

Sports

NCAA convention stirs controversy Scholarships and practice time may be cut

DALLAS (AP) — Proposals to cut athletic scholarships and limit organized practice ran into stiff opposition Monday at a special NCAA convention intended to cut costs and bring big-time college sports under control.

The vote on the proposals comes today, when delegates consider items that would trim scholarships in men's and women's sports, shrink football coaching staffs from nine to eight, reduce spring football practice, and cut overall scholarship limits from 95 to 90.

One of the more hotly debated amendments has caused a stir within the U.S. Olympic Committee because it would limit supervised training of athletes to 26 weeks annually. Coaches in swimming, gymnastics and wrestling currently train their Olympic hopefuls year round.

"Most athletes will drop out of school and that defeats the whole purpose of the legislation," said Jeff Diamond of the U.S. Swimming Federation. "What choice

do you have if you are a world class athlete with a chance of winning a gold medal?"

The policy-making NCAA Council was wrestling with wording in the amendment — Proposition 2 — to clarify the measure.

"There could be so much discussion on Proposition 2 that we may not get to the rest of the convention," Texas A&M Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill said.

Another controversial measure is a proposal to restore Division I-A men's and women's basketball scholarships to 15. They were cut to 13 at the January NCAA convention.

However, the President's Commission may rule the amendment out of order since the specified reason for the special convention was to cut costs. If ruled out of order by parliamentarian Alan J. Chapman of Rice University, a floor fight could ensue.

"You're putting basketball into jeopardy with only 13 players on scholarship," Texas Christian Athletic Director Frank Windge-

ger said, who is on the NCAA Division I-A selection committee. "With injuries, you won't even have enough to scrimmage. It's ridiculous."

A proposal in football would limit spring practice to 30 calendar days with no more than 15 of the 20 practices involving contact. It will go uncontested by the College Football Association. But the CFA and others are against Proposal 19 which would reduce overall football grants in Division I-A from 95 to 90 and Proposal 28 which would eliminate an assistant football coach.

"Why cut any more scholarships?" asked Charlie McClen-don, executive director of the American Football Coaches Association. "You just weaken the product. And all getting rid of another coach is going to do is hurt the teaching process with the kids. Assistants don't make that much."

Coach Vince Dooley of Georgia said that reducing the permissible number of football

scholarships would be "flirting with the possibility of reducing the caliber of the game."

And Joe Paterno of Penn State added:

"The coaches have been very responsive to cost-containment, but it's getting to where we may have to decide what kind of game we want — do we want to de-emphasize like the Ivy League?"

A proposal cutting financial awards to such sports as women's tennis, swimming, soccer, golf and track, was also sure to cause a storm.

Donna Lopiano, Texas women's athletic director, said the percentage of proposed cuts is a roll-back of Title IX, the educational amendment that gave women's programs a step toward equal footing with men.

"It's patently discriminatory and puts women's programs behind the 8-ball where they've been anyway," said Lopiano, who brought charts and graphs to the convention to prove her point.

Connors keeps hopes alive at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Jimmy Connors battled his way into the fourth round and kept alive the hopes of American men at the Wimbledon tennis championships Monday.

He was joined by Australia's Peter Doohan and three young Swedes, led by crewcut Mikael Pernfors. Pernfors came from two sets down to eliminate tired, 10th-seeded Tim Mayotte of the United States 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 to end the long day.

"I'm like a pretzel out there," Connors said after beating New Zealand's Kelly Evernden 6-1, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3, "twisting and turning and jumping, lunging and diving, doing whatever it takes to get the ball back in play."

"I don't need to win Wimbledon, but I'd like to win it. I'm 34 and I've still got the opportunity to win it. That's a pretty good feeling."

One other seed fell in the men's singles, Sweden's Anders Jarryd easily downing No. 5 Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

That left just Connors and South

African expatriate Johan Kriek as the only American men left. Kriek plays top-seeded Ivan Lendl today.

Also posting third-round victories were third-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden, No. 11 Pat Cash of Australia, No. 14 Emilio Sanchez of Spain, France's Guy Forget and Slobodan Zivojinovich of Yugoslavia.

Defending titlist Martina Navratilova and three-time Wimbledon winner Chris Evert of the United States led nine women into the fourth round, Navratilova zipping past fellow American Peanut Harper 6-2, 6-2 and Evert stopping Japan's Kyoko Okamoto 7-5, 6-0.

Yet another seeded player was ousted from the women's ranks, South Africa's Rosalyn Fairbank eliminating No. 9 Bettina Bunge of West Germany 7-6, 6-4.

Two other American women advanced to the fourth round — No. 5 Pam Shriver and Mary Joe Fernandez — along with No. 8 Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, No. 11 Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden, Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico and Australia's Dianne Balestrat.

Jackson: boycott stopped in major league baseball

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Monday that a threatened boycott of major-league baseball had been called off because owners had shown signs that they were dedicated to hiring more minorities in the front office.

"There will not be a boycott, in part because the process is in motion," Jackson said at a meeting of Operation PUSH, the volunteer self-help organization he founded.

Jackson said there have been several encouraging developments since he threatened a boycott last month.

He cited the promotions of former players Garry Maddox in Philadelphia and John Roseboro in Los Angeles. Jackson also mentioned the hiring of a consulting firm headed by former Army Secretary Clifford Alexander to develop affirmative ac-

tion plans.

But Jackson also claimed that some losing teams have failed to change managers this season so they could avoid the issue of minority hiring. He said the teams haven't fired their managers "because they would have to make this big public judgment under the scope of scrutiny."

Repeating a threat he has made several times in the past, Jackson said there will be "litigation in the courts" and "demonstrations in the streets" if baseball doesn't hire more minorities.

Ed Durso, executive vice president of major-league baseball, reminded the PUSH gathering that the 1987 season has been dedicated to Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in 1947.

Revolutionary action suggested for college athletics

DALLAS (AP) — Abolishing football bowl games and post-season basketball tournaments might be the only way to end corruption in college athletics, a key figure at a special NCAA convention suggested Monday.

The revolutionary action was proposed in remarks prepared for delivery by Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman of Cal-Berkeley, a key member of the NCAA's Presidents Commission.

The two-day convention was called as a springboard for an 18-month debate leading to far-reaching legislation at the 1989 NCAA convention.

Frank Horton, president of the University of Oklahoma, was to take the opposite position in the debate. Horton did not make a copy of his remarks available

prior to the scheduled start of the forum.

Heyman also suggested that athletic scholarships be based on financial need rather than athletic prowess and proposed rescinding the 1973 rule that made freshmen eligible for varsity competition.

He prefaced his remarks by outlining his contention that corruption has become so much a part of intercollegiate sports that both high school and college officials have become calloused and cynical towards it.

"We have seen recruiters who bribe high school students, staff who alter transcripts and test scores, admissions officers who admit athletes who are functionally illiterate," Heyman said.

Then he outlined the alternatives.

"We could call for the creation of minor-league farm systems for professional football and basketball and sever what has been called the 'unnatural link' between academics and athletics. By creating alternative paths, we could stop insisting that all aspiring professional football and basketball players become college students.

"We could change the way we distribute revenues from football bowl games and the NCAA basketball television package. We could do the unthinkable and abolish bowl games and post-season basketball tournaments.

"What would happen if we took these steps? What would the

world of intercollegiate athletics look like? I believe that athletics would be strengthened."

Heyman acknowledged that change would be difficult.


"We are working against powerful cultural and market forces," he said. "If we are to be effective, we will have to learn a great deal of detailed information about our athletic programs. During these next 18 months, we will sponsor a series of studies and forums."

He said by adopting scholarships based on need, "we would communicate that we are interested in recruits not only as athletes but also as students."

As for the calloused nature of the system, Heyman acknowledged that the majority of administrators and coaches are honest.

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