## CONGRATULATIONS

to the following outstanding Texas A & M students accepted into Teach For America. They've shown they have the leadership and commitment needed to tackle one o our nation's most challenging

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## Report: Minorities and women losing ground in sports

By Steve Wilstein THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women and minorities are losing ground with jobs in professional and college sports, reversing a trend toward greater diversity, according to a study released Monday.

Every professional sport had lower averages for employing women compared with the last Racial and Gender Report Card two years ago, and minority hiring slipped in pro and college sports, the study found.

"While we are creeping toward fair play, we still have a long road ahead," said sports sociologist Richard Lapchick, author of the report published by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida.

The 12th issue of the report card studied players, coaches and front office/athletic department employees of major league baseball, the NFL, NBA, NHL, WNBA, Major League Soccer and college sports. It found:

-Minorities (blacks, Asians Latinos, Pacific Islanders and American Indians) lost ground in most of the top management positions in college and professional sports, including general managers, team vice presidents and college athletic directors.

The percentage of black men playing college and pro sports continued its decade-long decline in all sports except college and pro basketball and college baseball.

-The percentage of international players continued to grow in major league baseball, the NBA, NFL and soccer.

-Women held less than 45 percent of the head coaching positions for women's college teams in all NCAA divisions.

"This is a disappointing reversal from the 2001 report, when historically the best hiring records were noted both on the basis of race and gender," said Lapchick, who has been tracking gains and losses by women and minorities in sports for 14 years.

The report covered the 2001-02 seasons in the NBA and NHL; 2001 in the NFL; 2002 in major league baseball, soccer, and the WNBA; and the 2000-01 academic year for colleges.

Two of the most noteworthy highlights from the report, Lapchick said, were that:

Entertainment -Black

Traditionally, we've made an effort to hire the best people, period. That's worked well for us over the years, and it continues to work well for us.

> - Brian McIntyre NBA Spokesman

Television founder and CEO Robert Johnson was awarded the right to purchase the NBA's new Charlotte franchise, which made him the first black majority team owner in pro sports.

There was an all-time high of 24 head coaches/managers who were minorities in the three biggest professional leagues.

The best news for minority coaches was in the NBA, where blacks held a record 14 head coaching jobs in the 2001-02 season, reaching 48 percent of the total, the highest in the history of

any sport.
"Traditionally, we've made an

effort to hire the best people, per od," NBA spokesman Bria McIntyre said. "That's worker well for us over the years, and it continues to work well for us.

The report card iss grades in relation to overall pa terns in society. For exam with minorities accounting about 24 percent of the popu tion, an A was achieved if percent of the positions wer held by minorities.

The WNBA got the highe combined grade for race and gen der at A-minus, the NBA got all plus, and the NCAA got a Major league baseball, the NFL NHL and Major League Socce all received combined grades of C on the report card.

On race, the NBA led with a A; the WNBA, baseball and so cer each got a B-plus; the NCAA got a B; the NFL a B-minus; an the NHL a C.

On gender, the WNBA le with an A; followed by t NCAA with a B; the NBA at NHL with C's; baseball with all the NFL with a D-minus; a soccer with the first F ever iss in the history of the report.

MLS spokesman Trey Fit Gerald questioned the grad because two of the league's eig vice presidents during the report ing period were women.

An F indicates that we wou be doing nothing. That certain isn't the case," Fitz-Gerald said. Baseball declined to comme

on the report, but last week com missioner Bud Selig said th sport has done "very well" minority hiring.

The NFL, with two minor head coaches in the 2002 season was at its lowest point since the 1991 season. A third minorit coach was hired when Marvin Lewis joined the Cincinnati Bengals in January.

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