

Sports

Coaches grab wins at NCAA convention

DALLAS (AP) — Coaches in virtually every NCAA sport — with basketball one notable exception — won major victories Tuesday when a series of bitterly contested cut-back measures sponsored by the NCAA Presidents Commission were voted down.

Major football schools came out the best as the special cost-cutting convention wound down, defeating proposals to reduce overall scholarship and coaching limits and watering down a move to curtail spring practice.

But women's administrators and officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee also won, fighting off a Commission plan to cut back scholarship limits in most men's and women's Division I sports.

By a narrow 152-145 vote, schools sustained a ruling by the chair not to vote on whether to restore basketball scholarship cuts enacted last January.

Many of the most significant items were acted upon in Tuesday's morning session and the convention was to conclude with a three-hour afternoon meeting. As they broke for lunch, many delegates openly questioned the wisdom of even calling this two-day meeting.

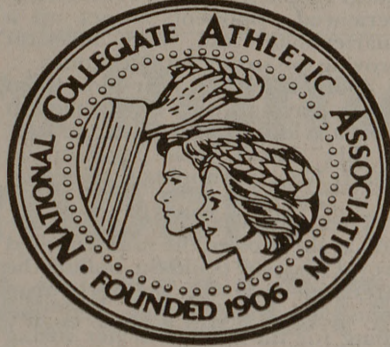
"Our people figure it cost about \$1.8 million to put on this cost-cutting convention," said Dave Gavitt, commissioner of the Big East Conference. "How many baseball scholarships would that pay for?"

One question in the delegates' minds was how the powerful Presidents Commission would react to its first legislative defeat. Since it was formed in 1984, the Commission had been undefeated in its moves to push through reform legislation.

Chancellor John Slaughter of Maryland, chairman of the 44-member Commission, promised it would re-double its efforts.

"Naturally, we're disappointed that some of the legislation we proposed has not been adopted," Slaughter said. "But it points out the significance of what we said yesterday — that there are significant areas of disagreement, and that's not going to change until people begin to identify some better understanding of these issues."

"I think also the Presidents Commission failed to do a good enough job of working with other presidents and chief executive officers to get them to understand why we felt it was important that they support our proposals. To a large extent, presi-



dents and chancellors around the country have not followed our lead. And that's probably our fault."

The Commission will not relinquish its new position of leadership in college sports, Slaughter said.

"By all means. We were established to make sure that presidents had a voice in what happens in intercollegiate athletics. Now, that's more important than ever."

Coaches Joe Paterno of Penn State and Tom Osborne of Nebraska were among those speaking against a Pac-10 proposal to trim overall football scholarships at Division I-A schools from 95 to 90.

The proposition failed 69-39. A short time later, the convention passed a motion to indefinitely postpone consideration of a Commission measure to cut scholarships in 12 men's Division I sports and 10 women's Division I sports.

Women's groups had protested the cuts would affect women's programs disproportionately. Olympic officials had also opposed it.

In moving that it be suspended, delegates referred to the failure to cut football grants.

"To take away awards from a large segment of women's sports will be seen, whether intended or not, as clearly sexist in effect and a major setback in our commitment to an exciting NCAA sports program," said Paul Olum, President of Oregon University.

"To refuse to cut football by a small amount and then to go ahead and reduce non-revenue and women's sports is disgraceful," Olum said.

"We want to get away from a band-aid approach to solving our problems and give ourselves an opportunity to study this more carefully," Paterno said in arguing against the football reductions. "Especially with the possibility several

years down the road of eliminating freshman eligibility again, which we would support."

Delegates to last January's convention voted to reduce the number of scholarships a football program can give in one year from 30 to 25.

"Football is a developmental sport more than most others," said Osborne, who rarely attends NCAA conventions. "You may have a freshman lineman, 6-foot-6 and 210 pounds. You hope in a year he might be 230 or 240 pounds, so of those 95, you may be lucky to have 60 that can play."

Division I-AA schools voted 49-42 to reduce the assistant football coaching staff from seven to six. An amendment to cut scholarships from 30 to 25 passed 56-34 but a proposal that would shave total scholarships from 70 to 65 failed 47-44.

Washington President William Gerberding argued that cutting football scholarships would produce a very important "symbol," and drew a sharp rebuke from Osborne.

"I do not believe we should be too worried about symbols at this time. Football coaches live in the real world," Osborne said.

Barnes picks Olympics over A&M

Texas A&M track star Randy Barnes has decided to forego his junior year of eligibility to pursue a spot on the 1988 U.S. Olympic team.

Barnes, who is the No. 3-ranked shot putter in the U.S., battled a recurring hand injury the past year at A&M, and thus, underwent minor surgery earlier in June to repair an inflamed tendon in his right hand.

Despite the injury, Barnes was able to win the Southwest Conference outdoor shot put title in May along with his second consecutive SWC championship in the discus.

A&M assistant coach Ted Nelson said Barnes' departure from the Aggie track team will allow him better time to prepare for the U.S. Olympic trials next summer in Indianapolis.

"It's really tough to lose an outstanding competitor like Randy Barnes, but we think this will enhance his chances of making the Olympic team," Nelson said.

Connors fights off 2-set deficit to snare victory

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Jimmy Connors, America's final hope for the men's singles title, fought back from the brink of elimination Tuesday to defeat Sweden's Mikael Pernfors and advance to the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

After battling for more than 3½ hours on the scarred grass, Connors emerged with a 1-6, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2 victory and a berth in the quarterfinals against Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia.

Also moving into the quarterfinals were three Swedes — third-seeded Mats Wilander, No. 4 Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd — along with No. 2 seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, No. 9 Henri Leconte of France and No. 11 Pat Cash of Australia.

Defending champion and No. 1 seed Martina Navratilova led the advance to the women's quarterfinals by defeating Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico 6-3, 6-1.

It took five sets for the 34-year-old Connors to win his 77th singles match in the world's premier grass-court tournament. But win it he did, enthraling the Centre Court crowd as he rallied from two sets down and 1-4 in the third.

"I don't think I've been that far down here and won before," Connors said. "I didn't have time to be embarrassed. I was out there being kicked."

With defeat in sight, Connors found the game that has twice car-

ried him to the Wimbledon title. He began taking the ball earlier, his groundstrokes were deep and accurate, his volleys precise and sharp. And gone was the spate of unforced errors that had put him in such a deep hole.

"I can still play," Connors said. "I feel that the best thing I did out there was grind and fight."

It was vintage Connors, the man who has won a men's record 105 tournaments in his career and who now has reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals 12 times.

For Zivojinovic, Tuesday's 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 victory over Australian Peter Doohan had a tinge of revenge. In

the second round, Doohan upset defending champion Boris Becker of West Germany, the Yugoslav's friend and frequent doubles partner.

Besides the Connors-Zivojinovic match, other pairings Wednesday will pit Wilander against Cash, Jarryd against Edberg and Leconte against Lendl.

In the women's fourth round, in addition to Navratilova, the winners were No. 2 Steffi Graf of West Germany, No. 3 Chris Evert of the United States, No. 4 Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, No. 5 Pam Shriver of the U.S., No. 6 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, No. 8 Claudia

Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany and unseeded Dianne Balestrat of Australia.

Evert and Shriver almost didn't make it.

"I've had one struggle," Evert said after defeating South Africa's Rosalyn Fairbank 6-2, 2-6, 7-5. It was her first of the tournament that was not in straight sets. "It's not as though I've gone three sets every match. It's not that I'm not pleased with the way I'm playing, I'm just not pleased with my concentration level as far as closing out a match."

Shriver was down 1-4 in the final set and fought off two match points before outlasting No. 16 Sylvia Hanika of West Germany 6-7, 7-5, 10-8.

Livingstone chosen as All-American

Texas A&M standout third baseman Scott Livingstone has been named to the Sporting News All-American team.


Livingstone, who was named as the designated hitter to the squad, led the Aggies with a .403 batting average, with 19 home runs and 76 RBI.

The junior is currently playing for the USA team which will represent this country in the Pan American games in Indianapolis at the end of the summer.

Livingstone is hitting a .333 clip for the USA team and leads the 9-0 team in doubles with four. He also has been selected the Plymouth Most Valuable Player of the Game twice in the nine games so far.

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