

FOR RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PLACED ON NCAA PROBATION

Nashville, Tennessee--John L. Toner, President of the NCAA, announced today that the University of Florida has been placed on probation for a three-year period for violations occurring from 1979 to 1983 in the conduct of the university's intercollegiate football program. Mr. Toner's announcement followed the NCAA Council's consideration of the university's appeal of certain findings and penalties proposed by the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

The penalty will prohibit postseason football competition and "live" television appearances for at least two years, it being understood that the third year of probation and the third year of sanctions regarding postseason events and television appearances will be suspended if the university meets prescribed monitoring conditions that will require written reports and periodic on-site reviews of the university's athletics program. If the university is successful in gaining a suspension of the final year of penalties, the university's football team will be prohibited from appearing on "live" telecasts during the 1985 and 1986 football seasons, and the NCAA's ban regarding postseason football competition will be applied to the 1984-85 and 1985-86 academic years.

In addition, no more than 20 new student-athletes in the sport of football will be permitted to receive athletically related financial aid during the 1985-86 and 1986-87 academic years, and the university will be limited to a total of 85 football team members who may receive athletically related aid in the 1985-86 academic year and a total of 75 in the 1986-87 academic year.

Several additional actions were taken by the university during the processing of the case, which included: (1) termination of employment for the head football coach and two assistant football

coaches; (2) restructuring the athletics department to make the head football coach directly responsible to the director of athletics; (3) adopting a complimentary ticket policy more stringent than the NCAA requires; (4) prohibiting seven outside representatives from engaging in any recruiting activities on behalf of the university during the probationary period, and (5) admonishing 10 additional representatives to take precautions to avoid future violations of NCAA rules.

The NCAA's investigation of the case began in November 1982 and concluded in August 1984 after members of the university's football coaching staff were confronted with substantial information concerning their alleged involvement in serious violations of NCAA rules. The university's hearing before the NCAA Committee on Infractions occurred on September 21-22, 1984, and subsequent appeals submitted by the university and two assistant football coaches in the case were considered by the NCAA Council on January 13, 1985.

NCAA violations that were found in the case included cash inducements to prospects, cash and other benefits to enrolled student-athletes, complimentary ticket sales for enrolled student-athletes, outside funds that were maintained and administered contrary to NCAA rules by the former head football coach and a former administrative assistant, the arrangement of cost-free room and board for "unaided" student-athletes, the secret scouting of football opponents, the conduct of out-of-season football practices and the use of an excessive number of coaches to recruit.

In announcing the Council's action, Mr. Toner stated that the violations in this case appeared to represent a deliberate and calculated effort on the part of the university's football coaching staff over a five-year period to do anything necessary to achieve a superior football record. The program did, in fact, enjoy a meteoric rise from a 0-10-1 record in 1979 to four consecutive postseason football bowl game appearances, national rankings and the university's first Southeastern Conference championship in history in 1984.

"Unfortunately, during the five-year period in which the violations occurred," continued Mr. Toner, "the football coaching staff operated unimpeded by any effort being exerted by the university's director of athletics or any other administrative authority at the university to assure control of the football program. Due to this fact, as well as the serious nature of many of the violations in this case, the Committee on Infractions and the Council considered this to be among the most serious infractions cases ever processed by the NCAA.

"It also should be emphasized, however," said Mr. Toner, "that the Committee on Infractions determined that current university officials committed themselves to an effort to unearth complete information concerning the violations in this case, and the committee believed that the university took meaningful and appropriate corrective actions in the face of outside pressures to do otherwise. The Council also voted to publicly express its support of the university's actions, particularly the courageous actions of President Marshall Criser, and the Council notes that the infractions committee's decision to suspend the third year of probation and one year of the television and postseason sanctions was an expression of appreciation for the decisive actions of the president.

"Even though the university has taken significant corrective action, the Council continues to believe that a vigorous NCAA monitoring program is warranted to enhance the university's efforts to form a foundation that will support meaningful institutional controls in the future. During this monitoring period, the Committee on Infractions will evaluate the progress of the university and will be in a position to review, if necessary, the issues that have developed during the processing of this case.

In addition, Mr. Toner stated in closing, "the Committee on Infractions and the Council must consider the interests of all NCAA member institutions in ensuring that NCAA athletics programs are conducted in compliance with the Association's regulations. In this regard, it would be inappropriate to permit the University of Florida to retain any competitive advantage on the playing field that was gained through improper means.

"Accordingly, institutional sanctions that will affect postseason play and television appearances for at least a two-year period have been imposed and severe grant-in-aid limitations have been imposed, which are intended to require the university's football program to rebuild through legitimate means before continuing to enjoy success at its current level."

The following is a complete text of the penalty and a summary of the violations in this case.

Penalty To Be Imposed Upon Institution

1. The University of Florida shall be publicly reprimanded and censured, and placed on probation for a period of three years effective January 13, 1985, it being understood that should any portion of the penalty in this case be set aside for any reason other than by appropriate action of the Association, the penalty shall be reconsidered by the NCAA.

2. The university's intercollegiate football team shall end its 1984, 1985 and 1986 football seasons with the playing of its last regularly scheduled, in-season contest, and the university shall not be eligible to participate in any postseason football competition during those seasons. [NOTE: The Southeastern Conference action to prohibit the university from participating in postseason football bowl competition following the 1984 regular season shall count as one of the years the university is prohibited from participating in postseason competition by the NCAA.]

3. During the 1985, 1986 and 1987 football seasons, the university's intercollegiate football team shall not be eligible to appear on any television series or program subject to the administration or control of this Association or any other television programs involving "live" coverage.

4. During the 1985-86 and 1986-87 academic years, no more than 20 student-athletes in the sport of football shall be recipients of initial, athletically related financial aid that has been arranged or awarded by the University of Florida; further, during the 1985-86 academic year, a total of no more than 85 student-athletes in the sport of football shall be recipients of athletically related financial aid, and during the 1986-87 academic year, a total of no more than 75 student-athletes in the sport of football shall be recipients of athletically related financial aid.

5. Because of the prompt corrective and disciplinary actions taken by the University of Florida in this case, as well as the university's demonstrated commitment to develop full information in this case, the Committee on Infractions hereby reduces the three-year term of probation to two years, and suspends the application of the postseason sanction for the 1986 football season and the television sanction for the 1987 football season. This reduction in penalty is contingent on the successful completion of the conditions of the two-year term of probation [see paragraphs a-(1) through a-(3) below] and fulfillment of the institutional remedial actions [see paragraphs b-(1) through b-(9) below] in this case.

a. The following are the committee's express conditions of the two-year probationary period:

(1) There shall be required an annual report to the NCAA (due at the start of the 1985 and 1986 football seasons) of the football squad list with an indication of the student-athletes who are receiving aid from or arranged by the university, those who received aid the previous year but whose aid was terminated or not renewed and a list of the unaided members of the squad together with information as to how the unaided squad members are paying the costs incurred in attending the University of Florida.

(2) At the end of the first year of probation, there shall be a written report (due one year from the date this penalty is imposed) to the NCAA indicating the steps taken to ensure that athletics department staff members are fully informed about NCAA rules and the steps taken to assure compliance with NCAA rules. This

report should include the extent to which the new restructuring of the athletics department [see paragraph b-(3) below] has been implemented. As soon as reasonably possible following the receipt of the annual report, the NCAA will conduct an on-site inspection of the University of Florida compliance program.

(3) At the end of the second year of probation, there shall be a final written report to the NCAA covering educational compliance and audit procedures. Prior to the end of the second year of probation, there shall be a second on-site inspection by a member of the NCAA staff to ensure that practices are in compliance with NCAA rules. Should the on-site inspection indicate questions about whether procedures are adequate to ensure compliance, the term of probation and accompanying sanctions may be extended for one year by the Committee on Infractions. The decision to extend the period of probation will be based upon a written report to the committee by the NCAA staff and such written response to that report as the University of Florida shall desire to make.

b. The following are remedial actions that have or will be taken by the university:

(1) The employment of the head coach has been terminated.

(2) The employment of two football assistant coaches will be terminated at the end of the 1984 football season.

(3) The athletics department will be restructured (particularly by making the head football coach directly responsible to the director of athletics) to ensure adequate institutional control.

(4) There has been adopted a complimentary ticket policy more strict than NCAA legislation requires.

(5) Procedures have been tightened to ensure control over athletics department vouchers.

(6) The athletics dormitory and dining room are now under the control of the business office (rather than the coaching staff).

(7) The director of athletics and faculty athletics representative have been given more clearly defined responsibilities to ensure proper monitoring of the intercollegiate athletics program.

(8) Seven representatives of the university's athletics interests have been disassociated from engaging in any recruiting activities on behalf of the university during the probationary period.

(9) Ten representatives of the university's athletics interests have been sent a letter strongly urging them to take every precaution to avoid further, even minor, violations of NCAA rules.

Summary of Violations of NCAA Legislation

1. NCAA Constitution 3-2 [institutional control] -- (a) During the period beginning with the 1978-79 academic year and continuing through the 1983-84 academic year, the institution failed to exercise appropriate institutional control of its intercollegiate football program; (b) during the period beginning with the 1979-80 academic year and continuing through the 1982-83 academic year, the head football coach administered a fund of at least \$4,000 from which he withdrew cash to pay costs that could not be paid by the university without violating NCAA legislation, and (c) during the period beginning with the 1979-80 academic year and continuing through the 1982-83 academic year, the then administrative assistant for football administered a fund from which he withdrew cash to pay costs that could not be paid by the university without violating NCAA legislation.

2. NCAA Constitution 3-6-(a) [ethical conduct] -- (a) The former head football coach, three former assistant football coaches, two former administrative assistants and a former academic advisor acted contrary to the principles of ethical conduct inasmuch as they did not, on all occasions, deport themselves in accordance with the generally recognized high standards normally associated with the conduct and administration of intercollegiate athletics, in that their involvement in the violations set forth in this report demonstrates a knowing and willful effort on their part to operate the university's football program contrary to NCAA legislation.

3. NCAA Constitution 3-1-(a)-(3) and 3-1-(g)-(3) [amateurism and complimentary tickets] -- (a) On or about August 29, 1982, the head football coach arranged for two representatives of the university's athletics interests to purchase complimentary season football tickets from numerous student-athletes for amounts substantially in excess of face value of the tickets; further, two assistant football coaches were aware of these purchases; (b) during the fall of 1980 and 1981, through the arrangements of an academic advisor, several student-athletes sold their complimentary tickets to "away" football games; (c) in November 1980, through the arrangements of an academic advisor, several

student-athletes sold their complimentary tickets for one of the university's games to various representatives of the university's athletics interests; (d) during late August or early September 1981 and 1982, an assistant football coach purchased four complimentary season football tickets from a student-athlete for approximately \$1,000; (e) during the fall of 1983, a representative of the university's athletics interests purchased four complimentary season football tickets from a student-athlete for \$950; (f) during the fall of 1983, a representative of the university's athletics interests purchased four complimentary season football tickets from a student-athlete for \$900; (g) during late August or early September 1981, an assistant football coach purchased four complimentary season football tickets from a student-athlete for approximately \$800; (h) during August 1981, a football administrative assistant arranged for a representative of the university's athletics interests to purchase four complimentary season football tickets from a student-athlete; further, an academic advisor was present when the transaction occurred; (i) on at least three occasions during the 1979-80 and 1980-81 academic years, a football administrative assistant purchased complimentary season football tickets from various enrolled student-athletes for amounts in excess of face value of the tickets, and (j) on at least five occasions during the period beginning with the 1979-80 academic year and continuing through the 1981-82 academic year, a football administrative assistant purchased complimentary season football tickets from various enrolled student-athletes for amounts in excess of face value of the tickets.

4. NCAA Bylaw 1-1-(b) [recruiting] -- (a) In December 1980, a representative of the university's athletics interests gave a prospect \$400 when the young man signed a letter of intent; (b) in December 1980, an assistant football coach gave a prospect \$350; (c) during February and March 1981, an academic advisor arranged for a prospect to receive room and board in the athletics dormitory at no cost to him; (d) during the summer of 1980, an athletics department staff member permitted two prospects to attend the university's football camp at a reduced cost; (e) in December 1980, an administrative assistant gave a prospect \$50 when the young man signed a letter of intent; (f) in February 1982, a football administrative assistant offered to arrange for a prospect to sell his complimentary season football tickets for "good money" during his enrollment at the university; (g) during the spring of the 1978-79 academic year, a representative of the university's athletics interests offered a prospect \$50 to assist in washing the representative's automobile, and (h) during June 1981, a football administrative assistant lent a student-athlete cash to pay the young man's tuition, room and board charges incurred during a summer school session at the university; further, the loan was repaid within a few days by the student-athlete's mother.

5. NCAA Constitution 3-1-(g)-(5) [extra benefits] -- (a) During the period beginning with the 1980-81 academic year and continuing through the 1982-83 academic year, an academic advisor arranged for some student-athletes to receive room and board in the athletics dormitory at no cost to them; further, these young

men were not recipients of athletics grants-in-aid during this period of time, and finally, the head football coach, two assistant football coaches, two football administrative assistants and the assistant director of athletics were aware of these arrangements; (b) during the summer of 1980 and the spring of 1981, the head football coach arranged for a student-athlete to receive room and board in the athletics dormitory at no cost to him; further, the young man was not a recipient of an athletics grant-in-aid during this period of time; (c) on numerous occasions during the 1982-83 academic year, a football administrative assistant and an academic advisor arranged for the relatives of several student-athletes to receive overnight lodging at Gainesville motels at no cost to them; (d) during March 1979, through the arrangements of a representative of the university's athletics interests, two student-athletes received approximately seven nights' lodging and at least five meals at a hotel at no cost to the young men; further, the representative also gave the young men approximately \$30 cash, and (e) during the period beginning with the 1979-80 academic year and continuing through the 1982-83 academic year, members of the university's football coaching staff and a representative of the university's athletics interests were careless in observing customary NCAA rules prohibiting loans of money and automobiles to student-athletes.

6. NCAA Bylaw 7-2 [scouting] -- On 13 occasions during the 1980-81 and 1981-82 academic years, members of the university's football coaching staff paid the expenses of athletics department staff members to improperly scout football opponents.

7. NCAA Bylaws 1-6-(a) and 3-1-(a)-(2) [tryouts and out-of-season practice] -- On numerous occasions during the summers of 1980, 1981 and 1982, members of the university's football coaching staff conducted football practice activities (e.g., organized weight lifting, linebacker drills, passing drills and skill position drills) involving members of the university's intercollegiate football team. One prospect also participated in 1980.

8. NCAA Bylaws 1-1-(b)-(l), 1-8-(j) and 7-1-(e) [recruiting and coaching staff limitations] -- (a) During either January or February 1981, an academic advisor transported a prospect from his home to a restaurant where the prospect was entertained for a meal; further, after the meal, the academic advisor transported the young man to a gift shop and gave the young man approximately \$30-\$40 cash to purchase a gift; further, the academic advisor then transported the young man to his girlfriend's home and gave approximately \$70 cash to the prospect, and (b) on at least three occasions during the spring of the 1980-81 academic year, an academic advisor provided a prospect local automobile transportation from his home or high school to various restaurants where the prospect was entertained for meals; further, on each of these occasions, the academic advisor gave the prospect approximately \$20-\$50 cash.

9. NCAA Bylaw 1-8-(j) [recruiting] -- (a) In December 1980, the head football coach and an assistant football coach arranged for two prospects to be provided one night's lodging at a hotel in Florida at no cost to them.

10. NCAA Bylaw 7-1-(a) [coaching staff limitations] -- During the period beginning in the 1980-81 academic year and continuing through the 1982-83 academic year, the university exceeded the permissible number of full-time assistant football coaches who could engage in off-campus recruiting activities.

11. NCAA Bylaw 7-2-(a) [coaching staff limitations] -- (a) On several occasions during the 1979-80 academic year, a football administrative assistant contacted various prospective student-athletes in person, off campus for recruiting purposes; further, he was not designated by the university as an off-campus recruiter during that time, and (b) during the period beginning in the 1979-80 academic year and continuing through the 1981-82 academic year, athletics department academic advisors contacted numerous prospective student-athletes in person, off campus for recruiting purposes; further, these athletics department academic advisors were not designated by the university as off-campus recruiters during this period.

12. NCAA Bylaw 5-6-(d)-(4) [certification of compliance] -- With full knowledge at the time that certain practices of the university's 5 intercollegiate football program were not in compliance with NCAA legislation, the head football coach, seven assistant football coaches, two administrative assistants, an academic advisor and an assistant director of athletics attested on certain statements filed with the chief executive officer of the university that they had reported to the chief executive officer their knowledge of and involvement in any violation of NCAA legislation involving the university.

13. NCAA Bylaws 1-2-(a)-(3) and 1-8-(d) [recruiting] -- In the spring of 1981, during a visit to the university's campus by two prospective student-athletes, a representative of the university's athletics interests paid the meal and lodging charges incurred by the young men during a two-night stay at a motel in Gainesville; further, the representative provided the young men one-way automobile transportation from Gainesville to their homes at no cost to them at the conclusion of their visit, and finally, this visit occurred prior to the completion of the young men's junior year in high school.

14. NCAA Bylaws 1-8-(a), 1-8-(d) and 1-8-(iO)-(5) [recruiting] -- During August 1981, during a visit to the university's campus by two prospective student-athletes, athletics department staff members arranged for the young men to receive two nights' lodging in the athletics dormitory and entertained them for at least two meals at no cost to one of the young men and at a reduced cost to the other young man; further, this lodging and entertainment occurred prior to the beginning of the young men's senior year in high school, and finally, this visit when coupled with another expense-paid visit enjoyed by the young man resulted

in two paid visits to the university's campus; (b) during the 1979-80 academic year, a prospect was provided two expense-paid visits to the university's campus, and (c) during the spring of 1980, the university provided a prospect, his mother and his two sisters one night's lodging at a hotel in Gainesville at no cost to them; further, an athletics department staff member entertained the young man and his family for two meals during the visit.

15. NCAA Bylaw 1-8-(m) [recruiting] -- During December 1980, while recruiting two prospective student-athletes, an assistant football coach directed an administrative assistant to give the young men's high school assistant football coach approximately 13 tickets to the 1980 Tangerine Bowl football game.

16. NCAA Bylaw 1-6-(a) [tryouts] -- During the 1979-80 and 1980-81 academic year, several prospective student-athletes participated in weight-training workouts that were observed by members of the university's football and strength coaching staffs.

17. NCAA Bylaws 1-5-(b), 1-8-(j) and 7-1-(e) [recruiting] -- (a) During the summer of 1981, a representative of the university's athletics interests provided a prospect round-trip automobile transportation between his hometown and the university's campus (a total distance of approximately 300 miles) in order to attend the university's summer football camp; further, during the fall of 1981, the representative again provided the young man round-trip automobile transportation between his hometown and the university's campus to attend a football game, and finally, an assistant football coach reimbursed the representative for his gasoline costs on both occasions, and (b) during late January or early February 1981, an academic advisor provided a prospect one-way automobile transportation between his home and the university's campus (a distance of approximately 300 miles).

18. NCAA Bylaws 1-1-(b)-(l) and 1-8-(j) [recruiting] -- During the period beginning with the 1978-79 academic year and continuing through the 1982-83 academic year, the university was careless in its adherence to customary recruiting rules that would provide an advantage in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes. Specifically, members of the university's athletics department staff and representatives of the university's athletics interests gave T-shirts, sport shirts, workout clothing, university souvenirs and photographs to prospective student-athletes, and provided prospective student-athletes improper automobile transportation and entertainment for meals on occasions other than during the young men's official paid visit to the university's campus.

19. NCAA Bylaws 1-5-(b) and 1-8-(j) [use of funds and recruiting] -- During January 1981, while recruiting a prospective student-athlete, the head football coach arranged for a representative of the university's athletics interests to accompany him in a university airplane on a recruiting trip to the young man's home.

20. NCAA Bylaws 1-1-(b)-(1) and 1-8-(i)-(1) [recruiting] -- During the official paid visit to the university's campus of a prospective student-athlete in the fall of 1980, an athletics department staff member gave the young man a check for \$41.80 for personal travel expenses, although the young man actually was transported to the university's campus on this occasion by his high school assistant football coach.

21. NCAA Bylaw 7-1-(h) [coaching staff limitations] -- During the period beginning in August 1980 and continuing through April 1982, the university employed a graduate assistant football coach, even though more than five years had elapsed since his initial enrollment in a collegiate institution.

22. NCAA Bylaw 1-1-(b)-(2) [recruiting] -- During the summer of 1979, a representative of the university's athletics interests arranged for two prospects to be employed prior to the completion of their senior year in high school.

23. NCAA Bylaw 1-2-(a)-(1) [recruiting] -- (a) During the 1978-79 and 1979-80 academic years, a prospective student-athlete and his family were contacted **in person, off campus for recruiting purposes on more than three occasions** by the head football coach, an assistant football coach and a representative of the university's athletics interests, and (b) during the 1978-79 and 1979-80 academic years, a prospective student-athlete was contacted in person, off campus on more than three occasions by an assistant football coach, a football administrative assistant and two representatives of the university's athletics interests.

24. NCAA Bylaw 1-2-(a)-(3) [recruiting] -- During the spring of the 1980-81 academic year, an assistant football coach contacted two prospective student-athletes in person, off campus prior to the completion of their junior year in high school.