

NCAA: Division II athletes can compete after pro experience

by Matthew McGuire
TMS Campus
January 10, 2001

The NCAA loosened its restrictions this week by passing legislation that will allow athletes to return to Division II college athletics after playing under a professional contract.

Under the new legislation announced Tuesday, Jan. 9, an athlete can sign a professional contract, play for a professional team, receive money and later play for a Division II athletic team. The new legislation overwhelmingly passed with a 217-29-2 vote and will go into effect August 1.

The legislation seems tailor-made for athletes who sign professional

contracts out of high school only to soon find out they don't have the skills to cut it in the pros. Under the new legislation, each year an athlete plays under a professional contract he or she loses a year of eligibility in the NCAA.

While there have been many high profile cases involving Division I athletes — such as Muhammed Lasege, who the NCAA ruled ineligible to play for the University of Louisville because of time spent playing professionally on a Russian basketball team — Division II schools run into similar problems with baseball, tennis and skiing, said University of South Dakota athletic director Kelly Higgins.

Higgins was one of 217 delegates from Division II schools that attended

the NCAA conference and voted to pass the legislation. He believes the benefits far outweigh any downsides.

"It has some risks, yeah, but I'm not going to get Tiger Woods to come play golf at University of South Dakota," Higgins said. "Likewise, we have a very good Division II football team, but we're no Florida State. I don't think there's much risk of us getting any ringers."

The athlete will also be required to complete on year of residence at the college before being allowed to play on the Division II team.

"So you just can't just walk right back in. You have to prove you're not just going to be some sort of ringer," Higgins said.

Student athletes drink more often than non-athletes, according to study

by Matthew McGuire
TMS Campus
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They run, they jump, they shoot, they slide. And according to a new study, they also binge drink.

The Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study recently published new findings that showed that college athletes have a higher rate of binge drinking and experience more alcohol-related harms than non-athlete students.

The study was published in the January issue of *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, and it is the first national study that compares binge drinking among college athletes.

According to the study, 57 percent of male athletes participated in binge drinking compared to 48 percent of male non-athletes. The trend continued for female athletes, where 48 percent reported binge drinking compared to 40 percent of female non-athletes.

The study defined binge drinking as consuming five or more drinks in a row — four for women — on one or more occasions in the past two weeks. A drink was de-

efined as 12 ounces of beer, four ounces of wine, 12 ounces of wine cooler or one shot of liquor.

Student athletes are also more prone to social characteristics that tend to promote binge drinking, such as having five or more close friends, being a fraternity or sorority member, placing importance on parties and spending two or more hours a day socializing.

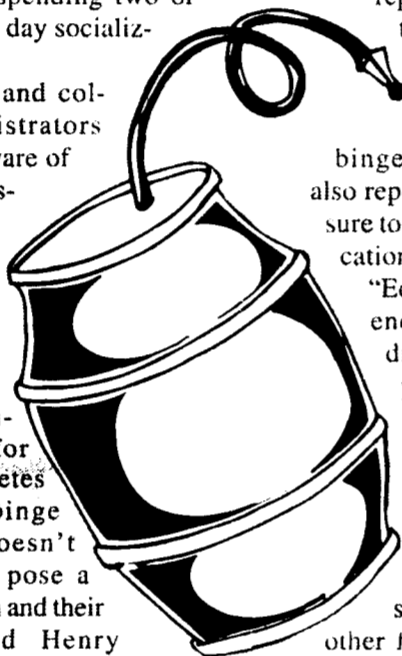
"Coaches and college administrators should be aware of the social pressures on athletes and take further steps to help limit alcohol consumption for college athletes so that binge drinking doesn't continue to pose a threat to them and their peers," said Henry Wechsler, principal investigator of the study and director of College Alcohol Studies at the

Harvard School of Public Health.

In addition to drinking more than their peers, college athletes also reported more alcohol-related harms. More athletes reported that alcohol interferes with their studying (66.4 percent) than non-athletes (58.2 percent), and 67.4 percent of the athletes reported that alcohol interferes with their athletic activities.

Despite reporting a higher level of binge drinking, athletes also reported a greater exposure to college alcohol-education efforts.

"Education alone is not enough to curb binge drinking among this population," said Toben F. Nelson, a Harvard School of Public Health doctoral student and the study's lead author. "There are simply too many other factors that strongly influence whether an athlete will binge drink."



UT-Austin tight lipped about presidential student

by Joanna Tom
TMS Campus Correspondent
January 15, 2001

President-elect George W. Bush's 19-year-old daughter's name is not among the records of students enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin even though she's beginning her fourth semester at the university.

Not only is Jenna Bush's name omitted from registrar records but it's also not listed in the university's electronic directory, which lists the name, major, address, phone number and e-mail address of most UT students. However, students may request not to be listed in the directory.

As the presidential inauguration nears, officials and students alike are cautious about what they say about president-elect Bush's twin daughters Jenna and Barbara.

Even the Austin-based presidential transition press office would not answer any questions about either of the president-elect's daughters.

"We aren't taking any questions regarding the girls. We just don't talk about them," said press office employee who refused to give her name.

Whitney Miller, a UT journalism student, said she did not want to talk about Bush's daughter Jenna, who is a member of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. The university has been working with president-elect Bush to ensure that Jenna remains safe while in school and is happy to have Jenna as one of its students, said James Vick, vice president for student affairs.

"We're delighted to have her among our students, and we hope she'll have a very positive experience as a student here," he said.

Having a president's daughter attend the University may help the institution because of publicity, but Jenna is not the first president's daughter to attend the University.

"It certainly gives us more attention in the media," Vick said. "We have had a president's daughter before: LBJ's

daughter, Lynda Bird Johnson."

If he was aware of special security for Bush, Vick said he would not be able to discuss any security details. He said he believes Bush will receive the same treatment as other students at the University.

"I think we're interested in providing the best for all of our students," Vick said. "I would anticipate she would like

to blend in and what kind of vehicles they drive. Curiousities aside, Espino is glad Bush chose to study at the University.

"I think it's cool," she said. "I think it's different because presidents' kids usually go to East Coast schools or Ivy League schools. So, it's kind of a nice change that she goes to a state school."

John Archer, a computer science senior, went to a technology conference on campus a few weeks ago that president-elect Bush attended and overheard that if Bush's daughter lived in a dorm, the whole floor would have to be closed for security. Other students may be excited to have a president's daughter attend the University, but Archer said he doesn't think it's a big deal.

"She's just a normal person," he said. "Just because her father is the President doesn't mean much."

The security alone probably makes it hard for her to live a normal life, so the media should leave her alone like they did with Chelsea Clinton, Archer said.

"That would really interfere with her personal life," he said.

Bush's daughter will be safe from coverage in UT's student newspaper, *The Daily Texan*, unless she draws attention to herself with her actions, said Cecily Sailer, the paper's editor.

"We're not going to make news out of her just because she's the President's daughter," she said. "She's a student like anybody else. We don't want to give her special attention, and it may not be what she wants."

Joanna Tom is a senior majoring in journalism at the University of Texas — Austin.



Jenna Bush is gathered with her family to prepare for the opening of her grandfather's presidential library, the George Bush Library on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station, Texas March 1999. From left to right are George W. Bush, daughter Barbara, daughter Jenna, and wife Laura.

DAVID WOOD/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Complicating the social scene; women outnumber men on college campuses

by Andre Mouchard
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Knight-Ridder Newspapers

FULLERTON, Calif. -- Margaret Hernandez is young and single and, cribbing an old movie line, she says she "wouldn't mind" to mingle.

But not tonight. Not with any guys, anyway.

The 22-year-old Cal State Fullerton sophomore is at Off-Campus, a bar across the street from the school. And if she doesn't meet any guy tonight she won't be surprised.

After all, she can count. "I've got my girlfriends," she says, laughing.

"Lots and lots and lots of girlfriends."

Too many girlfriends? "No way. Not possible," she says, sipping the one beer she'll drink tonight.

"But, still ..."

She doesn't finish the thought. Instead, she juts her chin in the direction of the bar, which is packed — almost exclusively with women.

In fact, as she looks throughout the place she sees a typical sports-oriented bar, complete with big-screen televisions tuned to various sporting events, lots of male-oriented decor, and, in the men's room, a condom machine.

Still, the customers she sees are, by an obvious plurality, women.

"I might as well be in class," she says, sighing.

True enough. Hernandez is part

of a rapidly expanding majority: a woman in college.

As recently as 1986, men and women were equally represented on college campuses. That year, women got more associate degrees at junior colleges than men, but bachelor's degrees and master's degrees were roughly 50-50 for men and women.

Then, something — and nobody is sure exactly what — changed. Women started getting into college at a slightly higher rate than men. Over the past 15 years, that hasn't stopped. Now, there are about 800,000 more women than men on college campuses, for an overall population ratio of 56 percent to 44 percent, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Education.

The burst of female college enrollment is a huge shift, statistically speaking, and it has turned up in most racial and economic categories. Only among wealthier whites (families making \$70,000 a year or more) do male and female high school grads still have an equal likelihood of going to college.

The trend is spurring debate among educators.

"For the past six months to a year, a lot of people have been wondering why, or even if, it's really as pronounced as the statistics suggest," says Dolores Vura, director of analytical studies at Cal State Fullerton.

Theories run the gamut.

Some argue that in a pro-girl world, school age boys aren't encouraged to go to college. Others believe young men have better access to some of the higher-paying non-college-degree jobs that have popped up during the tight labor

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-Kevin Jacks,
history major at Cal State Fullerton.

market of the 1990s. Still others argue that male teens don't value education or intellectual achievement.

"I can't speak to the national issue," Vura says. "Here (at Cal State Fullerton), we've always had a heavy female enrollment because we have a strong teaching program."

"Every school has its own reason, I'm sure."

Whatever the reason for the national trend, one thing is clear: Men won't catch up with women on campus any time soon. Federal projections — based on trends in elementary and high school — say women will account for 60 percent

of all college students by 2010.

If that comes true, you could argue that the term "coed" — once code for women encroaching in the once-all-male world of higher education — could disappear.

Or, rather, the new coeds will be

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men.

Hernandez doesn't care about statistics or even recent feminist history.

Nearly three semesters into her college career, Hernandez unhappily notes that "this dude shortage" has translated into, well, nothing.

"Zero dates," she says.

"I haven't been asked out by a decent guy even once, except by guys at work (a Torrance car dealership) since I've been (in school)."

Some college women say the gender gap is a nonissue.

"What a stupid question," says Liz Nguyen, a UC Irvine sophomore.

"Dating isn't why I'm in school, and it's not why any woman I know is in school. I don't even think about (the ratio of women to men). I mean, really, who cares?"

Hernandez agrees — to a point. "School is the main thing," the undeclared major says. "I'm here to study ... It's fun."

But she also wonders this: If she doesn't meet guys in college, then where?

She knows that dating and relationships can and do happen in post-college workplaces. But she also knows that such mixing is often frowned upon by management and, increasingly, the law.

She also realizes that dating might be easiest in college. The parties involved are younger, the stakes lower.

"Even my mom laughs at me about this," Hernandez says. "But she also thinks it would be sad if I went through college and didn't meet a guy, like, ever."

At least one group cares about — and is pleased by — the gender gap.

"No one I know argues about it, at least not the guys," says Kevin Jacks, a history major at Cal State Fullerton.

Jacks, 22, frankly concedes that having a lot of girls on campus makes his dating life much easier than it might otherwise be at a school where men face tougher odds.

"Everyone notices it. Every-

where you look, there are girls. In class. All over campus. Everywhere," Jacks says.

"It's pretty cool."

Regina Niles, 19, wants to be an actress. As a sophomore theater arts major, she has already tried out for a few roles in campus productions and, last year, came close to winning a part.

She's smart. She's funny. She's outgoing.

And dateless.

In one of her classes there are 25 women and three men. In another, she says the men in her class are openly gay and not looking for a girl to date. In another, she says, the few men she has met are surrounded by women.

"It's awkward, a little, I guess."

Women in school, she says, provide a "great example of success." They dominate discussions in some classes. They're leaders. They tell jokes. They listen.

"I'm actually happy about (the female-heavy gender gap). It's a great support system."

History major Jacks, who attended an all-boys high school, says having more women than men in class "adds to the way we think."

Niles, who works with Jacks at a student housing center on the north side of campus, offers a prediction.

"Right now, in the real world, you see a lot of men in positions of power and stuff. But from what I'm seeing here in school, that's going to change. Women are going to be in charge."