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NCAA recommends stiffer penalties and year-round drug tests

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA Council will recommend year-round drug testing for college athletes and stiffer penalties for those who test positive, especially for such banned substances as steroids.

"The feeling is to show more concern and compassion for those who use street drugs," NCAA President Albert Witte said Wednesday. "The emphasis there is less for punishment than for curing or helping the athlete."

"The health and safety and welfare of those athletes are given much greater weight than for those who test positive for performance-enhancing substances such as steroids."

The NCAA Council, which includes 22 representatives from the NCAA's Division I schools and 11 each from Divisions II and III, ended three days of closed-door meetings Wednesday. The meetings set the agenda of proposals it will sponsor at the full NCAA convention at Dallas Jan. 7-10.

Witte, a law professor at the University of Arkansas, said the council unanimously endorsed the concept of a year-round drug testing program, although no details of the plan or how it would be implemented have been formulated. The NCAA now tests only before its championship events and football bowl games, but many schools con-

duct in-season testing for athletes. Richard Schultz, the NCAA executive director, said there likely would be challenges to the proposal if it is adopted, "but we feel we're on solid legal ground."

The council also discussed Proposition 42, approved at the last NCAA convention, which would eliminate all scholarship aid to freshmen who fail to meet the academic requirements of the earlier Proposition 48.

Witte said the council wants to make certain "partial qualifiers" — those whose high school grade-point average is at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale — have "access to institutional funds" and not be barred from financial aid that they would otherwise be eligible to receive if they were not athletes.

"The council has a subcommittee which has developed a plan for amending Proposition 42," Witte said. "We'll meet together to see if there's unanimity to go for one proposal or to present the membership with two proposals to choose from. But we are in agreement ... partial qualifiers should have access to an education and there should not be a loosening of eligibility requirements."

He said the council would not recommend repeal of Proposition 42 or change previous stands on eligibility contained in Proposition 48.

Tomczak remains Ditka's quarterback

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Coach Mike Ditka of the Chicago Bears celebrated his 50th birthday Wednesday by announcing that Mike Tomczak still was his starting quarterback — despite two losses in a row for the team.

A third loss against Cleveland Monday night would be the first three-game losing streak for Ditka since he became coach in 1982.

Ditka also said he had no idea of the whereabouts of cornerback Vestee Jackson, who said he might skip practice after losing his starting job following Sunday's 33-28 loss to Houston.

"Mike Tomczak is my quarterback," Ditka said. "If he doesn't perform, we'll try Jim Harbaugh. We're trying to win a game. If I make a substitution, it doesn't mean the other guy won't be back."

Jackson said Tuesday that he was upset at being replaced by Lorenzo Lynch.

"I have not talked to him and I can't do anything until we talk to him," Ditka said. "He's not here and he's not at home."

Jackson did not show up for practice Wednesday, something that surprised some of his teammates, including defensive captain Mike Singletary.

"It's something I didn't expect," Singletary said. "I hope everything works out. Vestee has always been quiet and goes about his business his own way. I didn't think this would happen."

There wouldn't have been any surprise about Tomczak starting a Cleveland night despite the two straight losses except that Ditka planted the seed of doubt earlier in the week.

"I'll announce my starting quarterback later in the week," he said after Tomczak was intercepted four times in the loss to the Oilers.

"Mike's play has been outstanding," Ditka said Wednesday, playing down some of Tomczak's mistakes. "Two of the interceptions were meaningless, but two of them were bad choices. He threw three touch-down passes and ran the club well."

Tomczak said he expected to start all along.

"Why worry about what you can't control?" he added. "I never take anything for granted. Quarterback is an important position, but it's only an extension of the team."

Ditka talked to both Tomczak and Harbaugh Wednesday in making his decision. He was upset about the turnovers and a collapse of the defense. He also said he thought Tomczak should have done more scrambling.

"I'm not going to change my way of playing," Tomczak said. "I know my mistakes and I'm going to work on them. I have to play a smarter game, especially in throwing the ball away."

Two of Tomczak's interceptions came when he was trying to throw the ball away.

Lack of sacks makes Refugio QB standout

Refugio quarterback Scooter Hesselstine completed five touchdown passes and ran for two more against Karnes City. But even more impressive was what he didn't do.

He didn't get sacked.

"We started out this year with five kids (offensive linemen) who hadn't played before," Refugio coach Bobby Kelly said. "We had 36 yards rushing in the first game and for us that's unheard of."

But as the offensive line improved, Hesselstine was able to do his work and his performance Friday night earned him mention in The Associated Press Schoolboy Honor Roll.

Hesselstine, 6-2, 180 pounds, completed 10 of 15 passes for 259 yards and touchdowns of 61, 18, 12, 60 and 45 yards and he rushed 77 yards on 7 carries and touchdowns of 29 and 2 yards.

The Bobcats beat Karnes City 55-6 with Hesselstine playing two and one-half quarters.

"Early in the year he was trying to do too much like quarterbacks often do," Kelly said. "He tried to force a few passes in there."

Hesselstine is an outstanding athlete, Kelly says. He's pole vaulted 16-8, thrown a discus 166 feet and run 14.7 in the high hurdles.

"But his best quality is his leadership," Kelly said. "When he steps in a huddle things get more serious. The only time we've been in trouble this year was against Edna."

"The first time we got the ball in

the second half, he took us down the field for a score. He just took charge."

Santa Rosa quarterback Roy Gonzales passed for 436 yards in leading the Warriors to a 53-0 victory over La Villa.

Gonzales hit 23 of 32 passes and gained 347 yards on 44 carries and had touchdown runs of 3, 3 and 10 yards in a 30-7 victory over Tahoka.

Martinez moved to running back from wingback two weeks ago.

Somerville's Fredrick Woodberry rushed for 307 yards on 17 carries and scored on runs of 86, 67 and 20 yards in a 32-12 victory over Seaman.

Woodberry has gained 1,000 yards on 93 carries and scored 10 touchdowns this season.

Bremond's Nicky Hayward gained 318 yards on 18 carries and scored on runs of 80, 76 and 10 yards in a 28-25 loss to Normangeville.

Denver City's Kenny Samant narrowly missed the 300-yard mark with 296 yards on 28 carries and a 75-yard touchdown run in a 17-0 victory over Lubbock Roosevelt.

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