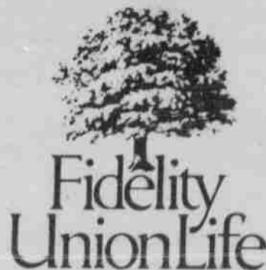


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NCAA convention affects many

It was a busy three days when delegates convened at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Convention Jan. 6-8 in Washington D.C., and there is news for any of the following people:

-If you're a woman athlete, there will be no national championship in your sport this spring.

-If you're a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), you're being sued.

-If you're a fan who wanted some of the innovative rules introduced in professional football this fall brought to the college level, you're out of luck.

-If you're a post-season bowl scout, there will be no early invitations next fall.

-If you're a college athletic director, there is still a limit to the number of scholarships you can offer in football, but there are still full grants to athletes in minor sports.

Larry Stunkel on record

Minor setback

Womens' athletics suffered a minor setback at the convention after delegates reneged on a planned pilot program for spring that would have instituted national championships in womens' tennis and track.

The action came after a protest by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) who did not want NCAA sponsorship of the events, and conservative NCAA delegates forced a third-day resolution to postpone the program until 1976.

Then the NCAA announced plans to sue the USOC, challenging amendments adopted at a USOC meeting in Florida in December.

With the chief provision of the USOC amendment establishing compulsory arbitration by the American Arbitration Association of all

disputes between an athlete and any member sport's organization, the act got the Olympic committee out of the middle of a long-standing feud between the NCAA and the Amateur Athletic Union.

Proposals rejected

A number of rule proposals also were rejected by the NCAA, among them, limited substitution in football, which would have returned the game to one platoon as in the 1930s.

Other rule changes getting the axe were kick-offs from the 35-yard line, sudden death periods for tie games, and elimination of the free catch.

Some of the significant football rule changes enacted include strict enforcement of the rule requiring mouthpieces, establishment of referee authority to suspend play when time conditions warrant and cracking down on tear-away jerseys which leave pads protruding.

The NCAA reestablished the third week in November as the first date bowl game invitations can be extended. Last fall bowl officials broke a verbal agreement by signing teams to play as early as Nov. 9.

Scholarship restriction

Delegates at the convention also failed to lift the restriction on the total number of football scholarships that can be given in one year. Tom Osborne, UNL football coach, and other coaches, had expressed hope the rule would be lifted.

Another proposal rejected by the NCAA was elimination of the full-ride scholarship in all sports except football and basketball. The move was designed to help financially burdened colleges save money.

One last note, when President Gerald Ford gave his acceptance speech after receiving the Theodore Roosevelt Award, (The NCAA's highest honor) he made a slight blunder.

Comparing the presidency to an athletic director's job at a college, Ford said, "We both buy aspirin by the six pack and we both have a certain lack of performance." It was supposed to be permanence instead of performance.

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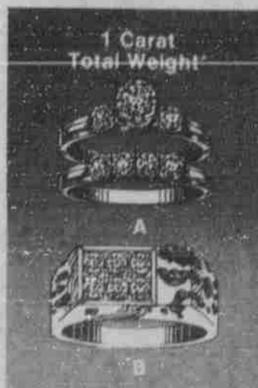
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