

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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FOR RELEASE:

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PLACED ON NCAA PROBATION

Mission, Kansas--The University of Georgia has been placed on probation for a one-year period by the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Committee on Infractions as a result of violations found in the conduct of the institution's intercollegiate football program.

The penalty will reduce the number of grants-in-aid in football at the university for a two-year period by prohibiting the institution from awarding more than 23 initial grants-in-aid (normal 30) to new recruits for the 1985-86 and 1986-87 academic years. In addition, the total number of football squad members receiving financial aid at the university will be reduced from the normal 95 to 90 in the 1985-86 academic year and 87 in the 1986-87 academic year.

Also, the university has taken action to prohibit three representatives of its athletics interests from participating in any activities associated with the recruitment of prospective student-athletes as a result of their involvement in this case.

The case did not involve additional penalties and the university remains eligible for postseason football bowl games and television appearances.

"The Committee on Infractions did not believe the violations in this case represented a pattern of intentional misconduct," said Frank J. Remington, chair, NCAA Committee on Infractions, "but the committee was concerned that the actions of certain outside athletics representatives were clearly contrary to NCAA regulations. One of these representatives was involved in in-person recruiting contacts with family members of two prospective student-athletes, even though recruiting contacts by athletics representatives were prohibited by the NCAA in 1983. A second representative assisted a student-athlete in obtaining a bank loan to purchase a used automobile and later assisted the young man by retiring the delinquent balance of the loan.

"This second representative had been a long-time friend of the student-athlete's family," noted Mr. Remington, "and had aided the family prior to becoming involved in the university's recruiting efforts. He agreed to attend one of the university's seminars on NCAA regulations, but continued to assist the student-athlete in question as the violations in this case indicate without advising members of the university's coaching staff of his actions and with the knowledge that he was violating NCAA rules.

"It should be emphasized," said Mr. Remington, "that the university's cooperation in developing information concerning these matters was exemplary in that the university both confirmed information available to the NCAA enforcement staff in this case and vigorously pursued additional information concerning the improper acts of its representatives when that information would have been unavailable to the NCAA without the university's assistance."

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Remington stated that "although the university's football coaching staff members were not involved in the serious violations in this case and were unaware of the violations committed by outside representatives, the committee determined that the university's football program should bear the responsibility for the clear violations that did occur. For this reason, as well as because the university's football program was penalized by the NCAA in another case in 1982, a significant grant-in-aid reduction was imposed, which the committee believes will impede the university's recruiting efforts in football for an appropriate period of time."

The following is a complete text of the penalty imposed upon the University of Georgia and a summary of violations in the case.

Penalty To Be Imposed Upon University

1. The University of Georgia shall be publicly reprimanded and censured, and placed on probation for a period of one year effective January 3, 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. During the 1985-86 and 1986-87 academic years, no more than 23 student-athletes in the sport of football shall be recipients of initial, athletically related financial aid (as set forth in 0.1. 600) that has been arranged or awarded by the University of Georgia; further, during the 1985-86 academic year, a total of no more than 90 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 87 student-athletes in the sport of football shall be recipients of athletically related financial aid.

3. The university shall prohibit the future involvement of three representatives of its athletics interests in any activities associated with the recruitment of prospective student-athletes on behalf of the university.

Summary of Violations of NCAA Legislation

1. NCAA Constitution 3-1-(g)-(5) [extra benefits] -- (a) In December 1982, a representative of the university's athletics interests assisted a student-athlete in obtaining a bank loan for a limited amount of money to purchase a used 1975 automobile; further, the student-athlete failed to make required payments on the loan and the representative gave the student-athlete cash to pay a portion of the debt and later paid the balance of the loan on behalf of the student-athlete; (b) during the 1982-83 academic year, two representatives of the university's athletics.