



Nelson Is Luncheon MC

Announcer to Host One of Convention's Highlights



Lindsey Nelson, one of America's most popular sports broadcasters, will be the master of ceremonies for the Honors Luncheon at the 72nd NCAA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, January 11. The Theodore Roosevelt Award, the Association's highest honor, will be awarded at the luncheon.

Popular sports broadcaster Lindsey Nelson will be the master of ceremonies for the NCAA Honors Luncheon Wednesday, January 11 in Atlanta.

The Honors Luncheon will be one of the highlights of the Association's 72nd Annual Convention. At the event, the Theodore Roosevelt award—the NCAA's highest honor—will be presented.

College Athletics' Top Ten also will be featured at the Honors Luncheon. The Top Ten includes the Today's Top Five Award recipients, honoring five outstanding senior student-athletes, and five former student-athletes who will receive Silver Anniversary Awards for distinguishing themselves through careers 25 years after college graduation.

Familiar Voice

Nelson has been among the top

college football announcers of the past 25 years. Currently, he is one of the busiest football announcers in the country.

He does the television replay of the Notre Dame games, does a National Football League game for CBS each Sunday afternoon and is the radio voice of NFL Monday Night Football over the Mutual Broadcasting System around the world.

On radio and television, Nelson has done as many as 54 games in a season; he usually does as many as 10 post-season games. The National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association named Nelson the No. 1 sportscaster in the nation for four consecutive years.

Nelson has worked practically every college bowl game at least once, and he has announced the Cotton Bowl 17 times. He also has done the Rose Bowl five

times, the Sugar Bowl five, the Liberty Bowl seven, the Sun Bowl four, the Fiesta Bowl twice and the Gator Bowl three times.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where he broadcast the Tennessee games and originated the Vol Network. For 10 years, he was manager of sports at NBC and was associated with the NCAA College Game of the Week program for 11 seasons on both NBC and CBS.

Nelson was a luncheon speaker at the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics' annual convention at Las Vegas in June, and he will speak at the annual dinner of the National Football Federation and Hall of Fame at the Waldorf Astoria in New York in December.

Also a renowned baseball broadcaster, Nelson has just completed his 16th season with the New York Mets.

Convention Procedures Outlined

Noncontroversial legislative proposals will be placed in two "consent packages"—one for constitutional amendments and the other for bylaw proposals — at the 72nd NCAA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, January 11-13.

There will be eight amendments in the constitutional consent package and 12 in the bylaw consent package.

Objection from a single delegate will remove any item from a consent package for a separate vote; otherwise, the entire package will be adopted with a single vote.

This procedure saved considerable time at last year's convention and is anticipated to do so again this year.

Other convention procedures

which delegates will encounter include the following:

● Legislative proposals will continue to be presented in topical groupings, but for ease of reference, an index will be added to the Official Notice and Convention Program to list all proposals in the order in which they

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House Continues With Investigation

The NCAA has advised the U. S. House of Representatives Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee that it will cooperate with that body's investigation, but will protect its members which have been subject to enforcement proceedings.

The House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which is conducting an inquiry into various policies and practices of the NCAA, requested nine items from the Association in an October 20 letter to executive director Walter Byers.

Among those nine were requests for copies of all letters of official inquiry issued since January 1, 1970; copies of all confidential reports notifying NCAA member institutions of the Committee on Infractions' findings issued since January 1, 1970; copies of all expanded confidential reports to the NCAA Council issued since January 1, 1970; and copies of all written submissions by member institutions in response to a letter of official inquiry, notice of hearing by the Committee on Infractions or notice of hearing before the NCAA Council.

The Subcommittee Staff indicated it would not restrict the distribution of materials made available to it.

In response, NCAA president J. Neils Thompson said, "The present inclination is to release completed cases to the Subcommittee, requesting restrictions on distribution of the material, only

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New Thrust by NCAA

Emphasis on Research

A new emphasis on research activities is under way in the NCAA.

Merging the best of the old with a look at the new, the Association currently is involved in updating its two most significant research studies and in evaluating its research involvement with thoughts of increasing such activities in the future.

The ingredients in the current research renaissance include the following:

● Mitchell H. Raiborn, Ph.D., C.P.A., has been engaged to update his 1970 version of the "Financial Analysis of Intercollegiate Athletics." All member institutions have received questionnaires which will enable Dr. Raiborn to expand his earlier study—the most complete and authoritative work of its type available to those working in intercollegiate athletics—to reflect the trends of the ensuing eight years. It is intended that the study then will be updated at four-year intervals in the future.

● The ongoing study of the "Sports and Recreational Programs of the Nation's Universities and Colleges," conducted by the national office every five years since 1956-57, also is in progress. All member institutions received questionnaires in that survey, the results of which will

be made available not only to the NCAA membership but to a wide variety of organizations and individuals interested in intercollegiate athletics, including the U. S. Congress and many Federal government agencies.

● A new NCAA Research Committee has been appointed as authorized by the NCAA Council. It held its first meeting late in October.

Research Assistant

● A new staff position of research assistant was authorized by the NCAA Executive Committee and was filled by Dale M. Meggas in October.

The new thrust in the NCAA research effort was prompted in part by recommendations from the Long Range Planning Committee and the Committee on

Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, both suggesting specific research involvements or an expanded staff structure to handle research.

Traditionally, the NCAA has spent from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per year to finance research projects approved by the Executive Committee. Most of these have been such studies as the Raiborn research, the "sports participation survey" made every five years and studies recommended by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports. Occasional support is approved for research by individuals at member institutions and for projects recommended by other NCAA committees.

Those efforts have been coordinated by Ted C. Tow, assistant

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Swimmers Did Not Ask For Waiver

By DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

The NCAA, accused last week of refusing to let four American swimmers make a tour of the Soviet Union, says the young men and their schools never asked to make the trip in the first place.

Sens. John Culver, D-Iowa, Richard Stone, D-Fla., and Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, released in Washington a telegram they had sent to NCAA headquarters here urging the NCAA to grant permission for the tour, sponsored by the Mission Viejo Swim Club in California.

The swimmers involved were Brian Goodell of UCLA, winner of gold medals at the Montreal Olympics, Mark Tonelli of the University of Alabama, the 1977 AAU champion in the 100-meter backstroke, and Simon Gray and Mike Miles of the University of Houston.

"The telegram also indicated the young men wanted to go, the coaches wanted them to go, the schools wanted them to go and that there was no intercollegiate competition scheduled at the same time," said Bill Hunt, assistant executive director.

"We were also told that only the NCAA was keeping them from going. At that point, we indicated to one of the senators on the phone that his information was contrary to the information we had in our office."

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Convention in Atlanta January 11-13

The Association's 72nd annual Convention is January 11-13 at the Peachtree Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

During the final week of October, each member institution was mailed a covering memorandum from NCAA Executive Director Walter Byers detailing the Convention, res-

ervation cards and a composite Convention schedule.

Dates for the Convention proper are January 11-13, but the session will encompass the 8th through the 14th due to various related meetings, including those scheduled for the Council and Executive Committee.

NOCSAE Tests Promoting Helmet Safety

The National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) has announced a revision in the NOCSAE Football Helmet Standard.

Established in 1973, the NOCSAE Standard determines the shock absorption properties of football helmets under various conditions of temperature and humidity. Through a series of tests, it can be determined whether a football helmet can attenuate an impact and not exceed an established Severity Index.

Beginning with the 1978 season, the NCAA Football Rules will require that all helmets worn by student-athletes bear the NOCSAE seal, "Meets NOCSAE Standard." During its January 1978 meeting, the NCAA Football Rules Committee will determine the appropriate penalty to be assessed if an individual is not wearing a helmet that has the NOCSAE seal affixed.

Copies of the NOCSAE Football Helmet Standard and Certification List (a list of helmet models that have passed the

test) are available from Dennis Poppe, NCAA assistant director of events, P. O. Box 1906, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66222.

Questions have been asked concerning the Standard, and the following answers may help to explain the NOCSAE Football Helmet Standard and its implications:

What is the NOCSAE Football Helmet Standard?

It is a voluntary safety standard that has been developed to reduce head injuries by insuring that the helmets in the field are capable at least of attenuating an impact as severe as stopping the head while traveling at 17.9 feet per second in less than one inch to below tolerable concussive limits.

Testing

The NOCSAE Standard involves mounting a football helmet on a synthetic head model and dropping it a total of 16 times onto a firm rubber pad, including two each from a height of 60 inches, onto six locations at ambient temperatures. Shock

measurements are taken to determine if the helmet meets an established severity index and thereby passes the NOCSAE Football Helmet Standard test.

Not all helmet sizes are tested. It would not be feasible. Therefore, the most critical sizes (6%, 7¼ and 7½) are tested in the three common shell sizes used by most equipment manufacturers. The sizes have the least amount of standoff distance from the shell and, if these shell sizes pass the NOCSAE Standard, it is assumed the other helmet sizes in that particular shell size are safe.

All three test sizes must be passed for a football helmet to be offered for sale in those sizes. If a football helmet fails to pass the test in any of the models, it will not be listed on the NOCSAE Football Helmet Certification List.

Are certified helmets safer than pre-certified helmets?

Yes, according to laboratory test results certified helmets should perform at severity indexes 50-100 per cent lower than

predecessors due to size adjustments, materials and design changes.

Would making the test more severe produce safer helmets?

Not necessarily. Quality of materials, methods of fabrication and design concepts now being used in the manufacturing of helmets would make the helmets heavier, larger and stiffer. All of these factors adversely affect the potential for injury to the wearer and to opponents.

How long will helmets stay in certified condition? What happens when a helmet no longer meets the Standard?

It cannot be determined since factors such as the type of helmet and the amount of intensity of usage will determine the safety of each helmet over a period of time. It should be noted the NOCSAE Football Helmet Standard is not a warranty, but simply a statement that a parti-

cular helmet model passed the NOCSAE tests when it was purchased.

In order to insure that used helmets are safe, the recertification firms which adhere to the NOCSAE recertification procedures have been authorized to recertify helmets which have previously passed the NOCSAE Football Helmet Test Standard. Each institution is responsible for determining if a helmet needs to be recertified.

Bear Seal

How can it be determined if a helmet has passed the NOCSAE Football Helmet Test Standard?

Those helmets which have passed the NOCSAE Standard must bear the seal, "Meets NOCSAE Standard," which is permanently branded or stamped on the outside rear portion of the helmet. In addition, a list of those helmet models which have passed the Standard is available upon request.

Can a helmet which bears the NOCSAE seal be repaired or altered without legal ramifications?

When an individual alters a helmet which bears the NOCSAE test seal, whether by way of repair or by adding for purposes of comfort or safety, he thereby assumes risk for himself and his employer of being charged with negligence if he does not have the helmet retested against the NOCSAE recertification standard.

If the helmet is not retested, the manufacturer may disclaim liability because the helmet itself had been altered and, as a result, it had become less safe.

It is understood retesting football helmets is not practical in all cases. For example, if a chinstrap or a cheek pad were replaced on a helmet and these alterations did not change the original design or makeup of the helmet, it probably would not have to be retested. However, the key to the situation is that any modification or alteration must not change the original design or makeup of the helmet.

In addition, parts should be replaced by similar replacement parts supplied by the manufacturer of the helmet.

How are institutions and their personnel protected if they purchase helmets which have passed the NOCSAE Standard?

An institution which has purchased helmets that have met the NOCSAE Standard is not immune from litigation. However, it is an indication the institution has taken efforts to safeguard its student-athletes by purchasing helmets which have passed the only available safety standard.

Who enforces the NOCSAE Standard?

NOCSAE does not possess a surveillance force to insure compliance with the Standard. The Standard is a voluntary standard, available for adoption by any equipment manufacturer. However, if a firm affixes the NOCSAE seal to its helmets it assumes the responsibility that all of the helmets it manufactures will pass the NOCSAE Standard.

Any interested group or individual may check to insure a manufacturer's compliance simply by purchasing a helmet and submitting it to the NOCSAE tests. If a helmet with a NOCSAE seal attached is found deficient, the NOCSAE Board of Directors requests that it be notified.

NCAA Television Penalties Outside FCC Jurisdiction

The Federal Communications Commission has upheld a ruling by its Broadcast Bureau that the FCC lacks jurisdiction to investigate the use of television access by the Association to assure compliance with NCAA rules.

The decision came on a request by Dr. John Irvan Moritzky Choate of Sand Springs, Oklahoma, for review of a January 31 Broadcast Bureau ruling denying his appeal of a staff opinion.

On August 5, 1975, Dr. Choate had requested the FCC to investigate possible censorship of athletic contests. He contended the Association had adopted a policy of using access to television to ensure compliance with its rules and that the policy precluded coverage of meritorious games, causing violations by FCC licensees of Sections 73.135 and 73.658(e) of the rules.

Dr. Choate specifically referred to the NCAA's blackout policy barring broadcasts involving colleges on athletic probation and cited numerous examples.

(Sections 73.135 and 73.658(e) provide that no license may be granted to an AM or TV station having any contract, arrangement or understanding that pre-

vents or hinders the station from rejecting or refusing network programs, or from substituting a program of outstanding local or national importance.)

Licencees Only

Last October 15, the Broadcast Bureau advised Dr. Choate that the Commission's regulatory jurisdiction extended only to FCC licensees. The Bureau noted since the NCAA held no broadcast licenses and served only as a program supplier for certain sports events, it was wholly outside the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction.

The broadcast rights held by the Association, the Bureau said, could be sold to whomever the NCAA selected under any terms it could negotiate. In addition, the Bureau pointed out the Commission was prohibited from censoring broadcast matter and did not attempt to direct its licensees to broadcast or refrain from broadcasting specific program matter.

Subsequently, Dr. Choate requested an appeal of the October 15 ruling, contending that since the contractual obligations of licensees prohibited them from contracting with colleges or

other athletic units directly, this was within the FCC's jurisdiction.

In response, on January 31 the Broadcast Bureau informed Dr. Choate the Commission imposed no prohibition on its licensees which would prevent a station from contracting with a college or university to broadcast football games. The limitations, it said, originated with the NCAA.

The Bureau reiterated its previous ruling that the Commission lacked jurisdiction over program suppliers such as the NCAA, adding the NCAA could refuse to sell the television rights to football games or could sell them subject to any terms it might wish to impose.

In view of the prohibition from censoring broadcast matter, the Bureau said the Commission did not direct its licensees to present or refrain from presenting specific program matter, including sports events.

Therefore, the Bureau concluded, there was no violation of the rules.

The Commission affirmed the Bureau's position, saying the Choate appeal does not contain sufficient grounds to warrant the initiation of an inquiry.

... NCAA Expresses Reservations About Senate Bill

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own member institutions as a matter of voluntary self-regulation. What NCAA detractors choose to ignore, or tend to forget, is that the NCAA—virtually alone among the principal amateur athletic organizations in this country—is constrained by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution only to implement those rules and procedures, relating to amateur athletic competition, which it can defend constitutionally as reasonable under all the circumstances.

The NCAA has been identified by the Federal courts as "state

action" and has been subjected to numerous proceedings in Federal court, involving constitutional challenges against the rules adopted by its member institutions. Virtually without exception, the NCAA's rules and hearing procedures have been sustained by our Federal courts as reasonable under the Fourteenth Amendment—or stated otherwise, the Federal District and Circuit Courts of Appeals have held that the NCAA rules and implementing procedures are reasonable when, in a particular factual context, both the legitimate interests of the individual and the educational athletic community are taken into account.

As a practical matter, under existing law, if the NCAA rules treat an amateur athlete unfairly or unreasonably, the NCAA is subject to injunctive restraint in Federal Court.

I do not believe there is a single amateur athletic organization which is a party to today's subject matter which has been held by Federal Court decisions to be restrained by U. S. constitutional controls to which the NCAA must answer.

It seems rather clear at this point that advocates of this particular provision in S.2036 do not want a standard of fairness or reasonableness applied to an athlete's right to compete in international competition. In effect,

they argue that the right of an athlete to compete internationally is so fundamental a right, constitutional or otherwise, that it rises to a level higher than individual rights contained in our Federal Constitution—all of which, even including the right of free speech, are subject to reasonable restraint. The NCAA believes that this matter of individual rights, like many other matters of individual rights in this country, is subject to examination based both upon the reasonable interests of the individual and the reasonable interests of the community—in this case the amateur athletic community—of which that individual is a part.