, but not all of the above mentioned costs.

But as any student knows, living an active college life incurs more expenses than room and board. It involves spending money, clothes allowances, laundry expenses and general living costs. Yet an NCAA rule says scholarship athletes aren't allowed to work during the school semesters to earn extra money.

So naturally, if the athlete comes from a family that can't afford to fund this extra money, how do scholarship athletes earn spending income?

Jim Killingsworth, head basketball coach at Texas Christian University, tells the story of a player who came to him in need of spending money. Killingsworth said he couldn't help the player because it would violate NCAA rules.

Three weeks later, Killingsworth spotted the same player working at a part-time job and was forced to tell the player he couldn't work while under scholarship because it violated NCAA policy.

"Three months later, I was sitting in my office when the police brought this same kid in to me and told me he'd been stealing hubcaps," Killingsworth said. "Naturally, I was

madder than all get out, and I began to really go after him."

But Killingsworth said the player looked at him and said, "Coach, I came to you to ask for money and you said you couldn't give it to me. I tried to work, but you said I couldn't do that. So I decided to steal hubcaps because it was the only thing I could do to make money that wasn't against NCAA rules."

Killingsworth, a 15-year veteran in the coaching field, echoed the thoughts of many collegiate coaches who believe scholarship athletes

look at it from the aspect of the money grad students receive to the number of hours they work and the revenue they produce.

"And then look at the number of hours athletes are involved with preparation, practice, training and playing. Compared to the number of hours athletes work, they certainly bring in a lot more money."

"But there is more to consider than just money. I think the universities need to make some kind of commendation to the athletes."

Another advantage to athletes receiving this type of allowance,

to this allowance ask are:

- Where will the money come from to pay this fund?

- Does this allotment go to all athletes on scholarship or just ones who play in revenue-producing sports?

- Will the financial burden cut out non-revenue producing sports?

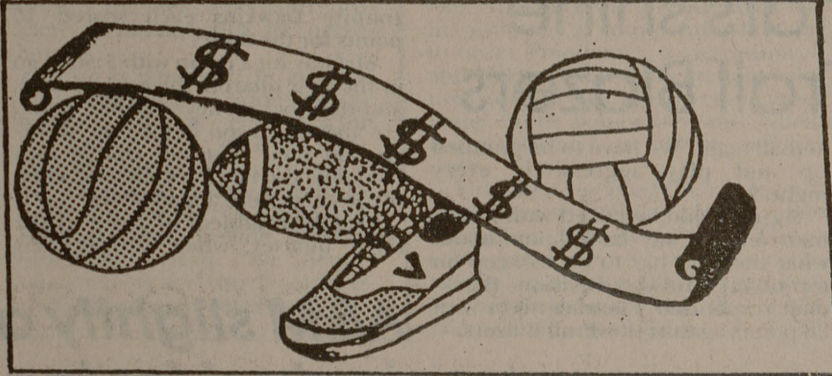
- Will the added costs cut down on the number of scholarships provided and thus cut down actual number of players who benefit?

Despite the many questions yet to be answered, Picou predicts some type of financial aid will be provided within the next two to three years.

Dennis Robinson, an assistant commissioner for the Southwest Conference, said the NCAA approved legislation at its January meeting that allows the individual divisions to set down their own guidelines concerning allowance payments to scholarship athletes.

In doing so, Robinson said the NCAA provided the divisions with the flexibility necessary to accommodate the different-sized schools.

He also said people were beginning to realize that athletes need more money to go to school on than just an allowance for necessities.



should be provided with a monthly living allowance when he said, "it just doesn't make any sense to me."

Dr. Steven Picou, professor of sports sociology at Texas A&M and a former college basketball player, also thinks athletes should be provided with what he calls "laundry money."

Picou said during his playing days, athletes were given \$15 laundry money a month to cover minor living expenses. This practice, however, was discontinued almost 10 years ago.

"A college can go out and recruit top graduate students and pay their school costs as well as provide monthly living expenses (some fellowships and scholarships pay grad students between \$7500 to \$12,000 a year)," Picou said. "So

according to Picou, is the possibility that it would cut down on the number of illegal infractions incurred when boosters give financial assistance to athletes.

"The reason that so much of that (under-the-table cash) goes on is because there are a lot of economically disadvantaged kids on scholarships," Picou said. "They need money to get by on. With the allowance, the temptation to take the cash would be less."

Picou said he has heard suggestions of anywhere from \$50 to \$500 as the appropriate monthly payment, but realizes that no matter what the number, this type of allowance is a difficult problem with no simple answers.

Among the questions opponents

Lady 'Horns dispose of Lady Aggies

By Loyd Brumfield
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M women's basketball team suffered a 96-50 drubbing at the hands of the top-ranked University of Texas Lady Longhorns at the Frank Erwin Events Center in Austin Tuesday.

The loss drops the Lady Aggies to 8-13 overall and 4-7 in Southwest Conference play, while Texas improves to 22-1 and 12-0 in the SWC.

Despite the scoring difference, the Lady Aggies gave the Lady Longhorns all they could handle, until UT's advantage in experience and depth began to show.

"We came out like we weren't afraid of them," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We worked very hard in the first half and there were some bright spots."

Paula Crutcher, a senior forward, led the Lady Aggies in scoring with 12 points.

"It takes courage to come to a place like this and play before such a full crowd," Hickey said.



Paula Crutcher

Assists and blocked shots played a big part in the Lady Longhorns' victory. UT had 24 assists compared to just nine for A&M, while turnovers were fairly even as A&M had 27 and UT had 20.

"We're plagued by injuries," Hickey said. "No one can replace (guards) Donna Roper and Beth Young and expect to win against the best team in the country."

A&M got some good news when Roper, sidelined by gall bladder surgery, was cleared to play against Texas Tech Saturday at 7:30 in Lubbock.

A&M women's tennis team racks up 4th straight victory

By Ed Bodde
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M women's tennis team went to 4-0 for the season by shutting out the University of Texas-San Antonio Tuesday afternoon.

A&M Coach Bob Kleinecke said he was particularly pleased with the Aggies 9-0 victory because of the good play in both singles and doubles.

"Our goal was to play good singles and good doubles," he said. "Sometimes we do good in one or the other. Today, everybody did a good job. We had control the whole time."

A&M didn't drop a set the entire day, and any chance of a UTSA upset was over when the Aggies raced through the first six singles matches.

A&M's No. 1 player, Kim Labuschagne, defeated Suzy Weiser 6-1, 6-0, and the No. 4 player, Cindy Crawford, breezed past Becky Gordon 6-0, 6-0 to get the Aggies off to their quick start.

"We played really well in singles," Kleinecke said. "Those were some quick matches."

Kleinecke said the team is about where it needs to be, but added that the match against Louisiana State on Friday signals a whole new season.

"LSU's tougher; they'll push us hard," he said. He said he hopes there is a good fan turnout for the match Friday.

"It's going to be a tough season because we're playing so many top-ranked schools," Kleinecke said.

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