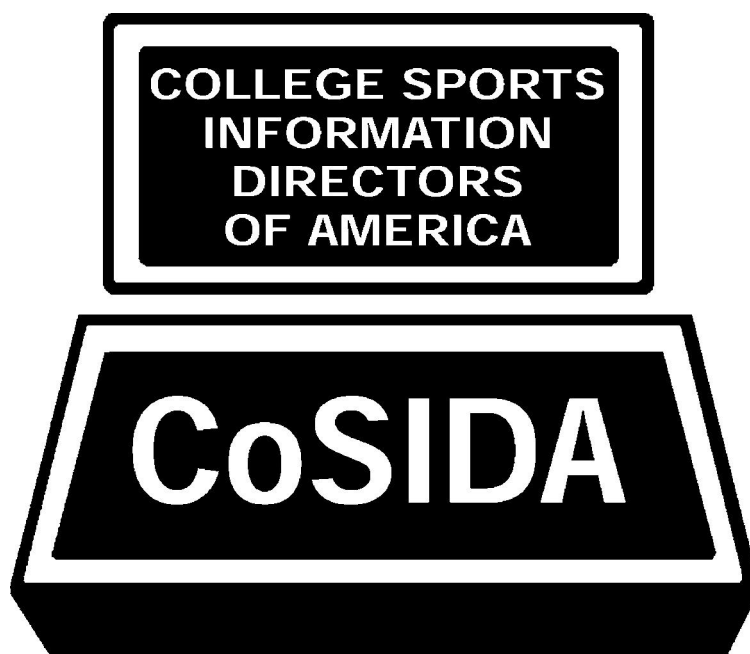


CoSIDA NEWS

Intercollegiate Athletics News from Around the Nation



May 22, 2007

Orlando Sentinel

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College baseball changes looming

Coaches fear new rules aimed at helping academic performance will end up hurting the game.

Dave Curtis
Sentinel Staff Writer

May 22, 2007

South Carolina baseball Coach Ray Tanner fumes every time he hears about the changes. The NCAA, in an effort to boost the academic performance of players throughout college baseball, has approved changes Tanner thinks may harm the game he loves.

"There are going to be issues with this," Tanner said on a Southeastern Conference coaches teleconference earlier this month. "And the caliber of play in college baseball is probably going to go down."

"This" is a four-pronged overhaul of Division I college baseball rules approved in April by the NCAA Board of Directors and set to take effect for the 2008-09 academic year.

Starting then, teams will face new standards for doling out their scholarships and new limits to the numbers on their rosters. Players must be academically eligible in late summer rather than mid-winter. And any player who transfers to another Division I school must sit out a year, a rule previously enforced only in football, basketball and men's ice hockey.

The changes, recommended by a study group of coaches and administrators, are designed to increase the academic performance of D-I players. But they will affect almost every corner of the game, from summer leagues to high-school recruits to teams' budgets.

Most coaches agree that too many baseball programs struggled to meet the NCAA's Academic Performance Rate (APR), which measures each athlete's progress toward obtaining a degree. When the NCAA announced earlier this month the list of 112 teams to be penalized -- for the first time -- for poor APRs, 28 were baseball teams.

Still, some coaches say the changes seem overbearing.

"There was a small problem," Florida State Coach Mike Martin said. "But there was more dialogue needed before we went out and made these drastic changes."

The APR was instituted by the NCAA earlier this decade to monitor athletes' success in the classroom and their ability to remain eligible. Poor APR scores under the new rules may cost a team 10 percent of its scholarships and regular-season games.

Players who post poor grades, leave early after the Major League Baseball draft or transfer to another school hurt their team's APR. And the NCAA's Baseball Academic Enhancement Working Group found that 50 percent of players leave

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college or transfer before their eligibility expires.

Hence the changes, which start with scholarships and roster size. The NCAA currently limits baseball programs to 11.7 scholarships -- compared with 85 in football and 13 in basketball. Those scholarships can be divided among an unlimited number of players.

But beginning in 2008-09, teams can't have more than 35 players, and only 30 can receive scholarship money. In 2009-10, the latter number drops to 27, and each of those players must receive at least one-third the value of a full scholarship.

Those numbers will change life for major programs. This season, for example, Florida has 44 players on its roster, 39 of whom receive part of the school's scholarship allotment, assistant athletic director Chip Howard said.

Howard said he and UF Coach Pat McMahon have begun to devise a strategy of how to whittle the roster and the scholarship recipients to NCAA specifications by the deadlines.

"The biggest challenge is going to be how to get down to those new numbers," Howard said.

The scholarship shift and roster limits should signal a new commitment between players and teams, said a report released by the NCAA's working group, which included McMahon.

Athletes can benefit from receiving at least one-third of a scholarship and should see less competition for playing time with a smaller roster. Coaches likely will be less likely to run off players through fall tryouts since departed players will count against a team's APR and cannot be replaced for the spring. Those concepts should keep more players with their original programs.

Another option for frustrated players and coaches -- transferring -- should be reduced as well. Starting with the 2008-09 academic year, players who switch schools must sit for a season.

Almost every Top 25 program in the country has received a boost this season from a transfer who became eligible right away. Mark Hallberg has started all 55 games for Florida State this season at shortstop, hitting .373 with 51 RBIs. Had baseball's new rules been in place this season, he would have contributed none of that to the ranked Seminoles: He transferred before this season from Illinois-Chicago.

Georgia Coach David Perno said part of the legislation could lead to a flurry of transfers in the next few months, the last time a player can move without being penalized.

"When things weren't cheery at one place, you went to another place and made things work," Perno said on the teleconference. "Now all these kids are sitting at schools . . . and this is their last year to go."

The last change shifts when players are certified as NCAA-eligible athletes. Any player who isn't academically eligible at a school by the start of the fall semester can't play for that school when the season starts in the spring.

This change may send more players to summer school to boost their grades before the fall semester begins. And that may prevent them from playing summer baseball, where skills are honed and scouts become impressed.

"Some of those leagues have really taken off," Alabama Coach Jim Wells said on the teleconference. "But a lot of the leagues may fall because there aren't enough kids to go around."

Everyone, it seems, agrees college baseball will change for good. Whether those changes are good will remain college baseball's top debate for seasons to come.

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The Birmingham News

Rugged road to Hoover

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

JON SOLOMON
News staff writer

Five-time national champion LSU last missed the SEC Tournament in 1984. Kentucky shared the 2006 SEC regular-season title. Georgia went to the College World Series twice in the last three years. Auburn reached 11 of the past 13 NCAA Tournaments.

None of them are in Hoover this week.

For the 12th straight year, the 12-team SEC will stage its conference tournament with eight teams - much to the chagrin of league coaches, who want more.

Most recently, SEC coaches voted unanimously last November to examine a 10-team format with fewer games. South Carolina coach Ray Tanner said this month the call for more teams has fallen on "deaf ears."

"I don't think it's fallen on deaf ears," said Mississippi State Athletics Director Larry Templeton. "I don't think the coaches can agree on the format."

Compromising on a model has prevented the expansion of an already successful tournament. The tournament turned a profit of \$181,346 last year, according to the SEC's 2006 IRS filing.

Keeping teams fresh for the NCAA Tournament, lack of flexibility over rainouts, tiebreaker concerns, and asking fans to watch too much baseball are reasons the tournament remains at eight, said Charles Bloom, SEC associate commissioner, who is baseball coordinator.

"You want all your teams to share in the tournament, but what stops you from doing it are the time constraints and other issues," said Bloom, who studied several models. "For what we ask of the tournament, what we do now is the best way to have a champion."

From 1993 to '95, all 12 teams participated at different locations in divisional tournaments with Eastern and Western champions. The SEC has used the eight-team, double-elimination format, modeled after the College World Series, since 2000.

Two 12-team leagues, the ACC and Big 12, recently changed to pool play with eight teams. Each team is guaranteed three games, and the pool winners advance to the single-elimination championship game.

The format loses some excitement from tournament baseball, but it has advantages. Since schedules are set in advance, fans can plan their travel better and coaches can organize starting pitching similar to a three-game series.

It also can save pitching arms for next week's NCAA Tournament since the most number of games an ACC or Big 12 team can play is four. The maximum in the current SEC format is six.

"If Arkansas and Vandy continue to do well and they're the top two teams in the league, you don't want to play six or seven games in your league tournament," Tanner said. "There are formats that could be worked out that could satisfy everybody."

That's easier said than done. The 10-team Southern Conference Tournament is believed to be the only

Division I league tournament with more than eight teams, thanks to two play-in games before double elimination.

One reason SEC coaches want expansion is concern over how they are judged by not getting to Hoover, Templeton said.

"It's a legit worry," said Templeton, who prefers a 12-team, single-elimination format but concedes he is in the minority. "I've told my fellow ADs that we need to be very careful when we start evaluating our coaches based on the SEC Tournament."

Making or missing the SEC Tournament doesn't necessarily solidify or doom a team's NCAA chances.

In each of the last four years, one SEC team didn't make the conference tournament yet reached the 64-team NCAA field. Last year, LSU went to Hoover and Mississippi State didn't, but it was Mississippi State - not LSU - in the NCAA Tournament.

Skip Bertman, LSU's athletics director and former baseball coach, said if he knew a 10-team SEC Tournament would yield 10 NCAA teams every year, he would be in favor. However, he doubts the NCAA will ever take more than nine teams from a conference.

"I don't think ADs are going to look at a coach as being less than good because he didn't make the (SEC) tournament," Bertman said. "He'll be evaluated based on other teams and the record over a period of years. Of course, there's a high correlation between not making the tournament and your record."

Valuing the regular season is also a factor when considering expansion. Entering the final regular-season series last weekend, only two teams had clinched a spot in Hoover and nine of the other 10 were still mathematically alive.

"If they take all 12, it does cheapen the season a little bit," Mississippi State coach Ron Polk said. "You reward excellence in athletics like in the classroom. The ones who go to Hoover are getting A's, B's and C's, and the ones who don't are getting D's and F's. What's wrong with that?"

Bloom said it is unlikely the format will change anytime soon.

"The very fact we have this debate is a product of the success of the tournament," Bloom said. "Everyone wants to get to Hoover."

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The Florida Times-Union

May 20, 2007

Dive into pool play proving popular

By BOB THOMAS,
The Times-Union

TALLAHASSEE - The Atlantic Coast Conference hopes its new baseball tournament format will provide additional exposure without overexposing its players to the rigors of a double-elimination bracket.

Seeded and split into two four-team brackets, the ACC's top eight teams convene at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville for Wednesday's opening games in the round-robin tournament. Each team is guaranteed three games and one day off, with Sunday's championship game pitting the two bracket winners.

Previous tournaments were played in a double-elimination format with no pool play. It created a wilder bracket that was harder on fans and teams because the schedule and matchups were always changing.

The new format, first adopted by the Big 12 and also used at the College World Series, lessens the stress on pitching staffs - most of which are preparing to open NCAA regional play the next week.

"I think we all looked at the format and thought this might be what we're looking for," North Carolina coach Mike Fox said. "The day off in there is also appealing. Your relievers, if you have to go deep in your bullpen early in your first game or two, it won't tax your bullpen."

Coach Mike Martin, whose Florida State Seminoles are the No. 1 seed, prefers the new format because it prevents the possibility of playing six games in five days, "where everybody's dog-tired for [the next] four days, and you're getting ready to play the most important weekend of the season."

In addition to improving the odds of getting more teams into the College World Series, ACC commissioner John Swofford made it a priority to have the entire tournament televised. All 13 games will be carried by the league's regional sports network affiliates for the first time.

"You go into every year, and you have some particular things you want to get accomplished, and that was way up at the top of the list," Swofford said. "The change in format helped us get there."

Every program stands to benefit from additional television exposure.

"We didn't realize the power of television until we got on it last year in Omaha for two weeks," said Fox, whose team reached the College World Series championship game. "I heard from people I hadn't heard from in 40 years. Those [ACC] games being on, one day after another for five days, is just terrific."

In years past, the ACC Tournament has only had one or two games televised.

The TV partners have embraced the new format because it provides the latitude to adjust the schedule, assuring prime-time exposure for the best matchups. In turn, those games also should be big draws at the Baseball Grounds.

"You can set the matchups so that you can have some of the local teams early in the evening," said ACC assistant commissioner Davis Whitfield, who coordinates the tournament. "It helps with crowds and things of that nature. We can sort of maneuver the bracket a little bit better, since you know who you're going to play on what day."

That will be evident when the tournament schedule is released tonight.

Florida State likely will be assigned Wednesday's 7 p.m. game and also play in the late game Friday and Saturday.

The fixed schedule also will allow for better planning by fans.

"It's more fan-friendly than before," Swofford said. "Heck, I had a hard time keeping up with who's playing and when [in years past], and I'm sure the average fan did."

Drew Hankin, who's a member of the FSU baseball fan group known as The Animals, concurs.

"It's definitely better for the teams," Hankin said. "The pitching staff doesn't get the wear and tear it did before."

"You can plan a whole lot easier. As soon as they come out with the times, it's going to be a whole lot easier for the casual fans."

The Jacksonville Suns are handling ACC ticket sales, and general manager Kirk Goodman, said advance sales are slightly ahead of last year's pace, when the tournament drew a record 72,951 to the Baseball Grounds. It was the second consecutive attendance record established since the tournament was moved to Jacksonville, where it will return again in 2008 before heading to Boston's Fenway Park in 2009.

Goodman expects sales to pick up following tonight's schedule announcement, which could provide some attractive pairings.

Entering the final weekend of the ACC regular season, FSU and Clemson appeared to be on course for a tournament showdown, likely Friday or Saturday night.

"That's going to be unbelievable," Goodman said. "Those two teams the last two years have been the biggest draws by far. ..."

"I wouldn't be surprised to see [attendance] go over 80,000 [for the tournament]. We've broken the attendance record the last two years. Having the format change and the TV, we should break that."

bob.thomas@jacksonville.com,

(850) 224-7515 ACC Baseball Tournament Teams to be determined All games at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville
Wednesday's games Session I: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Session II: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday's games Session III: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday's games Session IV: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday's games Session V: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Session VI: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 27 Championship game: 1 p.m.

This story can be found on Jacksonville.com at http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/052007/spn_171344562.shtml.


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D-I programs spend more than they earn

By Frank Fitzpatrick - The Philadelphia Inquirer

WASHINGTON _ Better than 90 percent of Division I athletic programs spend more than they earn, by an average of \$7.1 million annually, according to figures released Monday by NCAA researchers.

The statistics, for 2004-05, were included in a report urging the NCAA to standardize its procedures for collecting financial data, which was presented during a meeting of the Knight Commission, a college sports watchdog agency.

Only 22 of the 313 Division I athletic departments were self-supporting, the study noted. The rest required bailouts, either direct subsidies from their institutions or student fees, to balance their books. "That means a larger percentage (of sports spending) is being borne by the institutions," said Peter Likens, the former president of Lehigh University who chaired the NCAA Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Intercollegiate Athletics. "And that we regard as unsustainable."

Institutional allocations to the biggest Division I schools, the 11 conferences plus Notre Dame that make up the 117-member Football Bowl Subdivision, amounted to 21.6 percent of revenue, an average contribution of \$7.8 million. Temple is included in that group.

For the 109 other Division I football programs, such as Villanova and Penn in the Philadelphia area, the colleges allocated 71.1 percent of their budget funds, an average contribution of \$7.6 million. And for non-football Division I institutions, such as St. Joseph's, the figures were 73.6 percent, or an average of \$6.7 million for each of the 87 schools.

The report did not identify the 22 self-sustaining schools, though commission members indicated they were all among the college football superpowers. The elite among those big-time football schools _ Penn State, Alabama, Notre Dame and others _ all filed federal documents that showed multimillion-dollar profits from that sport in 2004-05.

Football and men's basketball produce the lion's share of revenue in the multibillion-dollar collegiate sports business. Likens pointed out that while athletic budgets make up only 4 percent to 5 percent of all university spending, the growth of their increases has been "irresistible," three to four times the rate of other university spending hikes.

"We have to hope we can slow it down," said Likens, one of the Knight Commission's 20 members, most of whom are current or former university presidents. "This really becomes a big issue when you're talking about athletic debt. If the athletic department can't pay it, the university will have to. And that won't be popular."

The largest single athletic expense for most athletic departments is scholarships. NCAA president Myles Brand recently said that schools spent \$1.2 billion on scholarships last year, as well as \$150 million in academic-support programs. Also driving the spending increases, said Andrea Fischer Newman, chairwoman of Michigan's board of regents, are skyrocketing salaries for football and basketball coaches.

But what she termed the "arms race" to build and refurbish athletic facilities with borrowed money is most worrisome in the long run, she said. In the last decade, for example, Ohio State, which has the nation's largest athletic budget at close to \$100 million, refurbished its football stadium and built new state-of-the-art facilities for basketball, hockey, baseball and track. The on-campus arena where the hockey and basketball teams now play was constructed even though a new arena had just opened in downtown Columbus.

"That capital-debt service is an irreversible commitment," Likens said. The report, the recommendations of which will be considered by the NCAA board at its next meeting, is one of the first studies to differentiate between revenue generated directly from sports (ticket sales, TV and conference money, etc.) and that coming from the schools themselves.

The increases in school contributions have become a concern since more and more states are cutting back on subsidies to the institutions they support. That trend, coupled with the rapid hike in sports expenditures, prompted the NCAA to commission the study. It suggested that a sensible first step would be standardizing the way colleges submit financial data to the NCAA. That would permit schools to better compare and contrast their spending habits with those of similar institutions.

Likens noted that while public schools might be willing to reveal their data, it was unlikely that their private counterparts would follow suit. And, given antitrust restraints, the NCAA would not have the clout to force them, he said. The study was done by the NCAA research staff and the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

The report "comes as no surprise to college athletics administrators around the country," said Temple athletic director Bill Bradshaw. "While we try to maximize revenue, the primary purpose of intercollegiate athletics is not to make money. It is to add to the texture of the college experience for our students and to contribute to the educational experiences of our student-athletes."

Temple is part of the Mid-American Conference, a league in the lower tier of the Football Bowl Subdivision whose athletic departments traditionally lose millions on sports.

Money & Management<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v53/i38/38a00101.htm>

From the issue dated May 25, 2007

Life-Insurance Deals May Be Costly for Colleges**Experts say high fees and financing structures may hurt returns for institutions that take out policies on alumni**

By BRAD WOLVERTON

In the past two months, nearly 100 colleges have started exploring a financial concept that seems almost too good to be true: collecting hundreds of millions of dollars for long-term capital needs by taking out life-insurance policies on wealthy alumni.

The idea started with Oklahoma State University, which said this spring that it had secured some \$270-million for its athletics program by setting up life-insurance policies on 27 boosters. The university said it would borrow \$20-million to pay for the policies and be the sole beneficiary of the plans after the donors died.

Since then some of the country's largest institutions — including Texas A&M and Washington State Universities, and the Universities of Georgia, Maryland at College Park, and Oklahoma — have inquired about the idea.

Dozens of smaller athletics departments are also evaluating plans, and the concept is drawing increasing interest outside of sports, according to several companies that set up policies for institutions. Although there is no telling how many colleges will ultimately establish plans — and many view the concept skeptically — a handful of institutions have apparently already started contacting donors to gauge their interest.

Some college officials see life-insurance policies as a foolproof way to preserve the long-term financial health of their institutions. As long as they own the plans themselves, the colleges believe they will receive the full benefits when their donors die.

But some insurance experts worry that agents' commissions, investment uncertainties, and longer life spans could cut into the money colleges ultimately receive from policies.

"Insurance companies are very good at making profit," says J.J. MacNab, an insurance analyst in Bethesda, Md., who has testified before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee about problems with charity-owned life insurance. "Over the long haul, insurance provides charities with a mediocre return on their investment."

State insurance commissioners who have heard about colleges' growing interest in the arrangements warn them to proceed with caution before establishing plans.

"There are ways you can set up life-insurance funding mechanisms that are completely appropriate," says Julie Mix McPeak, executive director of the Kentucky Office of Insurance and chair of the life insurance and annuities committee of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. "But there are many schemes created on a daily basis that violate various state laws."

In fact, the Florida Department of Financial Services announced this month that it would investigate the potentially fraudulent business practices of at least five insurance agents, one of whom has helped scores of charitable

organizations set up life-insurance policies. And the National Association of Insurance Commissioners is considering a model law to limit the financial incentives that agents and investors receive when policies are cashed out before an insured individual dies, a practice that one state insurance regulator calls a "moral hazard."

Many colleges are named as beneficiaries in individual life-insurance plans and count on payments that come at the end of their donors' lives to build their endowments and make long-term financial plans. But few colleges say they have ever tried to gather a pool of alumni to insure their lives.

That idea attracted widespread attention after T. Boone Pickens, a Texas oil tycoon and well-known Oklahoma State benefactor, allowed the university to take out a \$10-million policy on his life, prompting more than two dozen other Cowboy boosters to follow.

Since then the Management Compensation Group, in Dallas, which helped Oklahoma State establish its plans, says it has started working with 16 major universities to arrange life-insurance deals with alumni.

The company would not disclose the names of the institutions because of confidentiality agreements. But John Ridings Lee, its chief executive, says five are in the Big Ten Conference, four are in the Big 12, three are Ivy League institutions, and two each are in the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Southeastern Conference.

While initial interest in the plans came from athletics departments, Mr. Lee says, two-thirds of the institutions his company is working with plan to use their insurance proceeds to finance capital improvements, scholarships, and other needs outside of their athletics programs.

Like Oklahoma State, most of the colleges are hoping to find about 25 wealthy, older alumni who will let the institutions establish \$10-million life-insurance policies on them. The colleges would pay about \$10-million a year in premiums, using money from their foundations to finance the plans. After about 10 years, Mr. Lee says, the policies would be paid in full. And when the donors died, the institutions would collect around \$250-million.

For its part, the Management Compensation Group receives an administrative-service fee from the insurance companies, Mr. Lee says. He would not elaborate on how much his company makes from putting together the deals, saying it is different in every case. But he says the fees would not affect how much money the colleges collected.

Some brokers and agents earn big upfront fees that can cut into the colleges' take. On average, brokers' commissions are about 50 percent of first-year premiums, says Ms. MacNab. If premiums cost \$100,000, for example, insurance companies must pay \$50,000 to the broker, she says. For that reason, she advises colleges to require companies to disclose all the fees they are paid — and walk away if the companies refuse to cooperate.

"You need to know who's profiting and how because those fees can affect how much you ultimately bring in," she says. "If I were a charity, I would have the middleman put it in writing and sign it."

Borrowing Money

About six months before Oklahoma State announced its deals, Collegiate Financial Services, a Lexington, S.C., company that provides financial services to many athletics departments, began exploring the idea of life-insurance policies. The company has since formed an alliance with Old Colony Associates, a Hilton Head, S.C., company that started helping charitable organizations design life-insurance plans in May 2006.

This spring the two companies have held three conference calls to sell athletics officials on the idea. Company officials would not provide a list of the colleges that have participated in the calls, saying they have not kept an accurate record of the institutions, but they believe more than 100 college officials have listened in.

Collegiate Financial Services offers several options to help colleges finance policies. Institutions or individuals that

cannot afford to pay the policy premiums may borrow from a group of lenders that have put up about \$500-million, says Mark Mullady, the company's national program director.

Any time a bank or third party becomes involved in policies, colleges' financial interest begins to erode, says Stephan R. Leimberg, chief executive of Leimberg Information Services, which publishes a charitable-planning newsletter for lawyers.

"As soon as you start borrowing money to finance these things, they become a lot less appealing," he says. "The more people who have to wet their beaks, the less chance the charity has of winning."

Sometimes outside investors purchase the life-insurance policies that individuals and charitable organizations own, a practice that concerns state insurance commissioners. Insurance regulators are trying to put an end to such "life settlement" arrangements, in which individuals or charitable groups hold policies for a short time and then sell them on the secondary insurance market. The practice allows charitable organizations to collect on the policy before a donor dies — but usually only a fraction of the policy's value. The agents who broker the deals and the investors who buy the policies often earn the most.

"Manufacturing life insurance for the purpose of creating an investment opportunity violates the intent of life insurance generally," says Ms. McPeak, the Kentucky insurance commissioner.

Next month, at its annual meeting, in San Francisco, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners hopes to approve a model law to try to end what it sees as abusive practices in the life-settlement market. Its proposal would take away some of the financial incentives that insurance agents and investors receive when they settle plans early, but the restrictions would have to be enacted by individual states to take effect.

Cashing Out

One of the most outspoken proponents of life settlements is Barry Kaye, a Florida insurance agent who has made a fortune brokering life-insurance deals, many of which involve charities.

Last month Mr. Kaye, an alumnus of Florida Atlantic University who has donated more than \$16-million to the institution, said at an FAU Foundation meeting that he wanted the university to endorse a life-insurance program similar to Oklahoma State's.

In an interview with *The Chronicle* this month, he said he wanted the college to establish life-insurance policies on other alumni to benefit the business school, which is named after him.

Craig Angelos, the athletics director, first heard about the concept when Florida Atlantic played Oklahoma State in football last September. In recent months, Mr. Angelos says, he has discussed the idea with the university's president, general counsel, and chair of the foundation. Administrators have not decided to start a program yet, but Mr. Angelos likes the idea.

"If it is legal and everyone feels comfortable with it, we would launch it as a planned-giving tool for athletics," with the hope of signing up three to five donors a year, he says. "We have a lot of older people in this area with a lot of money, and I think this program could really help benefit our institution."

Florida Atlantic officials are aware of insurance regulators' concerns about companies that settle life-insurance policies before donors die, Mr. Angelos says.

"We know you can't go into it with that intent, but you can reserve the right to go that route," he says.

State insurance regulators may have the last word on the matter. Earlier this month, Florida officials moved to shut

down Coventry First, a Fort Washington, Pa., company that purchases life-insurance policies from the elderly. At least five insurance agents connected to the company, including Mr. Kaye, were named in a show-cause order issued by the state, which requires Coventry First to defend itself or be shut down.

According to the order, Mr. Kaye's company, Barry Kaye Associates, pocketed \$400,000 in commissions when one 73-year-old woman's policy was settled — even though his company had "nothing to do" with the transaction, the order says.

A spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Financial Services, which oversees insurance agents, said it had opened a separate investigation into the insurance agents associated with Coventry First.

Mr. Kaye would not comment on the allegations, but defended his work with charitable organizations.

"I've been in this business for 45 years, and I have helped raise money for universities, hospitals, the Jewish Federation — I've been involved with many charities," he said. "I'm convinced the best way to really give is to buy an insurance policy."

He also said he had no plans to stop settling policies before donors die. "Why would I do that?" he said. "I'm just helping charities get the money sooner."

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Magazine & Journal Reader

Monday, May 21, 2007

A glance at the current issue of *Change*: The irrationality of college athletics

It is difficult to justify the enormous allocation of resources that elite colleges and universities spend on athletics, writes Barbara H. Fried, a professor of law at Stanford University.

Amid publicity over poor graduation rates and recruiting abuses in the big-time sports programs of the NCAA's Division I, the "scholar-athletes" at elite institutions in Division III or the Ivy League are often cited as "the poster children for reform," she writes. They must meet the same demanding academic standards as other students, the story goes, and they "play for love, not money," Ms. Fried says. But that theory is fraying, she says, citing findings in a pair of books, *The Game of Life: College Sports and Educational Values*, by James L. Shulman and William G. Bowen (Princeton University Press, 2001), and *Reclaiming the Game: College Sports and Educational Values*, by Mr. Bowen and Sarah A. Levin (Princeton, 2003).

Athletics programs at elite institutions have become more professional over the last four decades, according to Ms. Fried. Teams are now made up of recruited athletes rather than "walk-ons," and those recruits, she writes, receive an admissions advantage "greater than that enjoyed by any other group of applicants, including legacy and minority admits." Never mind, she says, that the recruits consistently score lower on their SAT's than do nonathletes and that they "significantly underperform once in college, relative both to nonathletes and (more surprisingly) to what one would have predicted from their entering credentials."

Ms. Fried asks: "Why should the ability to hurl a football a little bit farther than the next guy play any role in allocating educational opportunities, let alone a decisive one?" She notes the frequently cited justification that while universities' primary commitment is to academic excellence, they should reward and foster other forms of excellence as well. But, she argues, "we currently give hugely more weight to athletic excellence than we give to excellence in any other nonacademic pursuit."

Ms. Fried says that there are dangerous consequences to the admissions preferences that are given to athletes. One of the more serious ones, she writes, is "the incentives elite schools have created for academically ambitious children to turn themselves into semi-professional athletes." The majority of young athletes will never be good enough to be recruited by colleges, she says, let alone go on to professional sports careers. Along the way, however, their priorities will have been shaped for a lifetime. "From a societal perspective," she comments, "it is hard to see this as a victory."

The [article](#), "Punting Our Future: College Athletics and Admissions," is available on the magazine's Web site.

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SUNDAY Q&A WITH KEVIN WEIBERG

A half-dozen questions for Big 12 commissioner

By **JOE WALLJASPER** Tribune sports editor

Published Sunday, May 20, 2007

Kevin Weiberg is finishing up his ninth year as the commissioner of the Big 12 Conference, a tenure that included a stint in charge of the ever controversial Bowl Championship Series. Weiberg, once judged to be the fourth-most influential person in college athletics, submitted e-mail answers to questions from Tribune sports editor Joe Walljasper last week.

Q: The Big 12 recently signed a new television contract. Are there any plans to develop a Big 12 network similar to the ones we've seen from the Big Ten and Mountain West conferences? What are pros and cons of doing so?

A: By unanimous vote, the conference recently announced a contract extension with ABC/ESPN that provides the Big 12 with a significant increase in revenue and enhanced national exposure. A lot of our football and men's basketball inventory is committed to this package as well as our agreement with Fox Sports Net. It is doubtful that the conference will pursue a dedicated network in the short term; however, we remain interested in the concept and will continue to discuss it while also watching developments with the Big Ten and Mountain West. Big 12 universities also have extensive local package deals in basketball that would likely have to be folded into a Big 12 network if a decision was made to start one. Up to this point our members have preferred retaining as many rights as possible for these local packages. Operating a 24/7 cable channel is not a simple undertaking, and it is important that the channel be widely distributed for it to ultimately be successful.

Q: Are you concerned that the disparity in the budgets of Big 12 athletic departments is creating a competitive imbalance similar to Major League Baseball? Texas, for example, is capable of hiring women's basketball coach Gail Goestenkors and paying her \$1 million annually, whereas other schools couldn't hope to spend that much to attract a top-flight coach.

A: Coaching salaries are a decision left to each university, and the university needs to be able to justify its decisions in this area in the context of the overall university. We are prohibited by federal law to attempt to set salary limits. I don't believe salaries paid to coaches are an ultimate determinant of competitive success. As long as scholarship limits remain in place there will continue to be a fair amount of parity in college sports. We have seen programs like Boise State in football and George Mason in men's basketball do very well in postseason competition despite the fact that they may not have the biggest budgets.

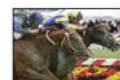
In the Big 12, we have seen football, basketball and other sport championships won by some of our smaller-budget programs. It is not easy for a small-budget program, but as long as a program can maintain and improve its facilities and retain quality coaches, it can do very well. The Big 12 provides a number of benefits, like access to high-quality bowl games, a lot of television exposure and quality championship events that also helps our members in recruiting efforts.

Q: Some other conferences, such as the Big Ten, split television revenue evenly. The Big 12 splits half of it evenly and distributes the other half based on the number of television appearances each school makes. It could be argued that this system helps the rich get

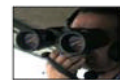
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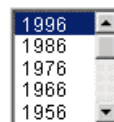
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richer by rewarding the traditional football powers such as Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska who are on television most often. What are the pros and cons of the Big 12 model as compared to the Big Ten's, and is there any possibility of a change in the Big 12's revenue-sharing plan?

A: I have long been a proponent of more equal television revenue sharing. My feeling is that the membership should be working to grow the whole and not focusing too much on what an individual television unit value will be for a single game. That mentality creates a lot of short-term thinking. The current policy was put in place at the time the conference was formed and before my arrival. It requires a supermajority vote (nine votes) to make change. So change will only occur in this area if there is a strong consensus to do so.

It is also important to understand that even with equal revenue sharing in television, the increase for the teams receiving the least amount under the present structure would likely be less than \$1 million. While not insubstantial, that amount of money is only about two percent of a \$40 million budget. A case can also be made that a team appearing in a televised game should receive some financial upside since many times television requires changing start times and other inconveniences for the participating teams. There are also a number of areas in the Big 12 where money is shared equally, like revenues from the football championship game. So the current package of revenue sharing represents a negotiated balance. It is an area that the conference needs to continue to focus on and to discuss.

Q: When a high-profile football or men's basketball recruit commits to a college, he often says he just wanted to get the process over with as soon as possible, as if the attention from coaches, recruiting Web sites and media had been overwhelming and unwanted. The NCAA recently passed a rule limiting text-messaging as a recruiting tool. Would you favor any other measures that could take pressure off recruits?

A: The change to prohibit text-messaging to recruits seems like a reasonable one. Many student-athletes, including our own Big 12 student-athlete advisory committee, told us that text-messaging had become too much a part of the recruiting process and was too intrusive. At this time I do not favor other adjustments to the recruiting rules. It is a challenging area that requires ongoing monitoring.

Q: You've served as the coordinator of the BCS, so you're probably still pulling arrows out of your hide. What is the ideal way to determine college football's national champion? Why or why not a playoff system?

A: I am not dissatisfied with the current Bowl Championship Series structure but remain interested in looking at ways the system can be improved. But I do not favor moving in a direction that would damage the bowls or negatively impact the value of the regular season. I also would not favor a structure that makes football a sport with competition in two semesters, and I certainly would not support games being played in final examination periods. So there is only a limited window for more postseason competition.

For any structure to work that requires more games being played in the postseason, you must have the cooperation and support of all of the conferences. The Big Ten and Pac-10 have a Rose Bowl contract in place through 2014, so I doubt we are going to see much change in the near future.

Q: A few years ago the Sports Business Journal named you the fourth-most influential person in college sports. What advice could you give the rest of us on how to win friends and influence others?

A: Work hard, be open and responsive to people and don't do too many of these kinds of interviews.



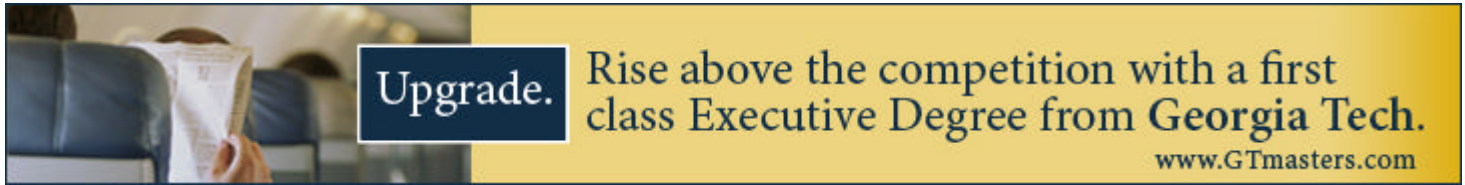
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To play in college, high school athletes vie for ways to beat the odds
Students should choose wisely if scholarships are the goal

By [TODD HOLCOMB](#)

Published on: 05/19/07

When Westminster senior Reeves Henritze decided two years ago to make lacrosse her passion and basketball her hobby, she was not thinking about college scholarships. She simply preferred lacrosse.

But in making her decision, she unwittingly had selected the sport which gave her the best odds of playing in college while backing off the sport with the toughest odds.

There is one college lacrosse player for every eight playing in high school, according to an AJC analysis of participation data obtained from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

That gives lacrosse the most favorable high school-to-college ratio of any sport. Women's soccer ranks second (one in 12) followed by men's and women's swimming (one in 13) and women's gymnastics and baseball (both one in 14).

"Basketball is more competitive because it has been around longer and it's more developed," Henritze said. "So frankly, I probably would have needed to be better at basketball. ... I didn't know the odds or what was at stake; I just went with my gut. Fortunately, the odds were with me, and I had the talent to make it and play the sport that I'm passionate about."

Today, Henritze has a scholarship to Northwestern University, which has the No. 1 women's lacrosse team in the nation.

A young sport in Georgia

The sports with the worst odds of getting a scholarship are wrestling (one in 37), men's basketball (one in 27) and women's basketball (one in 25). But many factors come into play for athletes trying to earn a sports scholarship.

Henritze's odds were improved because she competed in elite out-of-state tournaments. In Georgia, lacrosse is a young sport and Henritze will be one of only five Georgia women playing at NCAA Division 1-A schools next year.

Raleigh Abbott of McEachern overcame wrestling's tough odds, signing with Newberry College in South Carolina. He knew his future as a 5-foot-9 football quarterback was probably even bleaker.

"I always knew wrestling was a hard sport to go past high school," Abbott said. "But you've got to do something you want to do or you'll end up regretting it."

<http://ajc.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=High+school+sports%3A+What+plays+best+...> 5/20/2007

Other factors, such as natural athleticism, scholastic achievement and the time and money invested greatly influence an athlete's odds, experts say.

Helen O'Neal of Kennesaw, whose daughter Ashley is on Alabama's gymnastics team, said gymnasts training for college typically put in at least 20 hours per week and usually start before age 10.

That commitment can pay off. Six of the last 10 seniors at the Gymnastics Academy of Atlanta, where Ashley O'Neal trained, have gone on to compete in college.

"It's basically how bad do you want it," O'Neal said.

Training can be expensive

Money can also be a determining factor in an athlete's chances to play at the next level.

Todd Shulenberger, a coach at Tophat Soccer club for girls, estimated that his players' families spend as much as \$10,000 per year for fees and travel. The club has developed 16 college signees this year, and 11 high school juniors are committed to schools next year.

One of those juniors, Kayleen Duffy of Marist, is headed to Clemson. Her sister, Meghan, a sophomore, is also hoping to play in college.

"I never went into it thinking they'd get any [scholarship] money; I just wanted them to play sports," said Mike Duffy, their father. "I want them to be successful in life, and maybe because they got to travel and experience the things they have [in club soccer], they'll have a better chance than kids who didn't."

Others sports, such as basketball, football and track and field, can be less expensive to play than soccer, golf and tennis, but those sports typically demand more natural athleticism or size, making them ideal for some, longshots for others.

"If you're only 6-1, you've got to be 280 [to be a football lineman], and you've got to be tough, but if you're 6-6, you can be sorry and still get a scholarship," said Southwest DeKalb football coach Buck Godfrey, who has sent 33 players to college in the past five years.

And football and basketball scholarships often come with an added bonus: Those revenue-generating sports typically provide full athletic scholarships. Other nonrevenue-producing sports most often offer partial scholarships.

In women's soccer, softball and lacrosse, for example, there are 12 scholarships to share among 20-25 players on Division 1 rosters.

With the prevalence of partial scholarships, a student's academic résumé can play an important role. That's especially true at NCAA Division III schools, which do not offer customary athletic scholarships but use academic and needs-based aid to take care of their athletes.

In Georgia, the HOPE scholarship helps because in-state schools don't have to give Georgia kids as much athletic money.

"College coaches want you to get that academic money first so they can break those scholarships up," said Ian Goss, the head coach of Stingrays Swimming in Marietta. "The more you qualify for academic money, the more valuable you are."

Goss said that his 18 seniors have an average GPA of 3.7. Ten will swim in college, many at NAIA schools, where good students are highly sought.

NAIA athletes who enter college with high school GPAs of 3.75, or higher, or who score 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT (or higher) do not count against scholarship limits.

Looking ahead to college

Another consideration for a high school athlete wanting to play at the next level: Are more colleges, or fewer, competing in your chosen sport?

Those growing the least at the college level include women's gymnastics and wrestling, men's swimming and men's track and field. Growing the fastest are women's golf, men's and women's soccer and baseball.

Women's golf is often viewed as an easy sport in which to get a scholarship, although Kathy Cousart, executive director of the Georgia Junior Golf Foundation, bristles at the suggestion.

"It used to be 10-15 years ago, you'd hear about unused scholarships and that if you just break 90 you can play, but that's so untrue anymore," she said. "Even small schools today, they're looking for good players."

Women's basketball continues to grow in college but has been surpassed by soccer, track and field and softball in total participation. But that's no reason to avoid basketball, said Darlene Norris, president of the Georgia Pearls AAU basketball team.

"The worst thing to do is to look at sports as a scholarship, especially a young girl, who gains so much for their confidence and self-worth just by participating," Norris said. "If a child shows interest in whatever sport it might be, then that child needs to pursue that sport."

That's what Henritze did at Westminster, and she got her reward.

"If you don't have the passion, you're not going to play [the sport] as well," she said. "You're going to be so burned out and not ready to play four years in college. So I'd definitely say just go with what you like."

HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE

There is no simple formula to predict the chances of an athlete making the jump from high school sports to college sports, but using participation statistics from the NCAA, the NAIA and the National Federation of State High School Associations, here's a comparison showing the number of high school participants in a given sport compared to participants in college programs (this does not reflect the number of scholarships available):

Men's sports

Lacrosse, 8-1

Swimming, 13-1

Baseball, 14-1

Soccer, 15-1

Football, 16-1

Golf, 17-1

Tennis, 18-1

Track and field, 24-1

Basketball, 27-1

Wrestling, 37-1

Women's sports

Lacrosse, 8-1

Soccer, 13-1

Swimming, 13-1

Gymnastics, 14-1

Golf, 14-1

Tennis, 18-1

Softball, 19-1

Track and field, 21-1

Volleyball, 23-1

Basketball, 25-1

Note: 8-1 means there are eight high school athletes for every one college athlete in this sport.

Method: Participation rates in high school to participation at four-year colleges.

Sources: NCAA, NAIA, National Federation of State High School Associations.

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Article published May 20, 2007

The last laugh

Vandy sports thrive with no athletic department

By Glenn Guilbeau

Louisiana Gannett News

gguilbeau@gannett.com

BATON ROUGE -- Gordon Gee opened himself and his university up for scrutiny on Sept. 9, 2003, when he eliminated Vanderbilt's athletic department and put all sports under Student Life and University Affairs.

Media and fans, who already loved to poke fun at the "Ivy League" member of the Southeastern Conference and the league's only private school, had a field day with Vanderbilt's chancellor. So did USA Today senior writer Steve Wieberg, who wrote at the time:

"These aren't intramurals. They're not club sports. Lumping them together and putting it all in the hands of an assistant vice-chancellor seems an invitation to competitive and fiscal chaos."

Nearly five years later, Vanderbilt is basking in the limelight, as the school has seen unprecedented success since the announcement to eliminate the athletic department.

The Commodores recently locked up their second Southeastern Conference baseball title, and first since 1980. Men's basketball is the only other sport to win the SEC, doing so three times, the last coming in 1993.

Vanderbilt is ranked No. 1 in the nation, the first men's team to earn that feat, and its baseball stadium, Hawkins Field, recently underwent a \$4.5 million renovation. The Commodores, who didn't win more than nine SEC games in any year from 1998-2002, swept LSU, the program that won five titles in a 10-year span from 1991-2000, this weekend.

The university also has seen success in smaller programs, as the women's golf team earned a No. 1 ranking in 2004, and the women's bowling team won the national title last month in its third year.

The men's basketball team made the Sweet 16, the women's basketball team won the SEC Tournament and seven teams have been nationally ranked this spring.

All of that success has come without an athletics director.

"If this is intramurals, we have a lot of people interested in our intramural program," said Vanderbilt vice-chancellor David Williams.

Most of the coaches at Vanderbilt in 2003 when the shocking news hit are still on board and liking it.

"It was scary at first because we didn't know what would happen and you heard all of this stuff about intramurals," said Vanderbilt baseball coach Tim Corbin, hired little more than a year earlier by athletic director Todd Turner. "But right after the announcement, they implemented \$5 million to facilities."

Williams estimates Vanderbilt has saved about \$1.5 million a year because of the morphing of the athletic department into Student Life and University Affairs.

Associate vice chancellor Patricia Marett said the entire university has benefitted.

"It's about making athletics more a part of the university, and not serving as a farm team for the NFL," Marett said. "We had to do something. The other SEC schools make a lot more money in athletics than us."

In a nutshell, the crux of Gee's plan was to integrate athletics into the rest of the university. Gee says Vanderbilt is a new

model.

"We proved you don't need an athletic department that is isolated and segregated and separated from the rest of the university and acting as its own entity in some arms race for facilities," he said. "We performed surgery on that model. We removed the athletic director and the athletic department. We treat athletics the way we treat physics. What we did was get rid of a lot of mid-level bureaucracy. Our dollars go to student-athletes and coaches, not to a lot of assistant athletic directors and other bureaucratic nonsense."

What works at Vanderbilt may not work at a larger school like LSU, though.

"It's not a comparative issue," SEC commissioner Mike Slive said. "Vanderbilt is one institution. It has been very successful with this model because it fits into its mission. It's a different school. But I give them a lot of credit."

Gee laughs at the criticism now.

"That just showed a lack of understanding," he said. "But the worst thing it illustrated was the kind of culture we live in."



COLUMN

Vitale's Greatest Chapter

By JOEY JOHNSTON

Published: May 20, 2007

SARASOTA - Dick Vitale, constantly on stage, was actually nervous about what he might say Friday night.

"I want this to be perfect," he said.

Dick Vitale, never at a loss for words, was fretting whether it could be enough.

"I want this night to be just right," he said.

This wasn't another appearance on ESPN. This was bigger than his biggest game.

"I'm in the last chapter of my life now," said Vitale, 67. "This is my obsession. This is what really, really matters."

This was the second annual Dick Vitale Gala, a \$1,000-a-plate extravaganza that featured a who's who of basketball coaches, all coming together as salesmen for the

V Foundation for Cancer Research. The 14-year-old organization was created just before the 1993 death of former N.C. State coach Jim Valvano.

More than \$60 million has been raised.

In the last year, an endowment goal was realized, now sending 100 percent of

V Foundation proceeds directly to cancer research.

"It wasn't too long ago that this [concept of finding a cancer cure] looked like a defeat," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, Friday night's special guest, who was honored for his work with the V Foundation. "With the way doctors describe it, using a sports analogy, now it's in the second half. We're not losing. This is a fight."

And Vitale is the ultimate warrior.

How else would the Ritz-Carlton ballroom be filled with the likes of Rick Pitino, Gary Williams, Tom Izzo, Tom Crean, Stan Heath, Kelvin Sampson, Dereck Whittenburg, Larry Shyatt, Johnny Dawkins, Chuck Daly, Brian Hill and Mike Fratello? When the Thursday night flight of Memphis coach John Calipari developed mechanical problems, he sent regrets.

Not good enough, Vitale said. We need you.

Don't give up ... don't ever give up.

Just as the program began, in walked Calipari.

"It's for a great cause, for Dick Vitale's great cause," Calipari said. "This cause doesn't need excuses. I found a way to get here."

Keeping Hope Alive

Vitale still misses his buddy.

Valvano was 47 when he lost a 10-month battle with bone cancer. Toward the end, Krzyzewski spent nearly every night by Valvano's bedside. They laughed and cried. And in a prophetic moment, Valvano hatched a plan.

"I'm probably going to die," Valvano told Krzyzewski late one night. "But I can still win."

Only one of the six cancer specialists at Valvano's hospital had been granted money for research. "It's like the other five guys are on the bench," Valvano said. "Maybe one of them could hit the shot. We need more money. We need a foundation."

The V Foundation for Cancer Research.

Jimmy V's quest continues - from the grave.

Cancer can take away all my physical abilities. It cannot touch my mind. It cannot touch my heart. And it cannot touch my soul. Those three things are going to carry on forever.

Valvano's hope exists in 14-year-old Timmy Berg, a promising tennis player, a freshman at Sarasota's Cardinal Mooney High School. Nearly two years ago, Berg complained of double vision. A cancerous tumor was detected behind his eye. Then began rounds of chemotherapy.

As the months went on, Berg stopped seeing some familiar faces at the hospital. "Some of the kids don't make it," he was told. Crushed, he immediately wanted to help.

Between treatments, Berg raised money by himself, coaxing contributions from family, friends and neighbors. At Vitale's initial fundraiser, Berg presented a \$10,000 check to the V Foundation. Vitale broke down in tears.

Berg's cancer has been in remission for one year.

Then there's the story of 5-year-old Payton Wright, a precocious blond-haired, green-eyed girl who has stolen the heart of everyone in her Lakewood Ranch neighborhood. Last year, she was at Sea World with her family, complaining of a sore leg. Initial diagnosis: Growing pains.

The family kept digging. An MRI revealed cancer in her spine and pelvis. Soon, it spread to her brain and she became paralyzed below the waist. A few days after her recent birthday, it was learned that cancer had invaded her liver and kidney.

"With that news, there's no way I'd be at any normal gathering, but I want Dick Vitale to share Payton's story," said Payton's father, Patrick Wright. "Nobody wants to be in our shoes. But what Dick is doing gives us the will and desire to keep going."

Any wonder why Vitale is obsessed with this cause?

Raising Research Grant Of \$1M

By night's end, Vitale announced that his event had raised \$1 million to fund a research grant at the Moffitt Cancer Center. He called all the coaches to center stage. Why stop at a cool million?

With Krzyzewski's approval, Vitale promised four center-court tickets and private jet transportation to next season's North Carolina-Duke game. Within 60 seconds, the bidding topped out at \$100,000.

Then he shifted to Louisville-Kentucky. Same deal. Less than a minute later, another \$100,000.

And just when it seemed time to exhale, to kick back with some self-satisfaction, Vitale said next year's Gala will be even bigger. He will honor the all-time winning coaches in men's and women's college basketball - Bob Knight and Pat Summitt. Both are confirmed. He wants more people. He wants more dollars.

"Mark it down on your calendar - May 16, 2008," Vitale said. "That will be a tough, tough ticket, baby."

In 2009, Vitale promised an evening with the mentor (Louisville's Pitino) and the championship pupil (Florida's Billy Donovan).

Just two years ago, there was an idea. It morphed into a proposed dinner party at the Vitale home that eventually swelled to a gathering of a few hundred people. Friday night, it was more than 600 in a hotel ballroom.

Vitale won't put a ceiling on his ambitions. Battling the impossible, after all, requires imagination.

"We're all touched by cancer," Vitale said. "Don't think you're not touched by it."

"If these stories don't move you and make you think, you're not alive," Pitino said.

So there was Vitale, his voice hoarse, reliving the last days of Jimmy V, weeping about the unfair fate of young Payton Wright, sharing in the triumph of Timmy Berg, then re-energizing himself and pledging that his fight has just begun.

There was Krzyzewski, speaking so eloquently about a former player diagnosed with terminal cancer, a man with an amazing attitude. "He said being positive will help him to live longer and help his family," Krzyzewski said. "And every day he stays alive could mean it's another day that maybe somebody finds a cure."

A gathering of elite coaches and corporate leaders had become just another room of real people. With emotions shaken to the core and guards down, the why-them sadness had been replaced by a call to action, the type of commitment that goes beyond reaching for a checkbook. They will tell friends about what they heard, what they saw, others will pitch in and that will bring more possibilities.

I urge all of you to enjoy your life, the precious moments you have. To spend each day with some laughter and some thought, to get your emotions going. To be enthusiastic each day.

How do you describe such an evening? How else?

Perfect.

Just right.

For more information on the V Foundation, call 1-800-4JimmyV or log onto www.jimmyv.org.

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Chronicle to cut 25% of jobs in newsroom

Joe Garofoli, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, May 19, 2007

To cut costs and try to adapt to a changing media marketplace, The Chronicle will trim 25 percent of its newsroom staff by the end of the summer.

"This is one of the biggest one-time hits we've heard about anywhere in the country," said Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, in Washington.

Eighty reporters, photographers, copy editors and others, as well as 20 employees in management positions are expected to be laid off by end of the summer. Chronicle Publisher Frank Vega said Friday that voluntary buyouts are likely to be offered.

Vega declined to say whether the paper is continuing to lose \$1 million a week, as Hearst attorney Daniel Wall stated in court in November during a hearing on an antitrust suit filed by San Francisco businessman Clint Reilly.

"We're not getting into any specifics at this point," Vega said. "It's fairly common knowledge that we have had a tough financial row here for several years. As we continue to evaluate our situation, unfortunately continued belt-tightening is necessary."

Some of The Chronicle's production and other non-news departments have been reduced during the past few years, but until now the newsroom has been spared deep cuts.

Analysts predicted the reductions at The Chronicle could have repercussions for readers. While an increasing number of people get news from online aggregators such as Google News and Yahoo, those stories are most often originally reported by print journalists.

"That's not just trimming fat, that's an amputation. That's losing a limb," said Rosenstiel, who grew up in the Bay Area.

He said the effect, even for people who don't read the paper, "is that 25 percent of what goes on in the Bay Area won't be covered. It will happen in the dark. ... Our research shows that there is a lot of information that appears in a daily newspaper that doesn't get covered by TV stations or citizen journalists or bloggers when a newspaper's staff is cut."

With all the free online places to find information, analysts say, it's a great time to be a consumer of news, but a lousy time to be selling a print publication.

While The Chronicle isn't subject to the same quarterly profit pressures from Wall Street investors as publicly held publications -- the paper is owned by the privately held Hearst Corp. -- it is on the precipice of changes in the news business, largely because of its location.

"We're here in the birthplace of (the free online classified site) Craigslist and in the cradle of Silicon Valley, where

everyone is wired," said Peter Appert, a media analyst at Goldman Sachs in San Francisco.

Historically, Rosenstiel said, the paper has been hurt by its inability to penetrate its marketplace as much as other major metropolitan papers.

Until Hearst bought The Chronicle in 2000, readers may have been turned off by the paper, Rosenstiel said. "It was underserving its marketplace. That's changed, and it's a lot better now," he said. "But Hearst bought it in 2000, which was a very difficult time to buy a newspaper."

Vega said the layoffs have nothing to do with the cost of Hearst's purchase of The Chronicle seven years ago, nor has the paper felt any impact from the recent purchase of the San Jose Mercury News and Contra Costa Times by MediaNews, which gave the Denver corporation control of most other large daily papers in the Bay Area.

Instead, Vega said, the layoffs reflect that revenue from advertising and other sources isn't keeping pace with the cost of running the paper.

But most newspapers are still making money, analysts said, albeit not the average 20 percent profit margins they once enjoyed. In most major cities, Appert said, newspapers are still operating as a monopoly business at a time of myriad competition.

While times may be tough now, "not many papers are losing money," said John Murray, vice president of circulation marketing for the Newspaper Association of America.

Despite possessing one of the nation's most widely read newspaper Web sites -- SFGate.com -- The Chronicle, like its print brethren, hasn't been able to monetize online eyeballs.

"Although online usage is gaining, no one has monetized it on a newspaper basis to the point that equalizes what is happening on the print side," Vega said.

The Chronicle does not charge people to visit SFGate, nor does it ask them to register. Vega declined to say whether that would change.

In a recent commentary in the Wall Street Journal, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette publisher Walter Hussman Jr. said newspapers create \$500 to \$900 in revenue per subscriber annually, according to the Inland Cost and Revenue Study. But, Hussman wrote, a newspaper's Web site "typically generates \$5 to \$10 per unique visitor."

"I actually think it is very progressive and astute of The Chronicle not to charge people or make them register," said Barry Parr, a media analyst with Jupiter Research. "It can't. There's too much competition out there."

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<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/05/19/BUGK0PT8V1.DTL>

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Supervising women's coaches

Protecting female athletes: Recent cases of impropriety highlight colleges' need to strengthen guidelines

By [MICHELLE HISKEY](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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Female college athletes know what's out of bounds during competition.

Now, more than ever, they need to know exactly what behavior is off limits with their coaches, and the colleges need to clearly define and strongly enforce those boundaries.

That's the message from experts in the wake of a recent series of sexual improprieties by leading college coaches.

University of Georgia golf coach Todd McCorkle resigned this month amid a sexual harassment investigation. Louisiana State women's basketball coach Pokey Chapman resigned after accusations that she was sexually involved with at least one player; Boston College ice hockey coach Tom Mutch resigned after sending explicit text messages to a player, and North Carolina soccer coach Anson Dorrance faces trial in his former goalie's sexual harassment lawsuit.

These incidents show how college athletic programs must make coaches and players aware of improper behavior, and make clear what steps athletes can take if it occurs.

"These student-athletes have to become risk managers, to understand the danger and how to deal with it," said Kansas State law professor Bob Shoop, author of *Sexual Exploitation of Students: How to Spot It, and Stop It*.

"They don't see the train coming, that it could happen and that it can be glamorized. There is a certain appeal to a coach paying attention to them."

Dr. Pat Griffin, a veteran college coach and professor who spoke on behalf of the Women's Sports Foundation, said athletic departments bear the burden of protecting the athletes, and parents must hold them to a high standard.

"Athletic departments have to see these [incidents] as a huge wake-up call," she said, "and parents and recruits have to start asking: Does your school have an anti-harassment policy? Do you train your coaches in ethical and proper relationships with athletes? It's not a matter of these women being weak or needing to toughen up. It's up to the school to provide a professional and ethical climate."

Potential for abuse

Unlike their defined roles on the playing field, the coach-athlete relationship can slip into an abusive one off the field, because the coach holds so much power, especially if the athlete is female.

<http://ajc.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Supervising+women%27s+coaches&expire=...> 5/19/2007

The coach has persuaded her to leave home, sometimes move across the country, controls her financial aid and playing time, spends hours with her practicing and traveling and sometimes isolates her from campus life. The young woman wouldn't be there unless she felt a rapport with the coach.

Golfer Rebecca Durham, 18, of St. Simons Island, chose Stanford over Virginia and North Carolina months ago. She will leave for the California campus later this summer.

"We truly clicked," she said of Stanford coach Caroline O'Connor. "She was easy to talk to, spoke and carried herself well and is really driven to help with my golf game. I wanted someone who would make me feel comfortable. I'm going away for four years and I'm close to my family, and this is a person that basically I'm going to spend a lot of time with. My mom was concerned, but that was before I met Coach O'Connor. Then she was a lot more at ease."

In northeast Atlanta, Oglethorpe University recently trained its coaches and athletic personnel on preventing sexual harassment.

"It was all the stuff that the golf coach at Georgia did not seem to be aware of," said basketball coach Ron Sattelle, a grandfather in his early 60s and father to three grown daughters. "We coach and teach personal responsibility and accountability for whatever we all do on and off the court."

"I prefer coaching young women because they're more sensitive, caring and open to coaching, but that opens up vulnerabilities. You have to be thinking all the time, and if you don't accept it, you shouldn't be coaching women."

Sattelle never has held a private meeting with a player. He talks to her with someone else present or in an open gym.

"You don't leave doors open for those kind of things," he said.

He also believes too many parents leave the college decision solely to the daughter.

"That's a mistake," he said. "You want to know who is going to be with them."

Meetings in public places

Vanderbilt's bowling team won a national title, led by coach John Williamson, 29, who doesn't go in the locker room and holds team meetings in hotel lobbies.

Williamson was much more direct in his communications in his previous job of helping with the baseball team.

"Sometimes the girls think if I don't play them it has to do with me not liking them," he said of his five sophomores and two freshmen. "I constantly remind them that if they're playing or not, it's all about the team."

Shoop and Griffin pointed out that women's sports were coached mostly by women before Title IX legislation in the 1970s and the ensuing women's sports expansion. Today, there are more men than women coaching NCAA Division I women's teams.

"Athletic departments need to do a better job of finding qualified female coaches of female teams," said Holt Hackney, who as editor of *Legal Issues in Collegiate Athletics* has covered women's sports for nearly a decade. "This means they may have to work out a flex time scenario if the female coach happens to be a mom. There are far too many males coaches of female teams."

Griffin praised the action of Georgia athletic director Damon Evans, who stressed that the campus anti-harassment policy applies to everyone, regardless of gender or role.

"It's not about sexuality," Griffin said. Protection against harassment, "should apply to everyone across the board."

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The New York Times

Colleges Offering Campuses as Final Resting Places

By ALAN FINDER MAY. 18, 2007

RICHMOND, Va. — Want to recapture those undergraduate years? Colleges and universities are offering the chance — for eternity.

For a few thousand dollars, the University of Richmond and a half-dozen other universities are giving alumni and faculty the opportunity to have their ashes maintained on campus in perpetuity.

Three more universities — Notre Dame, [the Citadel](#) and Hendrix College — are building similar memorials, known as columbaria.

“It seems really off the wall on first blush to most people,” said Richard W. Trollinger, who was involved in the creation of one at Centre College, a liberal arts college in Danville, Ky. “Why on earth would a university create a columbarium?”

The answer is simple, Mr. Trollinger and other college officials say. In an era when many people are highly mobile and do not settle in one place for long, a college can have a strong allure as a final resting place, they say. And officials point out that colleges have a special resonance for many people, who have forged life-long relationships as undergraduates.

“Returning to that place as a final resting place can be a very powerful notion,” said J. Timothy Cloyd, the president of Hendrix, a small liberal arts college in Conway, Ark.

For the universities, memorial walls can serve other purposes, although officials are often reluctant to talk about them. A columbarium, by building stronger bonds with alumni and their families, might lead eventually to substantial donations.

“What schools are looking to do is to get people to include them in their wills, in their estates, and this is a natural adjunct to that,” said Tim Westerbeck, a managing director of Lipman Hearne, a marketing firm that works with universities and other nonprofits. “The idea of



Jay Paul for The New York Times

John H. Hoogakker, an associate vice president at the University of Richmond, said the campus columbarium could accommodate generations.

people being buried on campus is the period at the end of the sentence, so to speak. It's the final commitment.”

“I think schools are all about building deep affinity, just like a business needs to build customer loyalty,” Mr. Westerbeck added.

But at many institutions, sales for columbaria have been slow, perhaps in part because marketing tends to be subdued. Prices vary, ranging from \$1,800 to over \$3,000.

College officials say interested alumni or staff members — not university fundraisers and consultants — came up with the idea of building columbaria on campuses.

“Many people don't identify with their churches or their churches don't have cemeteries like they used to,” said the Rev. David D. Burhans, a retired chaplain at the University of Richmond who was involved in the creation of a large campus columbarium six years ago. “But people feel very connected to their colleges, and there are some beautiful places on campuses.”

The columbarium at Richmond is in a serpentine wall that encloses a garden next to the university's chapel. Niches within the wall cost \$3,000, and can hold one or two urns with cremated

ashes. The garden is peaceful and secluded, and yet just around a corner from the middle of the bustling campus.

Punctuating the role of an institution as a community.

“It's so lovely that people go there and read, eat their lunches,” said Mr. Burhans, who recalled with a laugh that some people had called him “Dr. Death” when the idea was first under discussion a decade ago. “It's not morose, it's not drab, it's a beautiful spot. You can almost feel the sacredness of it.”

The columbarium holds 3,000 niches, but only about 100 have been sold since it was completed in 2001.

The [University of Virginia](#) appears to have built the first memorial wall 16 years ago, the fruit of a concerted campaign by an alumnus, Leigh B. Middleditch Jr. A graduate of both Virginia's undergraduate college and law school, Mr. Middleditch has practiced law for 50 years in Charlottesville and has been active with the university as a lawyer, adjunct professor and trustee.

He said he had wanted to be buried in the university's cemetery, but it had run

out of room. Recalling a columbarium in the church he attended while growing up outside Detroit, he lobbied to create one at the university. "Because of a long affiliation with the University of Virginia, I wanted to be buried there," he said.

Some of Mr. Middleditch's friends lent money to finance the memorial wall, which replaced part of a wall of the cemetery. He assumed the project would ultimately raise large amounts of money for the university.

"I was totally wrong," he said.

The first phase of the columbarium, with 180 niches, was built in 1991. All but one of those spaces have been sold, and a second phase, with another 180 niches, was built. A niche in the first phase cost \$1,800 and one in the second phase will cost \$2,500.

The money goes primarily to pay for building the columbarium and long-term maintenance. The university has done limited marketing to alumni and faculty. "It's had a very low profile," said Dr. Dearing W. Johns, an associate professor at Virginia's medical school and chairwoman of the cemetery committee.

At Centre College, which has not advertised its columbarium to alumni, only 7 of the 84 cubicles in the memorial wall built seven years ago have been sold. At Sweet Briar College, a liberal arts college for women in Sweet Briar, Va., niches in a small columbarium built in the early 1990's cost from \$1,800 to

\$2,800; about half of the 64 spaces have been sold, said Chuck Kestner, a retired director of planning and construction.

Chapman University in Orange, Calif., completed a modern columbarium a year and a half ago, with 14-foot curved walls made of blue Brazilian marble. "On most days, it's almost like you're stepping into the sky," said the Rev. Ronald L. Farmer, dean of the Wallace All Faiths Chapel at Chapman.

The columbarium at Notre Dame will be part of a larger project, the construction of two mausoleums in the university's cemetery, an initiative called Coming Home.

Will the idea continue to catch on? Richard A. Hesel, a principal of the Art and Science Group, which consults with colleges and universities on marketing and other matters, said he would not be surprised.

"A college is one of the few remaining places in people's lives where there is a real community," Mr. Hesel said. "I think this could really blossom."



Jay Paul for The New York Times

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