

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Rule over reason

NCAA doesn't use good judgement in rulings

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

In the spring of 2004, the National Football League and the U.S. Court of Appeals gave the NCAA a gift: The Court overturned a previous ruling and granted the NFL the right to continue barring players who were less than three years removed from high school.

This gift should have given the NCAA long- and short-term benefits. The long-term benefits of the ruling were apparent to everyone, including the NCAA. It meant that college football teams, unlike their basketball counterparts, could hold onto players for longer than a few months. The ruling essentially made college football a necessary step for an athlete wishing to play in the NFL someday.

The ruling also had a potential short-term benefit: the return of

University of Southern California star receiver Mike Williams.

Williams seemed to be a player caught in the middle of the whole situation. The earlier ruling had cleared the way for players of any age to enter the NFL draft.

Williams felt that he was ready for the next level. He hired an agent and took endorsement money — the normal process for

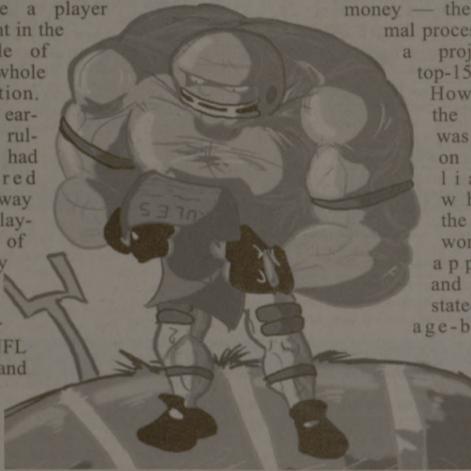
a projected top-15 pick.

However, the door was shut on Williams when the NFL won its appeal and reinstated its age-based ban.

This should have been too good to be true for the NCAA. It not only gave the NCAA a chance to welcome back one of their most notable stars, it also gave it a chance to look human. The NCAA has often been accused of using rule over reason, and this gave it the golden opportunity to brighten its image.

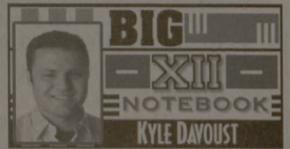
Williams' situation was special. He hired an agent and accepted endorsement money, but the law told him it was OK. When the rules changed on him, Williams did all he could to rectify the situation. He gave back the money, enrolled in summer classes and followed the guidelines to be reinstated to play football for USC.

However, instead of looking at this as a special situation, the NCAA denied Williams' request



Will Lloyd • THE BATTALION

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7 Texas vs Arkansas

The No. 7 Texas Longhorns (1-0) will face their inner demons Saturday, as they travel to Fayetteville to try to revenge last year's loss to former Southwest Conference rival Arkansas (1-0). The Razorbacks shocked everyone last year with a 38-28 victory over Texas, which quickly laid to rest the Longhorns' national title aspirations.

The Longhorns' chances for finally earning a BCS bid are hinged on games like this. The rest of the team's schedule, namely its Oct. 9 match-up against No. 2 Oklahoma, make an early season loss almost too difficult to recover from.

The Longhorns will once again enter this match-up as the heavy favorite after

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Volleyball team California bound for West Coast match

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

When No. 14 Texas A&M volleyball team takes the court Thursday night against No. 13 Lady Gauchos of University of California Santa Barbara, Aggie head coach Laurie Corbelli won't have to worry about her husband's loyalty to A&M.

Aggie assistant coach John Corbelli lettered four years for the men's volleyball team at UCSB from 1975-1978, before heading to College Station to be an assistant coach. He said there's never any question where his loyalties lie.

"I don't care how the Gauchos play. If they play well, I hope we (Aggies) play better," John Corbelli said.

How well the Gauchos play remains to be seen. They come into the opening round of the Golden Bear Invitational at Berkeley, Calif., with an inexperienced and relatively untested team.

"We're a very young team, with four sophomores and a few freshmen," said Lady Gauchos head coach Kathy Gregory. "We did play well against Wichita State in the

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Sharon Aeschbach • THE BATTALION

A&M junior Holly Clay (center) rejoices after their 3-0 win against McNeese State.

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