

Coaches plan to take action against NCAA

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

The NCAA's defeat of Proposal 42, which would have raised the number of basketball scholarships from 13 to 14, has the Black Coaches Association up in arms.



Drake coach Rudy Washington, who heads the association, said the BCA would protest the defeat of the scholarship increase by doing one of three things: boycotting the season, boycotting press conferences, or disrupting the NCAA tournament.

Nebraska assistant coach Jimmy Williams, a member of the BCA, said the boycott would be justified because of the cuts in scholarships over the past several years.

"This will eliminate something over 300 kids," he said. "These are 300 lives that can be benefited by scholarship."

"A lot of those kids will be minorities who won't have the money to pay their own way through college."

Williams said that Washington had contacted him about the potential boycott by the BCA.

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The association has 3,000 members, including Washington, Georgetown coach John Thompson and George Raveling of Southern California.

Williams said he agreed with Indiana coach Bobby Knight and Raveling on their views of scholarship reductions.

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Junior draftees can change mind

From Staff Reports

Juniors who declare early for the NBA draft now have a choice.

No longer will the players be obligated to play for the team that drafts them. They can now make the decision to return to their college team within 30 days after the draft.

The NCAA voted Tuesday to change the rule regarding the college eligibility of juniors who enter the NBA draft.

The players will benefit from the new rule, Nebraska assistant coach Jimmy Williams said.

"From a player's standpoint, it's very good," he said. "There have been situations in the past where players have thought they'd be a high draft choice and then discovered they weren't ready."

"Now this gives them the opportunity to test the waters."

But the new rule could have bad effects on some players, Williams said.

"It could send a bad signal to a lot of players to test the waters," he said. "The rule could benefit some players who may not have what it takes."

"I also agree with George Raveling that this will eliminate a scholarship probably for some minority kid who can't pay his way to school."

Williams said the proposal wasn't passed because the NCAA was so concerned with cutting costs in the big-name sports.

"There is no reason why one scholarship per school would hurt the financial situation of the school," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Recruiter not fazed by slow start

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

Despite having less than 3 1/2 weeks of recruiting left and only five verbal commitments, the Nebraska football coaching staff is staying calm.

Between now and Feb. 2, the Cornhuskers plan to receive 13 to 15 more commitments, recruiting coordinator Dave Gillespie said.

"These next few weeks should be very busy and very crucial," Gillespie said. "Usually by this time we have at least 10 or so commitments. But we're certainly not panicking. We think that because of the quality of players that we're involved with, it tends to go down to the end."

Coaches are prohibited by NCAA regulations from talking about potential recruits until after they sign a letter of intent to accept a scholarship.

Gillespie said the Huskers, who are allowed to award 25 scholarships this year, will give out approximately 23. In addition to losing three scholarships — because of an NCAA rule cutting the total number of football scholarships to 85 — the Huskers have also promised scholarships to five or six players who are already on campus, Gillespie said.

He said the number of athletes visiting the campus in the past few weeks had been similar to years past.

"In terms of numbers, it has been pretty normal," Gillespie said. "But in terms of quality, it has been a little abnormal. We've had maybe a little better quality overall."

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that Arizona State wide receiver John Livingston would accept a scholarship and transfer to Nebraska.

Livingston, recruited by Nebraska out of Palomar (Calif.) Junior College, caught one pass for Arizona State last fall.

Of the Huskers' other five commitments, four have come from in-state athletes. They include Ted Butler, a lineman from Lincoln Southeast; Travis Toline, a lineman from Wahoo; and Brandt Wade, a lineman from Springfield-Platteview.

Darin Erstad, an All-American outfielder on the Nebraska baseball team, will accept a scholarship with the football team. With Byron Bennett gone, Erstad expects to contend for Nebraska's punting and place-kicking duties.

Nebraska has also received a commitment from Mike Rucker, a defensive end from St. Joseph, Mo.

Just think, NU was 3 points away from Husker Twister

I put on my prettiest dress and broke out the butter-flavored Crisco. This Orange Bowl was going to be special for me.

I had watched the Cornhuskers football team for many years.

Through the good (uh, LSU) and the bad (Miami, Florida State, Penn State, Michigan, Clemson, Air Force JV), I've watched the boys. And I've oh-so-often turned the television off with a tear in my eye and a dire need for therapy.

But this isn't about me or my psychological problems, dammit. It's about the Cornprancers, what could have been and what may be.

What if Byron "gopher-killer" Bennett had made the field goal? What if Florentine State had not converted the fourth down? What if the referees hadn't had a crush on Charlie Ward? What if my mother did love me?

Well, let me tell you, this campus

and life in Nebraska as we know it would be different if the "skers would have won the national championship.

A look at what a Nebraska national title would have meant to UNL:

First and foremost, no school. Sure, we'd be on campus, but there'd be no classes and, as the Beastie Boys would say, no homework.

Also, a large, 100-man throne would be set up where the Greenspace is supposed to be and the team would sit upon it for 40 days and the student body as well as the Nebraska citizenry would travel to them to pay homage. I guess it would be called "Redspace."

People from all over this flat, under-wooded state would make a pilgrimage to this Mecca of the pigskin to glimpse the rightful Kings. College football would no longer be a profession or a money-making venture; it would be a theology.

But that's not where the day would



Beau Finley

end. The masses would conclude their spirituals to Tommie with a rousing game of Husker Twister.

I can just see it: "Right-hand blue. Hey, Mr. Raemakers, uh, that's my groin." Oh, the fun we'd have.

Next, and this is the sad part, Calvin Jones wouldn't be the only Husker leaving. Tom Osborne himself would resign as head coach in order to pursue a singing career.

Very few people are aware of the outstanding version Dr. O does of the Eddie Murphy classic "My girl wants to party all the time." He's good, reececal good.



Damon Lee/DN

Nebraska forward Bruce Chubick gets fouled Saturday.

A new look Chubick changes along with NU

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

Since arriving in Lincoln in the fall of 1989, Bruce Chubick has gone through plenty of changes — just like the Husker teams for which he has played.

In 1989, the Cornhuskers were 10-18, struggled to finish seventh in the Big Eight and lost six home games, five of which were conference games.

"We were a losing team," said Chubick, who sat out the season as a redshirt. "People just came out to see how funny it was going to be — how bad Nebraska was going to get their ass kicked."

Since that season, the Huskers have gone 76-31. They finished in the top three of the

Big Eight twice, including a second-place finish last season, and have lost only six games at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Things have definitely changed," Chubick said. "Now people come out and know they're going to see a good game."

Things have changed for Chubick this year, too. The 6-foot-7-inch, 228-pound senior from Atkinson has had to adjust to playing against opponents four or five inches taller than him.

In order to stack up, Chubick has spent more than his share of time in the Husker weight room.

"Strength is something I've put a lot of work into," he said. "I've gained about 30

See CHUBICK on 11

As coach of college football's champion, the national spotlight would be enough to spark his promising second career on the club circuit.

And who would replace the great one? One word, baby: DITKA.

But Iron Mike wouldn't only be the football coach; he'd be el presidente of UNL. Why do you think they kept that Smith guy around, calling him "president-elect"?

It's because the big wheels of the university (Graham Spanier and our editor, Jeremy Fitzpatrick) were waiting to see if we would win the Orange Bowl.

We win, Ditka's in. We lose, and the bookies take my children. Whoops, I mean the school gets that Smith guy.

Anyway, I'd like to conclude this little ditty with a message to Dr. Osborne and the rest of the football program.

I applaud your effort this season. Nebraska football only affirmed what I already knew and occasionally wrote about: It is an outstanding program, certainly among the best in the country.

I hope my humor was taken in the jovial sense it was intended. I dig Cornhusker football, but there are some funny things about it. If I had my wish, I'd hope the team could chuckle along with me.

But if they can't, I more than understand. Some people — even 300-pound muscular maniacs — are sensitive that way.

My advice to them would be to tell the DN how much my opinions blow and go back to their lives of breaking rocks and hanging out at convenience stores.

Finley is a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist, a first-year law student.