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# Smaller schools may benefit, but coaches leery of standards

PROPOSITION 48 from Page 7

"Cheating is the possibility with Proposition 48," Devaney said. "We will just have to wait and see how it works out," he said.

Devaney said that he is unsure why the proposal didn't include four-year schools that are non-Division I.

The only logical reason, he said, is the media attention given Division I athletes who were not prepared to do college work.

"Everybody is concerned with athletes like (former Creighton basketball star) Kevin Ross," he said. "No one wants to see something like that happen again."

Dick Foster, football coach at Coffeyville Junior College in Coffeyville, Kan., said he doesn't think Proposition 48 will help the Ravens' athletic programs, even though they are non-Division I.

Before the proposition went into effect this season, Foster said, several

Division I schools used to "shelter" athletes in the junior colleges until they made grades.

But now, Foster said, schools simply take athletes who can't meet the Proposition 48 requirements and have them sit out for a year to try to become academically eligible.

"Purdue is upset with three Big Ten schools — Iowa, Michigan, and Michigan State — because they are running a wholesale operation and sitting their players out," Foster said. "All the NCAA did when they imposed this rule was open the door to bend the rule. It's going to be interesting to see if the NCAA lets people sit back and cheat."

Foster said that the Monday after the 1983 NCAA convention, several high school coaches in Florida called to ask if they could put academically ineligible freshmen into the Ravens' football program.

Although he still gets calls from Division I college coaches who want to

shelter players at Coffeyville, Foster said his football program will suffer because of Proposition 48.

"The lay-out program is definitely going to hurt us because we are not going to be able to get the type of athletes that we used to be able to get," he said. "The only way the problem is going to be corrected is if university presidents say 'We aren't going to let you into our institution.' And I know there are some schools like that without mentioning any names."

Jeff Petrucci, football coach at California State College in California, Pa., said that he doesn't know if Proposition 48 will benefit his Division II program.

Petrucci said he expects it will help the school's entire athletic program because more athletes will be available to smaller colleges.

But, Petrucci said, most smaller colleges might not benefit as much as they would like, since non-Division I schools have fewer scholarships than Division I schools.

"We simply don't have the money to give to athletes like Division I schools do," Petrucci said. "We have scholarships to give to our athletes, but whether we want to give one to a football player who doesn't qualify for Division I athletics academically remains to be seen."

Colorado football coach Bill McCartney said that Proposition 48 will be of no help or hindrance to the Buffaloes football program because of admission standards Colorado has for all incoming freshmen.

To be admitted at Colorado, all students must have at least a 2.0 GPA and a 21 on ACT or a 1090 on the SAT.

McCartney said that while these academic standards greatly reduce the number of potential football recruits who would otherwise be able to attend Colorado, he is confident that they have played a major role in rejuvenating the once-besieged Buffalo football program.

"The student athletes that I get here (at Colorado) are more reliable and more accountable because they are such good students," McCartney said. "My policy here has always been that if I feel a student can't do the work here or if they can't meet our academic standards then I shouldn't be recruiting them. And I've stuck by that."

Lynn Hickey, assistant athletic director and women's basketball coach at Texas A&M, said Proposition 48 will not have a drastic effect on the Aggies' athletic programs.

Hickey said that so far she hasn't met one woman recruit not eligible for Division I athletics because of the new academic standards or because of Texas' "no pass, no play" rule.

The "no pass, no play" rule states that any Texas high school athlete who flunks a class during the preceding quarter is academically ineligible for the next quarter.

"We're still in the middle of both things, so it's really too early to tell what the effects of it will be," Hickey said. "We will have to look at it a year from now and see what effect it has."

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said that Proposition 48 has had a definite impact on Cornhusker recruiting this year.

After having the nationwide pool of prospective recruits cut by 35 to 40 percent, Osborne learned that six of his 20 recruits — including Snyder — didn't meet the academic requirements.

Although one of those six players, quarterback/defensive back Leon Otis, has since signed a letter of intent with Nebraska, Osborne said that he has some questions concerning the universal testing of athletes.

"I think there are a lot of good athletes who can do college work but who do not test well," Osborne said earlier this year. "We've gone back into our files and found that some of our players have scored nine or 10 on their ACTs and gone on to earn college degrees."

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