

NCAA/IAAF (Continued from Page 20)

educational goals.

The SAT should be used as a gauge toward determining deficiencies and strengths of a prospective student athlete. Using the SAT scores, the student athlete can be counseled and guided into a curriculum that best suits their strengths.

If the NCAA was serious about helping people prosper, they could have done any of the following - but it would have taken real commitment, not a quick fix:

* Char 'clear' and 'obtainable goals' for the student athlete;

* Have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) prepared each semester for the special student;

* Monitor the progress and provide real assistance as required;

* Give preparatory classes to enhance noted deficiencies found in the test;

* Reduce the amount of credits required to be taken during the season;

* Let the players retian their eligibility if declared hardship in the draft and is drafted to low or not at all;

* If a player does not get drafted or make the pros, they should be able to come back and complete their education, for as long as it may take, but they must be making measurable progress in accordance with the above guidelines.

Educators and others are probably saying: "None of these services are provided for the general student populace. And why do they deserve special treatment?"

Students who partake in big time college athletics are not regular students. No way, no how. I say this is not to imply they are better than anyone else either.

How many regular students have a cast on their legs from studying? Or wake up with pain too great to move? Or have to travel during the week to play a game? Fill stadiums of 100,000 every week for the purpose of viewing a study session? Or have the big three networks come to class every week to watch them take a test? Regular students do not have to practice and review game plans from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. during the week? Factor in many are average students, then it becomes clear why graduation rates are low.

If the holier than thou NCAA and presidents really cared, they wouldn't have implemented a legislation to eliminate the opportunity, but enacted some or all of what I have outlined to improve the process without eliminating the opportunities for so many.

What about money generated from NCAA athletics?

Money appears to be the linchpin as why universities are placed on probation. If the money problems are addressed realistically, does it stand to reason the system would operate smoother?

In the case of Washington, it was all about money. Players getting loans, supposedly getting paid for work not performed and other NVCAA violations concerning alumni helping out.

Regular students complain about special treatment for athletes, but this is one treatment they never complain about. They can get loans from whoever is willing to take the risk on them graduating and paying back. They can obtain money or cars from friends, neighbors, alumni, churches or anybody that has it to give.

It is time for the NCAA to do the fair and right thing:

* The players should receive some form of monthly payment for life necessities and college enjoyment (clothes, movies, feed, etc.);

* Given expenses to cover at least two trips home over the holidays and allowance for transportation to and from school;

* Allow them to take loans from whoever, but they must inform the university and there should be a limit;

Somehow we glorify the bad in life and forget all the good that's happening around us.

I remember when I was in college at Michigan State Univ., my roommate was from Florida, and he could not afford a winter coat or shoes. The coaches would be in violation if they give him money to buy life necessities.

So an alumni gave him the money to buy those required items. Yes, it was a violation, but it would have been a life violation if he didn't do it.

This is the time in which many Americans and concerned organizations are reaching out to make a difference and increase the opportunities for all. World wide food programs, benefits for Aids and cripples kids, etc.

At a time when more people need support and help, the lordly college presidents and the NCAA has taken the opposite approach, and decreased the opportunity for many.

But at the same time their salaries and travel allowances increase.

The goal in education is to educate as many people as humanly possible; thereby, making productive members of

society. How can these guys choose the opposite direction? How can they not take a positive role in accordance what is happening in our society today? Education and educating is what

education is all about, right? Maybe the lordly college presidents and NCAA are the ultimate professional educators, capitalizing on an old outdated theme- amateur!

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORPORATE CHALLENGE

The ninth annual Corporate Challenge games, sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities, is rapidly approaching. Opening ceremonies take place Sat., March 26 at Freedom park (E. Washington Ave. at No. Mojave Rd.).

Dave Parker, Corporate Challenge Coordinator for the City, reminds all corporations planning on competing in this year's challenge, that the registration deadline is February 1. Corporations that have not submitted their registration fees are asked to call the City's Corporate Challenge office at 229-6706 for details.

PARRIS

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Chris Parris, who still holds career batting records at UNLV, was an All-American at third base and also shortstop.

PHOTO: UNLV Sports Information

Robert, 29, and says that things are coming along just fine.

"I love to be romanced. I can't think of any lady that doesn't. Little things mean a lot to me. It doesn't take much to make me happy if you treat me with respect and show me that you care and show me that you love me. Anybody can say 'I Love You,' but to show that you love means more.

"I grew up with real strong morals and values from home and have always had a strong family background. I didn't really date a lot before Robert, because a lot of guys expect different things from a lady.

"Respect is a big thing with me. I can tell if your genuine or

just out for a good time."

Seemingly a very independent woman, Parris credits her mother, Katherine, for a fine upbringing.

"My mom made me earn everything I wanted. I've always treated my family with the utmost respect." Parris says that her mom is more like her sister, and in fact is her biggest fan, just in front of Robert.

Not one to emulate others, Parris was quick to acknowledge Track and Field star Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

"She is just an incredible athlete to me. Nothing that she does has an influence towards drugs. Her willingness to keep competing and give back to the

community - I really respect that in her."

If there is any one thing that Christine could pass along to today's youth, it would first be to - Stay in School.

"Nobody can ever take away your education and what's in your mind and in your heart. If you believe in yourself, nobody can tell you that you can't do something. If you believe, you can achieve. I've always thought that."

Christine Parris - our glance back at Black History at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

An athlete, a scholar, and hopefully, if she keeps believing and striving for the top, a Gold Medal Olympian in 1996.

NBA

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mitment to the sport of basketball, Coca-Cola has renewed and broadened its sponsorship of USA Basketball and Dream Team II and Dream Team III, which will represent the United States in this year's World Championship of Basketball and the 1966 Centennial Olympic Summer Games, respectively. NBA Properties is the marketing agent for USA Basketball.

"Coca-Cola's support of USA Basketball will help us realize our goals of continuing to develop and grow the sport of basketball in the United States and the rest of the world," said C. M. Newton, President, USA Basketball.

Other marketing and promotional activity using the theme, "Always Jammin," will extend through multiple channels, including sports arenas, theatres, theme parks, supermarkets, convenience stores, service stations and other retail outlets.

Beginning in February, point-of-sale displays featuring the animated uniforms - including life-size cardboard cutouts - will appear in numerous outlets, including lobbies and concessions at United Artists theatres. The cinema chain also will offer moviegoers a chance to purchase officially licensed NBA merchandise at a discount when they buy a special popcorn-and-soft drink combination that includes a free Butterfinger candy bar. United Artists is contributing its profits from the sales of NBA merchandise to the NBA Stay In School program.

SOMEBODY'S DYING FOR A NEW PAIR OF SNEAKERS.

All over America children are the victims of violent crime. They are being assaulted and even murdered for the sake of anything from a pair of sneakers to some loose change in their pockets.

It's a situation that's only getting worse. Unless you do something to fight back, your child could become one of those victims.

You can make a difference. Start now by calling 1-800-WH-REVENT and we'll send you information on successful ways to join with others to protect your children from crime in your neighborhood. 1-800-WH-REVENT

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Crime Prevention Coalition and U.S. Department of Justice