

Graduation rate for Black athletes rises

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - The number of Black athletes getting diplomas across all NCAA Division I sports jumped 24 percentage points from 1984 to 2004, marking big gains for a demographic that once recorded just 35 percent graduation success, according to a study released Thursday.

Black athletes were at least 15 percent more likely to graduate if they entered college in 1998 instead of

1984, according to the report by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport.

Female Black athletes remained more successful than males, graduating 73 percent of the time compared with 54 percent for men. The same was true of Whites, with 73 percent of women graduating and 66 percent of men.

Graduation success for all Whites still outpaced Black athletes 66 percent to 52 per-

cent, according to federal graduation rates cited in the study.

"Certainly, the data is trending in the right direction," NCAA spokesman Bob Williams said. "The increases for all African-American student athletes were between 15 and 18 percent, and that's good, but that doesn't mean the job's over. There's room for improvement, and we hope that institutions are able to continue

that trend working upward."

The percentage improvements for Black athletes from 1984 until 2004 were calculated using the NCAA's new graduation success rates — considered more accurate than federal numbers because they include transfer students.

By that standard, 59 percent of Black athletes got their diplomas in the latest year. No NCAA data for White athletes was included

in the study. The report studied each class of students entering college by year, and athletes were allotted six years to graduate.

Study author Richard Lapchick said the results were good news for college athletics.

"The most encouraging thing is [that] finally it's narrowing," Lapchick said of the racial performance gap. "This is something I've been writing about for so long, and it's been the most discouraging thing about athletics and academics — that gap has been persistently wide, and has in some cases gotten wider."

Lapchick also noted that Black athletes continue to graduate at higher rates than Black students in general.

Forty-three percent of Black students in general graduated, compared with 59 percent of Black student-athletes.

In revenue-generating sports, Black men's basketball players graduated 49 percent of the time, compared with 54 percent for Black football players and 71 percent for women's basketball players, according to the study.

Wide achievement discrepancies between Black and White players in basketball persist. At 43 percent of Division I schools, White graduation rates were at least 30 points higher than rates for Black players. In women's basketball, 25 percent of schools saw that big of a disparity.

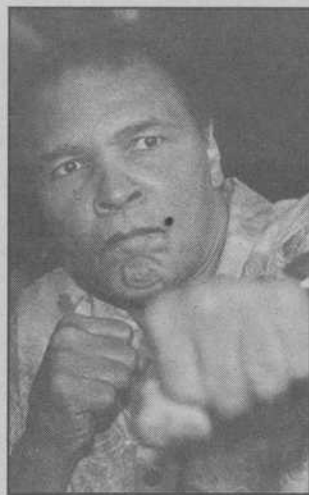
Ali tad slower but still punching

NEW YORK (AP) - Parkinson's disease has diminished his voice and slowed his body, but Muhammad Ali still exercises regularly in a gym at his home, punching a heavy bag and sometimes sparring playfully in a boxing ring, his wife says.

He hasn't driven a car in 15 years and "he's no longer the type to pick up the phone and call friends the way he used to, but we converse," his wife, Lonnie, said in an interview in the March-April issue of *Neurology Now*, an American Academy of Neurology magazine for patients, their families and caregivers.

"Don't get me wrong, it's not like he's sitting there espousing rhetoric, but his words still carry impact, they're still very important," she told the magazine. "You absolutely can understand what he wants, what he says, what he's thinking."

Ali, 64, has been in the public eye in recent months. He was unable to walk unassisted but still spirited in November when he was



MUHAMMAD ALI

awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bush, and playful again a few days later at the dedication of a center

named for him in Louisville, Ky.

The magazine piece offers a rare glimpse of his home life in Berrien Springs, Mich.

"Muhammad is getting older," Lonnie Ali said. "And we're tired of being on the road all the time. We have a 14-year-old at home and he's in school, so we don't like to leave him behind so much."

Asked whether his busy travel schedule is too much to handle, the boxing great gave the magazine a single hoarse word: "No."

His daughter Rasheda said that he loves magic tricks and that he amuses his grandchildren by drawing

pictures for them.

Because his disease has interfered with his balance and posture, she told the magazine, "when I'm with him, I just hold his hand while we walk."

She took him to the new version of the movie "King Kong," she said, and he "just loved it. ... He ate all my popcorn and we just had a wonderful time."

Asked what he would tell his fellow Parkinson's patients if he regained his voice, she said, "He would tell them what he tells me when we're alone and we're talking. He'd say, 'Don't give up. Believe in yourself.'"

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LEGAL NOTICES



HOUSING AUTHORITY CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

5390 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122-5335
PHONE (702) 451-8041 • FAX (702) 922-1626

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICE
RFP# 6088-0012

The Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms and/or individuals for the provision of legal services. Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience in serving as general counsel to an organization, with experience serving the needs of public housing authorities and/or governmental agencies preferred.

Proposals marked "Legal Services RFP Documents" will be received at the office of the Executive Director, HACC, 5390 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89122, in accordance with the RFP solicitation, at which time all proposals received will be tabulated, analyzed, and a recommendation for Award of Contract will be made to the HACC Board of Commissioners.

A pre-proposal conference will be held in HACC's Board Room on **Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at 9:00 AM**. All Respondents are encouraged to attend.

Responses to this solicitation will be received by HACC until **5:00 PM** local time on **May 24, 2006**. No late proposals will be accepted. Disadvantaged-minority- and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

Contact the Contracts Administration Department at 922-1623 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for a proposal package. All RFP documents are also available on the HACC website at www.haccnv.org in Portable Document Format (PDF).

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
APPLIANCES - REFRIGERATORS AND STOVES
IFB # B6089-0013

Sealed bids marked "APPLIANCES - REFRIGERATORS AND STOVES, IFB #B6089-0013" will be received at the office of the Interim Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC), 5390 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89122, in accordance with the IFB solicitation.

Sealed responses to this solicitation will be received by HACC until 12:00 PM (noon) local time on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, at which time all bids properly received will be opened, read aloud, and made a matter of public record. No late bids will be accepted.

All bids properly received will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners at its meeting at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 for recommendation and/or approval of bid award. The HACC reserves the right to waive minor informalities, to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the HACC.

Bid packages are available by contacting Contact Bob Gibeault at 922-1616 between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, or by download from www.haccnv.org in Portable Document Format (PDF).
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Lawyers

(Continued from Page 5) documents out of the hands of lawyers with civil cases against State Farm.

Because Hood also has filed a civil case on behalf of the state against State Farm and other insurance companies, State Farm is asking the judge to bar Hood himself from seeing the records.

State Farm denied Lott's claim in December based on a report prepared by Jade Engineering & Construction Inc. that concluded that the house was "probably damaged by storm surge/flooding and not by wind."

Scruggs is asking a federal judge to order State Farm to turn over Lott's entire case file as well as records for other policyholders' claims.