

Executive Committee Passes Key Issues

The NCAA Executive Committee approved several major changes in the National Collegiate Basketball Championship, voted to eliminate complimentary tickets for all NCAA championships, and established — in cooperation with the NAIA — agreed upon common declaration dates for NCAA and NAIA championships at its summer meeting August 11-12.

Automatic qualification, the basketball tournament format and bracketing were affected by the changes, all of which were recommended by the Association's Division I Basketball Committee at its recent summer meeting. In a major decision, the Executive Committee voted to reaffirm the policy of automatic qualification for the tournament.

After lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee voted that effective with the 1979 Championship, only the 16 allied conferences with the best won-lost records over the previous five years of tournament play will receive automatic qualification into the 32-team national championship tournament. (The total will stay at 21 for the 1978 tournament.)

The Basketball Committee had recommended the change be effective in 1980; but the Executive Committee felt the concept of reduction had considerable merit and should be implemented as soon as possible.

In a significant format alteration, eight first-round games in the 1978 Championship will be scheduled for Saturday, March 10, and eight Sunday, March 11, with two regional finals (West and Mideast) Saturday, March 17, and two regional finals (East and Midwest) Sunday, March 18. (In 1977, 12 first-round games were played Saturday and four Sunday, with all four regional finals on a Saturday.)

This will allow NBC to nationally televise all four regional championship games. (In 1977, two were national, two regional.)

Revised Bracket

And for the 1978 Championship, the Committee voted a bracket pairing East vs. Midwest and West vs. Mideast, breaking the rotation that began in 1973.

In addition to eliminating complimentary tickets, the Executive Committee voted to permit sale of tickets at a reduced price to non-competing students

of an institution competing in any of the NCAA's 39 national championships, and to students of the host institution. Reduced ticket prices were not allowed under previous rules. The policy changes came after extensive study. The ticket questions had been on the agenda of five Executive Committee meetings from January 1976 through April 1977.

The previous rule precluded complimentary tickets unless approved by the respective sports committees and the Executive Committee.

This was revised to provide that there shall be no complimentary tickets issued for NCAA championships except for working passes to bona fide working personnel including media representatives, participation passes to competing student-athletes and, in team sports, other members of a competing institution's official party (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers) as defined by the NCAA.

The NCAA staff conferred with each sports committee and reported their views to the Executive Committee. The sports committees were split about 50-50 on the question of reduced ticket

prices for students and faculty. A majority of the sports committees favored retention of the previous rule on complimentary tickets. It was significant, however, that the Division I Basketball Committee unanimously supported the concept of no complimentary tickets, provided the policy was applied uniformly to all 39 NCAA championships.

Establishment of common declaration dates for NCAA and NAIA championships fulfills a desire by both organizations to protect the prerogative of dual members to choose to participate in NCAA or NAIA championships without penalty.

On or about September 1, a form will be mailed to dual members, to be used by them to inform the NAIA and NCAA of their intentions regarding participation in national championship competition for the 1977-78 academic year in six sports — football, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, volleyball and baseball.

A deadline of September 30 was established and a limited appeal period (appeals must be received by October 15), following which the institutions concerned shall be bound by their declarations. Those institutions which do not file a declaration shall be ineligible for NAIA and NCAA championships in the indicated sports for the year in question. This procedure will be administered jointly by the NAIA and NCAA, demonstrating a cooperative approach to this problem by the two associations.

ECAC Appeal

In its consideration of the several changes in the National Col-

legiate Basketball Championship, the Executive Committee heard an appeal by the Eastern College Athletic Conference, successfully presented by R. M. Whitelaw, commissioner, of the Basketball Committee's decision to reduce the number of ECAC automatic qualifying berths from three to two beginning with the 1978 tournament.

The Executive Committee upheld this reduction, but this is dependent on another ECAC appeal, this one to the NCAA Council at its meeting August 22-24 at Knoxville, Tennessee. The ECAC currently does not meet the provisions of Bylaw 4-7 and O.I. 401, which were passed by the 71st annual Convention in Miami Beach last January.

If the ECAC is successful in its Council appeal, the Executive Committee's approval of the three automatic berths in the 1978 tournament will stand. If the Council denies the appeal, ECAC members would be eligible for at-large berths in the 1978 tournament.

Budgets Approved

Also approved by the Executive Committee were the 1977-78 general operating budget of just under \$5.5 million and the National Collegiate Realty Corporation budget of \$199,000 for the same period.

The general budget increased 7.1 per cent over the past fiscal year, while additional expenditures totaling 7.2 per cent resulted from inclusion of reserve funds in the general budget for the first time.

The Executive Committee
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ROSS BROWNER
Notre Dame Defensive End



MATT CAVANAUGH
Pittsburgh Quarterback

Visits Six Cities

NCAA-ABC Football Tour Kicks Off New Season

Several of the nation's outstanding college players and coaches made coast-to-coast appearances on the 1977 NCAA-ABC Football Promotion Tour earlier this month to help launch this fall's schedule.

Notre Dame's Outland Award winner Ross Browner and Football Writers Association of America all-Americans Gifford Nielsen, Brigham Young quarterback, and Terry Miller, Oklahoma State running back, headlined the third annual tour, August 8-13.

Joining these Heisman Trophy candidates for the six-day, six-city trip designed to present college football representatives to different parts of the nation were Pittsburgh quarterback Matt Cavanaugh, Ohio State defensive back Ray Griffin and UCLA defensive lineman Manu Tuiasosopo.

A press conference with the student-athletes and a nationally-prominent head coach was scheduled at each city. The majority of the time was devoted to individual interviews.

In Dallas, two press conferences were scheduled in conjunction with the FWAA annual meeting.

Coaching Lineup

Prominent coaches included on the tour were Dan Devine, Notre Dame (New York); Barry Switzer, Oklahoma (Chicago); Steve Sloan, Texas Tech (Atlanta); Terry Donahue, UCLA, Charlie McClendon, Louisiana State, and Carmen Cozza, Yale (Dallas); Bill Yeoman, Houston (Los Angeles); and John Majors, Tennessee (San Francisco).



RAY GRIFFIN
Ohio State Safety



TERRY MILLER
Oklahoma State Running Back



GIFFORD NIELSEN
Brigham Young Quarterback



MANU TUIASOSOPO
UCLA Defensive Tackle

Student-Athlete Forms To Be Signed

With a new academic year about to begin, the NCAA Council has alerted NCAA institutions that each student-athlete must sign a Student-Athlete Statement form to become eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics for 1977-78.

Under provisions of Constitution 3-9-(j) and Constitution 4-2-(d), each student-athlete is required to annually, prior to participation in intercollegiate athletics, to sign a statement in a form prescribed by the Council in which he submits information related to his eligibility, recruitment, financial aid and amateur status under governing legislation of the Association.

Failure of the student-athlete to sign this statement will result in his ineligibility to compete in intercollegiate ath-

letics.

Each institution's director of athletics must administer the statement to each student-athlete. It also requires the director of athletics' and head coach's signature in order to be valid.

Statements are then kept on file in the office of the athletic director, and must be available for examination upon request from an authorized representative of another member institution or to the NCAA, and to authorized members of allied conferences.

It is not necessary for each candidate for a team to sign, nor for the signings to take place prior to the first practice of the university's team, provided each student-athlete has signed prior to participating in any intercollegiate competition.

Ninth Year of Operation

NYSP Benefits Extended to Nearly 50,000 in 1977

Nearly 50,000 of the nation's economically disadvantaged young people are enjoying the services of the National Youth Sports Program, now in its ninth year of operation.

Administered by the NCAA, the program is sponsored jointly by the Community Services Administration of the Federal government and the universities and colleges where services are being conducted.

During the first seven years of operation, Federal funds supporting NYSP totaled \$3 million each year. For the past two years, Federal support was increased to \$6 million, allowing the program to expand and meet rising costs.

This year, NYSP is conducting programs in 107 cities in 43 states and at 139 universities and colleges. The increased Federal funds provided a significant rise from programs conducted in 72 cities and 36 states in 1975. Institutions conducting programs also increased from 98 in 1975 to 126 in 1976 and to the current 139.

Participants in the program

include boys and girls between the ages of 10 to 18. Each receives instruction in the sports of swimming, basketball, football, gymnastics, volleyball, tennis, track and field and modern dance from college and high school coaches and students working as staff members. Each youth also receives liability insurance, health education and counseling in study and career opportunities.

Positive Attitudes

A significant benefit of NYSP is the creation of positive attitudes. A thorough physical examination and hot meals served during the activities help promote this positive feeling. The youngsters who participated in the 1976 program were served more than 936,350 meals, which were furnished by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Institutions conducting NYSP services provide facilities, equipment and a program director at no cost. They offer summer employment to many students who otherwise might encounter difficulty securing jobs.

Since its inception in 1969, \$33 million has been allocated to NYSP from the Federal government. The Community Services Administration has been the monitoring agency for the program for the past two years.

The Federal government's share of total costs for the program over the past eight years has been approximately 52.0 per cent.

Federal funding covers the cost of meals, staff salaries and wages, medical examinations, transportation, insurance and expendable equipment and supplies. Each of the participants and NYSP staff members were insured through a policy costing on the average six cents per participant per day.

NCAA Aid

The NCAA provides all of its services, including the NYSP national director, James H. Wilkinson, assistant executive director, without charge against the program.

At least four sports are offered at each participating institution. Approximately 90 per



Striding Together

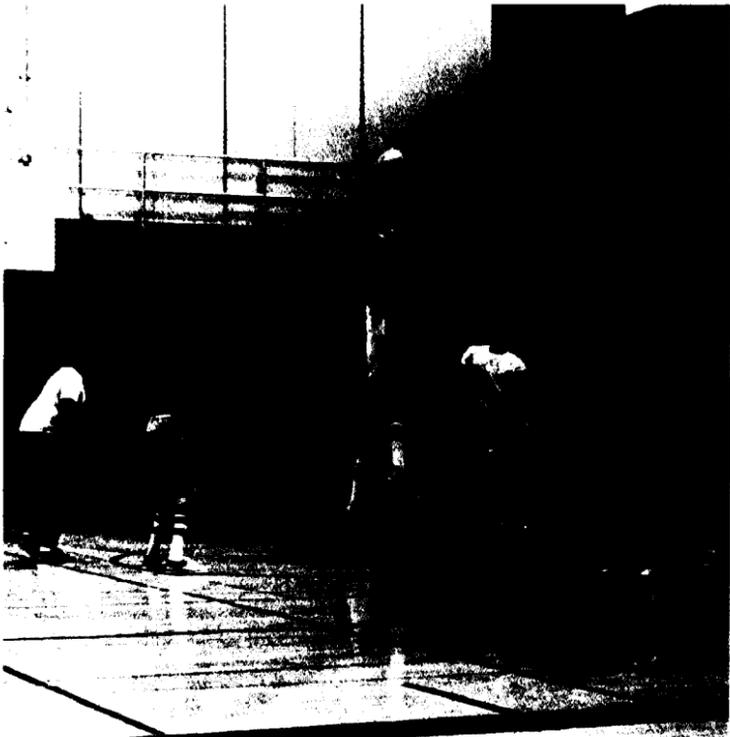
Boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 enjoy the numerous activities the National Youth Sports Program offers, including track and field. These young people at California State University, Los Angeles, are only three of the nearly 50,000 youth nationwide who will participate in the NYSP in 1977.

cent of the enrollees in each project come from financially disadvantaged homes. Some of the programs provide services throughout the entire year.

Following physical examinations, clinical referrals and fol-

lowups on participants with significant health problems are conducted.

Most of this year's projects have been averaging a daily attendance of approximately 200 youths.



Assorted Action

Football and basketball always are two favorites of the boys who attend the NYSP. In its ninth year of operation, NYSP also provides instruction in the sports of swimming, gymnastics, volleyball, tennis, track and field and modern dance. Each youth also receives liability insurance, health education and counseling in study and career opportunities.

Photos by
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Fatalities Decreasing

NOCSAE, Safer Rules Preventing Injuries

By V.R. HODGSON, Ph.D.

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Gurjian-Lissner Biomechanics Laboratory,
Wayne State (Mich.) University

Football always has had a relatively low fatality rate, an average of 1.56 deaths per 100,000 participants since 1931. However, concern over the gradual rise in this rate beginning in the late 1950's, primarily due to increasing numbers of head injuries, prompted the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) to help reduce serious head injuries through a helmet standard and by safer rules.

This influence has been felt to a degree that on a man-hour exposure basis, football players in 1975 had a fatality rate of 47 per cent lower than that experienced from accidents of all kinds by males in the 15 to 24-year age bracket.

Comparing the six-year period from 1965 to 1970, prior to NOCSAE, to the 1971-1976 period in which NOCSAE has been influential on helmet safety, the annual fatality incidence among high school football players has declined from 1.92 to 0.87 per

100,000, a 55 per cent reduction. This has occurred despite the fact standard helmets are not mandatory in National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHA) member school competition until 1980 (1978 for NCAA and NJCAA member schools), and consequently the field is less than half full to date.

Not Fail Safe

Whether or not the fatality reduction is all related to the standard, one thing is certain: serious injury in a rough, emotion-charged game like football is something which no practical protective equipment can eliminate completely.

What the NOCSAE standard has done to help minimize serious injuries is to reduce the number of times that excessive impact conditions occur. This has been accomplished by bringing together three essential items:

✓ A head model with human size, shape, mass distribution and impact response, yet practically durable.

✓ A test system and method which simulates severe football

impact environments.

✓ A linear acceleration-time based concussion performance requirement.

This has made it possible to test helmets with a variety of materials and construction and find which were most effective at protecting the head model. From this information a number of basic steps were taken:

✓ Some helmet models were dropped.

✓ Some models stayed intact.

✓ Materials and suspension design changes were made in some models.

✓ Development of new models.

✓ Some head size-shell size shifts were made (two or three shell sizes are commonly used for the entire size range).

✓ Quality control programs in new manufacturing and NAERA reconditioning plants make spot checks of helmet impact attenuation.

Equipment Limitations

A less obvious way in which the standard has helped reduce the number of excessive head impacts, is to make everyone aware of equipment limitations and thus influence rules changes

to eliminate the intentional use of the head in blocking and tackling.

Baseball: Intensive research with an air cannon and bat swinger is being conducted on batters and catchers helmets. Head injury in baseball has not been a serious problem since introduction of the protective helmet, however, work so far has shown a variation in performance among helmets due to design, material and weight differences.

Also, a standard is needed to prevent inferior helmets from infiltrating the game. It is anticipated that within the coming year a standard will be introduced which will guarantee that helmets on the market will meet minimum standards of performance based on known kinematic and human tolerance levels.

Hockey: This is another sport in which head injury is not epidemic, but for which there has been pressure to establish one minimum voluntary standard in the United States and Canada. There has been a Canadian Standard Association (CSA) standard for hockey helmets

manufactured in Canada for many years.

NOCSAE has been requested by the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States (AHAUS), in conjunction with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), to calibrate the CSA standard system with the NOCSAE equipment. If this calibration is possible, the CSA equipment and quality control program can serve the hockey helmet industry in both countries to keep cost to a minimum. These tests currently are being conducted.

NOCSAE Notice

The National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) has voted to encourage its members sponsoring football to conduct a weekly inspection of helmets during the season to insure there are no broken, deteriorated or altered parts.