

Sports agent Trope compares recruiting rules to prohibition

By Bob Assmussen
Staff Reporter

NCAA recruiting rules are not realistic in 1985, a sports agent said Tuesday.

Mike Trope is a former agent for Booker Brown, the former University of Southern California lineman who three weeks ago accused Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne of recruiting violations in 1972. Trope said NCAA rules do not meet athletes' needs.

Trope, who also has represented former UNL football players Johnny Rodgers and Mike Bosler, said in a telephone interview from his office in Beverly Hills, Calif., that athletes' needs are the same as other students' needs. Just as other students, athletes need money for extras, such as gas and entertainment. But NCAA rules don't allow for that, he said.

Athletes on scholarship may receive money for tuition, fees, books and room and board. However, it is against NCAA rules for athletes or scholarship to have jobs during the school year.

On December 27, 1984, Brown accused Osborne of giving him \$300 and setting up a date for him when he made a recruiting visit to Lincoln in 1972. Brown also said Osborne promised him a car and assured him that he could

sell his season ticket for more than \$1,000 of its face value if Brown came to Nebraska.

After Brown's charges, both he and Osborne took lie detector tests. Both men passed their tests. Brown said Monday that the issue is dead.

But Trope said the larger issue of unfair NCAA rules still lives.

"I think what happened with Booker Brown 12 years ago is irrelevant," Trope said. "The rules are so unrealistic that it's absurd. Everybody knows that these players get money in one way or another. Why not change these rules and get them into the 20th century."

Trope has several suggestions to do that. Trope said the best way to get rid of recruiting and rules violations is to get rid of some of the rules.

Trope suggested the players be given \$150 more than the living expenses they are given now, which he estimated to be \$250 per month.

"What the player does now is sell his ticket or he goes to the alumni (to get money)," Trope said. "I think they should put everything above board and allow the players to live like human beings and not have to sneak around."

Trope said he thinks his ideas would work if the colleges would not try to get every dollar they can from their athletic programs.

"It will work if the colleges and NCAA will stop being so greedy," he said.

Trope said coaches who broke NCAA rules should not be considered immoral. The rules are the problem, not the coaches and schools, he said.

"The NCAA rule book is cheating honest coaches out of their reputations," he said.

Another problem Trope said he would like the NCAA to reconsider is that of player-agent rules. Trope said it is important for potential professional athletes to hire an agent or attorney before the professional drafts, which now is against NCAA rules.

College players should be able to take trips to see lawyers and agents after their junior years, Trope said.

"Players coming out of high school are allowed to visit several schools, so college players should have that option when it comes to hiring an agent," he said. "The players need to have time to decide who they want to deal with."

Trope also said college athletes should be able to take out loans from banks. He said the loans could be used to meet financial need or to buy insurance in case a player suffers a career-ending injury his senior season.

"The NCAA rules are equivalent to prohibition," Trope said.



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Police Report

The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 9:40 a.m. and 9:53 p.m. Monday.

9:40 a.m. — Backpack reported stolen from Nebraska Union. Backpack had been taken by mistake and was later returned.

2:03 p.m. — Personal items reported stolen from a vehicle in Parking Area 19 near Cather Hall. Damage also was reported to the

vehicle.

2:09 p.m. — Parking permit reported lost or stolen.

9:53 p.m. — Attempted theft from a vehicle reported in the visitor parking lot north of the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on East Campus. Broken window and alleged entry were reported, but nothing was taken.

Setting it Straight

An article in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan inaccurately identified the new post held by former UNL vice chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong. Armstrong, who left UNL in December 1984, now is vice president for business and finance at Georgia Southern College.

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