



Dick Schultz, executive director of the NCAA, addresses the media.

Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Director defends actions of NCAA, asks media, public for a little time

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

All the NCAA needs is a little time, executive director Dick Schultz said.

Schultz, who was in Lincoln to speak at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Director's Club banquet, called accusations that the NCAA was doing nothing to solve problems in intercollegiate athletics "ridiculous."

"It's inappropriate to say that the universities aren't addressing their problems or the NCAA isn't doing what we're doing," Schultz said. "You get tired of hearing that."

"It seems like regardless of all the pro-active things you point out that have happened in the past three to five years, people just ignore it -- they're like it just doesn't exist."

"For anybody to say we're sitting around and not doing anything is not a fair statement."

Schultz, who replaced Walter Byers as executive director of the NCAA in June 1987, has been forced to deal with drug testing, improving the academic integrity of the student-athlete and pay-for-play scandals since the start of his tenure.

Now Schultz and the NCAA are forced to defend their actions in light of such books as Rick Telander's "The 100-Yard Lie" which lashes out at what it claims is the corrupt nature of college athletics.

"I think we have a rash of that," Schultz said. "Sometimes it gets to the point where that's the popular thing to write about."

"Some of the stories I've read, you almost have to ignore because some of it is so biased and so slanted."

Schultz said he read a condensed piece of Telander's book in the Oct. 2 issue of Sports Illustrated and found "seven or eight" quotes where the author had "taken things people have said in good faith and made them sound completely different."

"I think it's unfortunate when people do that," Schultz said, "but they're writing for a purpose, and that purpose is to sell books."

"There are a lot of things that are not right that are written, that are not factual where the writer hasn't taken time to research the topic or they have a position they want to present, so they write from that position."

"It doesn't bother me if people really take us to task as long as they're balanced, as long as they're fair, as long as they've taken the time to look at both sides of the issues."

"If they do that and still say 'hey, what you're doing is dead-wrong' then that's their right to do that."

Schultz said criticism arises because of the high visibility and popularity of college sports. Some of it, he said, is too critical.

"The bottom line is," Schultz said, "so many people expect coaches and athletes to be perfect people in an imperfect world."

The public often believes too much of what it sees or reads, Schultz said, and schools often pay the price

because of the negative publicity.

"It does have an impact on the general public, you can tell that by opinion polls," Schultz said. "I think it's going to correct itself over time but it makes it tough on university presidents and administrators while all this is going on."

Change will come, but there are things to overcome before more progress is made, Schultz said.

"(Sometimes) people who are critics are too simplistic in their solutions and their views," he said. "They think that you can wave a magic wand and change things right away, and that doesn't happen."

Schultz said it's difficult to get some 800 universities with individual special interests moving in the same direction, despite major interest in reform. That again, he said, takes time.

"If it doesn't happen in 30 days," Schultz said, "people think there's nothing happening."

But Schultz is optimistic about the future.

"I think some major steps have been taken . . . to deal with integrity issues, to deal with academic standing and more are going to happen," Schultz said. "So eventually I think we'll see the tide turn on this."

Some of the measures the NCAA is making progress with are the three-year-old Proposition 48 and the Academic Progress Rule, which was introduced a year later.

While Proposition 48 tightens freshman eligibility requirements, Schultz said, the Academic Progress Rule may make it tougher because it requires athletes to declare a major after two years and make progress toward graduation in that field.

"That rule in itself is going to have a major effect on the academic integrity of athletes," Schultz said.

Both rules are under constant study to see if they do indeed improve academic standings and graduation rates, Schultz said.

Proposition 42, which "just puts 48 in its purest form" Schultz said, came under heavy fire because it used test scores to determine eligibility. Proposition 42 prohibits student-athletes who fail to meet the academic requirements established by Proposition 48 from receiving any financial assistance during their first year of college.

Proposition 42, according to Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson and others who opposed the rule, was racially biased because minority students often do not come from educational backgrounds that allow them to score high on the ACT or SAT.

Schultz said the NCAA is working to devise a type of test, other than the SAT or ACT, that would solve the problem by finding another method to show those in charge of university admissions that athletes were capable of doing college work.

Although the NCAA and those in charge of designing the test are optimistic, again, he said, "it's going to be some time before it's completed."

In addition to those rules, Schultz

said the NCAA was moving forward

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the top 10. To me, that's a strong conference."

Osborne said every conference will continue to have bad teams, as long as the current policy of firing coaches after one or two losing seasons is upheld.

"You lose continuity when you do that," he said. "You've got to realize what's possible and then go after it."

Osborne said he wouldn't necessarily be in favor of a tie-breaker system in college football. Last week, Iowa coach Haden Fry pushed for the implementation of such a plan.

"Some games ought to end in a tie," he said. "Down at the end, at some point, every coach has a decision to make whether he wants to live with a tie or not."

Osborne said the two-point conversion is enough for the college game.

Colorado moved ahead of Nebraska in The Associated Press last week, passing the Huskers for the No. 3 spot. Osborne said the teams' respective schedules make it difficult to compare the two this season.

"Obviously, we haven't played as difficult a schedule as Colorado," he said. "Many people look at Colorado as a better team right now. I just don't know."

"The nice thing is that we get to play them and find out."

MEN'S SOFTBALL


TOP TEN
by Grant CHRISTENSEN



1. Milk Bones 3-0
2. Figli A 5-0
3. Alcoholics Anonymous 6-0
4. Sig Ep B-1 4-0
5. St. Andrew's Slicers 4-0
6. Bash Riprocks 5-0
7. Harper 7 Hell Raisers 4-0
8. Beta Sig B 4-0
9. Phi Delta Theta 4-0
10. Harper 9 3-0

Game of the Week


This week's game of the week features Gleason's team, the 'A' division champs, against Sigma NU on Thursday at 10 p.m. The game will be aired on channel 5.



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