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Application Deadline:
Mon., April 10, 1989 5p.m.

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Survey: Proposition 48 is racial barrier

AP says black Division I athletes encountering greatest setbacks

NEW YORK (AP) — Proposition 48 academic standards have become a racial barrier in college basketball, penalizing blacks almost exclusively, an Associated Press survey shows.

The survey of all 293 NCAA Division I schools found 105 recruits were ineligible because of Prop 48 in the season now drawing to a close, and all but nine of them — 91.4 percent — were black. By contrast, only 60.4 percent of the 3,892 players and, according to the Department of Education, 8.6 percent of the entire student population were black.

Only three Prop 48s this season were white, and only one of them — at Youngstown State — stayed at the school. There was one Hispanic and five foreign-born.

The survey also showed:
• The number of Prop 48 players is leveling off, down from 111 last season and 162 the year before.

• More Prop 48 casualties are staying in school to play their second year. Eighty percent of players sidelined by Prop 48 last season played this season, up from 70 percent the year before.

• Louisiana State had five recruits sidelined by Prop 48, the most of any school. Old Dominion had four and Boise State and Temple three each. No other school had more than two.

• The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and the Sun Belt Conference had 10 Prop 48s each, the most among conferences. The Southeastern had nine and the Big West seven. No other conference had more than five.

• Only the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Colonial League, the East Coast Conference, the Ivy League and the Trans America Athletic Conference had no Prop 48s.

The percentage of blacks among the basketball Prop 48s is similar to

results in an NCAA study. The NCAA considered only those recruits who actually enrolled in school and found that 58 of 60 Prop 48s were black in 1987-88 and 80 of 90 were black in 1986-87.

That's an even higher percentage than the NCAA found in all sports combined, with blacks six times as likely as whites to fail Prop 48 standards. That 1987-88 study showed one in seven black recruits was a Prop 48, compared with one in 45 whites.

"What they're involving themselves in right now is close to a violation of a civil rights law," said Temple coach John Cheney, a leading opponent of Prop 48. "They are not above a civil rights violation with both Prop 48 and Prop 42. You're talking about predominantly blacks. You're not talking about anyone else."

Proposition 42, passed by the NCAA convention in January, would prevent a school from giving a scholarship to players who fail either of the Prop 48 minimums — a 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (or 15 on the American College Test) and a 2.0 grade-point average.

Currently, the partial- and non-qualifiers may not play, but can receive financial aid. Cheney and Georgetown Coach John Thompson are among the most vocal critics of the new rule, scheduled to go into effect for the 1990-91 school year.

"It's a disappointing maldistribution of disqualifiers," said James Zumberge, president of the University of Southern California and one of the Prop 48 founders.

Nevertheless, he said the numbers indicate that too many recruits "were totally unequipped for any college work beyond the simplest of college programs."

Victor Herbert, executive director of high schools for the New York City board of education, said he believes most Prop 48s are black because white students from disadvantaged areas aren't recruited.

"There are sections where there are poor white communities where youngsters don't even think of going to college — Appalachia and such," he said. "I believe it is much more

who made a dramatic turnaround. After sitting out the 1987-88 season he had a 3.13 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0 and was named this season's Big Eight all-academic team.

"I just went out and got everything ready for this year and I told myself if I can't do better academically, I can't play," Patterson said.

Educators repeatedly stressed that when Prop 48 was passed in January 1985, the intent was to take changes in high schools. The eligible players in college were a product.

"We had so many athletes in college who were there for four years of eligibility and were not getting a degree, and just couldn't get a degree," said James H. Wharton, chancellor of Louisiana State.

"Proposition 48's message was the secondary schools, the athletes and coaches: They have to take courses and make the grades to do some minimal preparation for college."

"Yes, there are some problems with it. In many cases they wait until their senior years. I have seen cases after case after case where students have buckled down and worked which is good for them."

"Would I say it is working? I would say it's working."

Even Cheney agrees that something must be done about high school education.

"I think the intentions of 48 are good," he said. "But we're holding hostage the youngster at the end who has come from a very poor background."

"(We're saying) we're going to raise our standards so high because your schools failed you and we're not going to do anything for you. That's as hypocritical as you can find."

"What they're involving themselves in right now is close to a violation of a civil rights law. They are not above a civil rights violation with both Prop 48 and Prop 42. You're talking about predominantly blacks. You're not talking about anyone else."

— John Cheney, Temple U. basketball coach

connected to poverty than to race. But it is clear that there are more minorities in poor communities."

Ursula Walsh, director of research for the NCAA, said it will be at least five more years before the NCAA can determine if the rule is helping students get their degrees.

"There are more coming back, but it is because they're spending tens of thousands of dollars on test courses? Is it because they're taking Mickey Mouse courses and not really getting any educations?" she said.

Damon Patterson, a reserve forward at Oklahoma, is one Prop 48

Astros cut Cedeno

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Former Houston Astros all-star Cesar Cedeno was cut from the roster Tuesday, ending his attempt to return to the major leagues as a pinch hitter.

Cedeno, who played 11 seasons with the Astros and still holds a team record with 487 stolen bases, had been invited for a spring tryout as a non-roster player.

Cedeno, 38, was with the Houston team through 1981. He hit .207 during the exhibition season, a team spokesman said.

TANK McNAMARA



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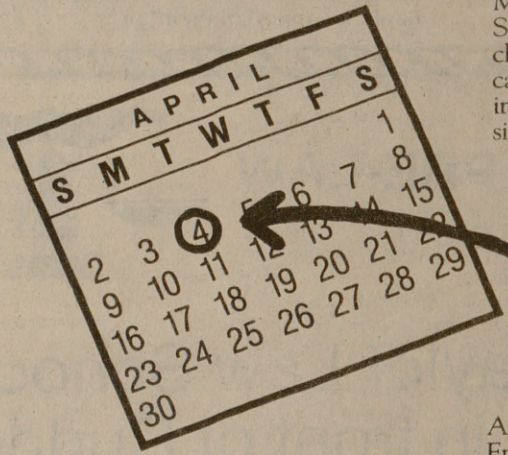
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