

FOR RELEASE:

CONTACT:

After 6 p.m. (Central Time)

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Assistant Director of Enforcement

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, PLACED ON NCAA PROBATION

MISSION, KANSAS--The NCAA Committee on Infractions announced today that it has placed the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on probation for a period of two years for violations involving a former student-athlete in men's basketball.

In addition to the probationary period, the Committee on Infractions adopted a series of corrective actions taken by the university prior to the hearing in this case, including: (1) the implementation of a comprehensive compliance program at the university; (2) a monitoring procedure for all outside athletics representatives; (3) removal of two outside athletics representatives from involvement in the university's athletics program; (4) the forfeiture of games won and records achieved in men's basketball from January 25, 1982, to March 1984 due to the participation of an ineligible student-athlete, and (5) action against the current men's head basketball coach who was aware in 1982 of the primary violation considered in this case.

No sanction regarding television appearances or postseason competition was imposed in the case, and the men's basketball team remains eligible to participate in such programs or events.

The university initiated the investigation of this case in July 1985 as a result of newspaper articles indicating that a representative of the university's athletics interests had guaranteed a personal bank loan on behalf of a men's basketball team member in 1982. The university's report of its findings

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was forwarded to the NCAA enforcement staff for review and subsequently was considered by the Committee on Infractions.

"Although the initial violation in the case occurred under a former men's head basketball coach," said Thomas J. Niland Jr., acting chair, NCAA Committee on Infractions, "the committee was concerned that in the fall of 1982, the current head coach and an assistant were aware of the violation, and the athletics department failed to exercise appropriate administrative diligence to determine the eligibility status of the student-athlete in question. Consequently, the young man participated in two additional basketball seasons while ineligible.

"Additional penalties would have been imposed in this case," said Mr. Niland, "if the committee had not been convinced that the university's administration vigorously pursued its investigation of the bank loan in question upon learning of the matter in 1985, and that the university already had taken its own meaningful, corrective actions."

The findings in the case included violations related to the provision of extra benefits to a student-athlete, institutional control and failure to apply NCAA eligibility rules properly.

The following is the complete text of the penalties and a summary of the violations found in the case.

Penalties To Be Imposed Upon Institution

1. The University of Wisconsin, Madison, shall be publicly reprimanded and censured, and placed on probation for a period of two years, effective July 15, 1986, it being understood that should any penalty in this case be set aside for any reason other than by appropriate action of the Association, the penalties shall be reconsidered by the NCAA; further, at the conclusion of each probationary year, the NCAA enforcement staff shall review the athletics policies and procedures of the university, which shall include an in-person visit to the university's campus.

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2. The Committee on Infractions also voted to adopt the actions previously taken by the university (as described in the following paragraphs) as a part of the NCAA penalties in this case, and the committee reserves jurisdiction to ensure that the stated terms of these paragraphs are implemented fully and satisfactorily.

a. The university's athletics board has implemented a comprehensive compliance program under the direction of the university's deputy director; further, this program includes an "economic interview" with each entering student-athlete who receives athletically related financial aid.

b. Effective September 1, 1986, no representative of the university's athletics interests shall be used in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes (including on-campus recruiting contacts, telephone calls and written communication with prospects) unless the individual: (1) is invited to do so by the appropriate head coach; (2) has been approved by the university's "management team," and (3) has been certified by the director of athletics as having completed an educational program regarding conference and NCAA legislation governing recruiting and extra benefit regulations.

c. The current contract of the men's head basketball coach, which is scheduled to expire May 1989, will not be extended during 1986, and his salary for the 1986-87 academic year has been frozen (no increases from either institutional or other sources); further, he has received a letter of reprimand and has been placed on probation for a period of at least one year with the explicit condition that any further violation of NCAA rules will result in termination (subject only to the opportunity to take a less drastic action if, but only if, the violation is minor and not a result of any fault on the coach's part).

d. Effective immediately, each athletics department staff member shall report promptly in writing to that individual's immediate supervisor and to the deputy director in charge of compliance any information indicating a possible violation of NCAA legislation; further, the deputy director shall report all such information with appropriate recommendations to the faculty athletics representative and the NCAA, and finally, failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary action by the university.

e. Two representatives shall be disassociated from the university's athletics program, which shall include action to prohibit them from participation in any activities associated with the recruitment of prospective student-athletes during the probationary period; further, the university shall curtail, to the extent of its authority, the involvement of these individuals in the university's athletics program during the probationary period.

f. The university will forfeit all intercollegiate men's basketball games won during the period a certain student-athlete participated while ineligible, and the university shall request that appropriate changes be

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made in Big Ten Conference records. The university also will request that all references to Big Ten Conference honors achieved by the student-athlete during the period of his ineligibility be struck from the conference records; further, the university does not intend to provide the young man athletically related financial aid in the future to complete academic work at the university.

g. A letter of reprimand will be issued to an associate director of athletics for his failure to take appropriate steps to verify that no violation had occurred concerning a bank loan obtained by a student-athlete.

h. The men's basketball program has terminated and will not utilize a "foster parent" support system (i.e., Badger Buddy Program).

Summary of Violations of NCAA Legislation

1. Violations of NCAA legislation during the enrollment of a certain student-athlete [NCAA Constitution 3-1-(g)-(5), 3-2 and 4-2-(a)--O.I. 11] -- (a) In 1982, a representative of the university's athletics interests personally guaranteed loans totaling \$4,214.80 on behalf of a student-athlete and his mother at a bank to assist them in the purchase of an automobile; further, beginning in June 1983 and continuing to the summer of 1985, the representative made periodic payments totaling \$3,185.05 toward the balance of a loan to the young man's mother; (b) the student-athlete was permitted to participate in intercollegiate basketball competition while ineligible during the 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 academic years; further, the men's head basketball coach and a then assistant basketball coach were aware no later than in the fall of 1982 that the young man had been the recipient of an improper "extra benefit" under NCAA regulations, and finally, the university's athletics department failed to exercise appropriate administrative diligence in determining the eligibility status of the young man when he obtained an automobile under questionable financial arrangements, and (c) during a period beginning in May 1982 and ending in August 1983, a representative of the university's athletics interests, provided the student-athlete loans of cash and furniture (total value of \$2,231); further, the young man has not paid any portion of the balance of these loans to date.

2. Additional violation involving the head basketball coach [NCAA Bylaws 5-6-(d) and 5-6-(d)-(5)] -- With full knowledge at the time that certain practices of the university's intercollegiate men's basketball program were not in compliance with NCAA legislation, the men's head basketball coach attested on August 10, 1983, on a statement filed with the chief executive officer of the university that he had reported to the chief executive officer his knowledge of and involvement in any violations of NCAA legislation involving his institution when, in fact, he had not done so.

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