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**SMU could have legal case against NCAA**

By Hal L. Hammons  
 Sports Writer

By now everybody and his Aunt Martha has heard about the "death penalty" the NCAA levied against SMU last week. And chances are you are pretty tired of hearing about it. But I think there is another aspect to the story that has been severely underpublicized.

**Viewpoint**

Consider for a moment the fact that the penalty is being received meekly and without complaint by SMU officials. And then consider that it is entirely possible, and in fact likely, that the sanctions would be overturned in a higher court. Consistently the governors have been quoted as saying they wanted the truth to emerge and were completely willing to accept without appeal any punishment the NCAA felt was appropriate.

Considering the magnitude of the sanctions imposed against the program, that is quite a burden to bear quietly. Think about the long-range ramifications of the penalties.

- SMU will not be allowed to play football during the 1987 season. At all.
- SMU will be limited to seven games in 1988, all in conference and none at home.
- SMU will be limited to 15 scholarships in 1988. Already all of this year's scholarships and half of last year's scholarships have been taken away.

- The Mustangs will be prohibited from playing in a televised or post-season game in 1988.
- They cannot recruit off-campus until August 1988, and no football prospects will receive expenses-paid visits to the campus until 1988. No more than 45 can visit in 1989.
- They can keep on staff no more than six football coaches, including a head coach, until August 1988.

Just looking at these facts on the surface does not do justice to the weight of these sanctions. Combined with the measures already in place before the ruling Wednesday, SMU will have at most 30 returning players on the team to greet the 15 incoming freshmen in '88.

Even that is misleading. Because SMU players will be allowed to transfer to another school and play football next season, liberal estimates are putting the number of returning players at closer to 12 or 15. In case you didn't know, it is foolhardy, not to mention impossible, to

try to play even as few as seven games of college football with only 30 players to fill 24 positions.

Even assuming SMU keeps its nose clean hereafter, which seems to be quite a leap of logic considering its prior conduct, the Ponies will not be a factor in the conference until 1991 at the earliest.

And if you think these sanctions won't have a negative effect on recruiting in the future, you have been deluded.

It is quite possible that the Mustang football dynasty, the program that gave us Doak Walker and Kyle Rote, Don Meredith, Craig Kyle and Eric Dickerson, may never recover from this penalty.

Considering the magnitude of these sanctions, it is easy to wonder why SMU has repeatedly insisted it will not appeal the NCAA's decision. After all, when the plain facts are considered, it is difficult to believe that SMU would not easily win such an appeal.

Think about it; although I am glad there is an NCAA that imposes regulations upon collegiate athletics, the plain fact of the matter is that such an organization does not have the right to do what it does.

Many of these improprieties would be called into question in a higher court, should SMU choose to pursue its right of appeal. Even more might surface that are not directly related.

Some examples? OK, what gives the NCAA the right to:

1. tell athletic boosters they are not allowed to give their own money to anyone they please, including college athletes.
2. tell a school, even a privately funded one like SMU, it is not allowed to give its own money to anyone it pleases or to as many people as it pleases.
3. tell the representatives of such an institution that they are not allowed to travel wherever they like, to invite whomever they like to attend their university and play on their football team.
4. tell bowl officials that they are not allowed to invite whomever they want to their bowl game.
5. tell a school it is not allowed to raise revenue in some legal way, such as staging a game of football.
6. tell a school it is not allowed to raise revenue for itself and its conference by participating in a bowl game.
7. tell a TV network it cannot televise whatever game the network

thinks will be to its greatest financial advantage.

8. tell an institution that its football team is only allowed to play a certain number of times during the year.

9. tell two teams that might finish the season No. 1 and 2 in the nation that they are not allowed to play each other, officially or otherwise, to determine which team is better.

10. and tell a college athlete, possibly from an impoverished background, he or she is not allowed to

pursue gainful employment during the school year.

I can't help but speculate about the future of the NCAA. One day, and probably not too far away, somebody with an ax to grind will appeal the NCAA's judgment, and the higher courts will have the chance to make a decision that will affect collegiate athletics immeasurably.

If they interpret the law like I do, the ramifications are endless.

**TCU sweeps SWC honors**

From the Associated Press  
 Texas Christian, which won the Southwest Conference regular season basketball title by four games, also swept the individual honors, including Player and Coach of the Year and the Defensive MVP award on the 1986-1987 Associated Press All-SWC team.

Versatile Carven Holcombe, who averaged almost 16 points per game, five rebounds and shot over 50 percent from the field was the unanimous Player of the Year in balloting by the conference coaches.

Jim Killingsworth, who took a team favored to win the title but did even more than the experts predicted with a 14-2 SWC record and a runaway title, was named Coach of the Year by his peers over Baylor's Gene Iba, who took the surprising Bears into second place. Iba's Bears were generally picked for a second-division finish.

TCU's Larry Richard, a 6-7 senior forward, averaged almost 11 rebounds per game and blocked almost 50 shots to win Defensive Player of the Year honors.

Richard and Holcombe led the AP's top five players with Frog guard Jamie Dixon, who set school assist records, narrowly missing out on the first team balloting that would have made it a TCU first-team trio.

Baylor had two first teamers, guard Michael Williams and center Darryl Middleton, both juniors, who brought Baylor its highest finish in the SWC in the 1980s.

Middleton was the leading SWC scorer, averaging almost 20 points per contest. The other first teamer was

Greg Anderson of Houston, one of the SWC's leading rebounders and shot blockers.

Arkansas' Ron Huery, a freshman from West Memphis, Tenn., was named Newcomer of the Year and headed the All-Newcomer Team.

Here is the 1986-1987 Associated Press All-Southwest Conference basketball team:

**FIRST TEAM**  
 Carven Holcombe, 6-5, 200, TCU, Sr., Fort Worth; Greg Anderson, 6-11, 200, Houston, Sr., Houston; Michael Williams, 6-2, 175, Baylor, Jr., Dallas; Larry Richard, 6-7, 200, TCU, Sr., Baldwin Park, Calif.; Darryl Middleton, 6-9, 230, Jr., Queens, N.Y.

**SECOND TEAM**  
 Jamie Dixon, 6-4, 190, TCU, Sr., North Hollywood, Calif.; Sean Gay, 6-3, 162, Texas Tech, Soph., Houston; Winston Creech, 6-7, 225, Texas A&M, Sr., Bakersfield, Calif.; Kato Armstrong, 5-11, 160, SMU, Soph., Garland, Texas; Carlton McKinney, 6-5, 190, SMU, Jr., Nixon, Texas.

**MVP** — Holcombe, TCU.  
**Defensive MVP** — Richard, TCU.

**All Defensive Team** — Michael Williams, Baylor; Gay, Texas Tech; Andrew Lang, Arkansas; Richard, TCU; Robert McInnis, Baylor.

**Newcomer of the Year** — Ron Huery, Arkansas.

**All Newcomer Team** — Huery, Arkansas; Travis Mays, Texas Tech; Rolando Ferreira, Houston; McKinney, SMU; (tie) Mario Credit, Arkansas, and Darryl McDonald, Texas A&M.

**Coach of the Year** — Jim Killingsworth, TCU.

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