

Study: Whites dominate NCAA leadership

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - White men dominate the leadership positions in college sports, a new study says, with women and minorities making only slow progress moving into the top jobs.

Athletic directors, conference commissioners and university presidents overwhelmingly are White, the study released recently by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport found.

"There's a gradual movement toward positive change both in terms of race and gender, but it's been very slow," Richard Lapchick, the institute's director, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "The situation still remains that people who lead college sports in America are still White, which doesn't reflect the student athletes on the teams they represent."

All 11 NCAA Division I-A conference commissioners — who Lapchick called the most powerful people in col-

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— Richard Lapchick
Director of University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport



lege sports — were White men, according to the study, which looked at employment data from the 2004-05 academic year for all 1,025 NCAA member institutions, conferences and NCAA headquarters.

"In all of Division I, excluding the historically Black conferences, all 36 of Division I conference commissioners were White," the study said. Six were women, four of them leading sport-specific conferences such as the Northern Pacific Field Hockey Conference and the American Lacrosse Conference.

Head coaching positions also reflected a big disparity between Whites and Blacks.

Basketball was a bright spot of sorts, but even in that sport 25.2 percent of all Division I head coaches were

Black (an all-time high), and yet Blacks made up 57.8 percent of Division I basketball players.

With Randy Shannon's recent hiring to head the University of Miami football team, six of 119 Division I-A head football coaches are Black. In all of Division I, Blacks held 6.1 percent of head coaching positions. On Division I football fields, Black players made up 45.4 percent of the athletes, the study said.

No Latino heads an NCAA Division I-A football team.

Blacks make up 43.7 percent of women's Division I

basketball teams, but only 9.3 percent of those teams are coached by Black women — even though that number increased 1.6 percentage points in 2004-05.

In Division I-A, 94.1 percent of university presidents whose colleges are part of the NCAA were White, 3.4 percent were Black and 2.5 percent were Latino, the study said. Fifteen women held their university's top job, or 12.6 percent, an increase of 1.1 percentage points.

NCAA headquarters received high marks from the study, with 18.8 percent of vice president/chief of staff positions represented by

Blacks, and 25 percent represented by women.

The NCAA's vice president for Diversity and Inclusion, Charlotte Westerhaus, said NCAA headquarters was demonstrating leadership but there still was progress to be made throughout college sports.

"We want to celebrate the progress but at the same time we want to acknowledge that we are not where we could be as far as diversity," Westerhaus said.

"The NCAA is doing everything we can to support our membership in effectuating open and fair hiring practices."

Ex-Duke players buy soccer club

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former Duke co-captains Brian Davis and Christian Laettner wore Black and red soccer scarves instead of basketball jerseys Monday as MLS unveiled a new, minority-led ownership group that is paying a league-record \$33 million for the operating rights to D.C. United.

Now comes the hard part — finding a way to build the team a new stadium in the poorest section of the city.

Davis and Laettner joined a group called D.C. United Holdings and led by San Francisco businessmen Victor MacFarlane and Will Chang. MacFarlane and Davis are the first Black owners in MLS, commissioner Don Garber said. Chang, one of the owners of baseball's San Francisco Giants, is the first Chinese-American MLS owner, according to Garber.

"Soccer is the No. 1 sport for people of color all around the world, but not here in the U.S. — yet," MacFarlane said. "We want to be part of the change that is now on the horizon. We would love to help make soccer the sport that African-Americans and other children of color first look to for recreation and entertainment."

The new owners will now focus on building a stadium on the south bank of the Anacostia River, across the river from the site of the new Washington Nationals ballpark. The soccer stadium will cost \$150 million to \$200 million, and the goal is to complete it by the 2009 season on land now owned by the National Park Service.

The group said it plans to add three more members: Discovery Communications founder John Hendricks, Black Entertainment Television talk show host Carlos Watson, and California real estate developer Allen Warren. In MLS, the teams are all owned by the league but operated individually.

United's rights had been owned by the Anschutz Entertainment Group. AEG owned the rights to as many as six teams at one point, but it is now down to three in a league that is expanding to 13 teams this year.

The sale is not expected to affect the day-to-day operations of a flagship franchise that has won a record four MLS titles. Kevin Payne will remain the team's president.

Davis and Laettner are also part of a group trying to buy the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies.

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