



Study Reveals Some Sweet 16 Men's Teams Fail to Make the Grade

Lapchick Report Unveils Graduation Rates for NCAA 2003 Sweet 16 Men's Basketball Teams

Orlando, FL... March 24, 2003 - The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida today released a study, "Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates for 2003 NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Championship – The Sweet 16 Teams," which reports graduation rates for teams that have reached the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Men's basketball tournament. The study was authored by Dr. Richard Lapchick, who is director of the Institute and of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF.

Graduation rates were analyzed for the 16 college and university teams that have reached this elite level of the tournament. The study compares graduation rates for all student-athletes to basketball student-athletes in general and African-American basketball student-athletes in particular. Some of the results were certainly disturbing:

- Five (31%) of the 16 teams had basketball student-athlete graduation rates that were **32 to 49 percentage points lower** than the school's overall student-athlete graduation rate.
- Six (38%) of the schools had graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were **35 to 74 percentage points lower** than the school's overall student-athlete graduation rate.
- Only three (19%) of the universities (Butler, Duke and Kansas) **graduated at least two-thirds** of their African-American basketball student-athletes, while just five (31%) **graduated at least two-thirds** of all basketball student-athletes (Butler, Duke, Kansas, Marquette and Notre Dame).
- Seven (44%) of the universities **graduated at least half** of their African-American student-athletes while only six (38%) **graduated at least half** of all basketball student-athletes.
- Seven (44%) of the schools **graduated 30 percent or less** of African-American basketball student-athletes; five (31%) of the schools **graduated 20 percent or less** of African-American basketball student-athletes; three (19%) of the schools **graduated 10 percent or less** of African-American basketball student-athletes; two schools failed to graduate a single African-American basketball student-athlete in six years.

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As the tournament began, 13 (20%) of the 65 tournament teams had not graduated an African-American student-athlete in six years. (NOTE: A complete list of graduation rates for all 65 tournament teams is available at www.bus.ucf.edu/sport/ides/sweet16men.) Three of the round of 32 teams were in that category. Of the Sweet 16, Oklahoma and Syracuse had not graduated an African-American student-athlete in six years.

The study revealed that for most of the colleges and universities, the graduation rate of all student-athletes was higher than that of basketball student-athletes. At the majority of the schools, African-American basketball student-athletes had lower graduation rates than their teammates, with significant decreases in many instances.

Institute Director Dr. Richard Lapchick explained, "We are releasing these graduation rates in order to give March Madness fans a perspective on how well our institutions of higher education are doing off the basketball court. We promise all student-athletes who enter our universities that we will give them an education and help them earn a college degree. This study shows that, once again, too many universities do not fulfill their promises, especially to African-American student-athletes who play basketball."

Lapchick noted that, "Among all college sports, men's basketball has the worst graduation rates. When we look at all 328 Division I teams, 58 did not graduate a single African-American basketball player in six years. This is in a sport where 57 percent of Division I basketball student-athletes are African-American. Overall, only 36 percent of basketball players graduate, and an even more scandalously low 28 percent of African-American basketball student-athletes graduate.

"It is a nightmare waiting to be fixed. The wait has spanned generations of student-athletes playing basketball." Lapchick added, "I hope that the new NCAA president, Dr. Myles Brand, will be successful in moving the NCAA to provide incentives for schools with high graduation rates and to impose penalties, such as losing scholarships or not making the Tournament, for schools that fall short of some reasonable graduation rate goals."

According to report findings, if 2003 Tournament schools were required to have graduation rates of at least 50 percent, then 69 percent of the teams in the round of 32 would have been ineligible to play. With this requirement, only six (38%) of the Sweet 16 would have qualified for the NCAA Tournament. If the graduation rate requirement were lowered to a mere 40 percent, only 8 of the Sweet 16 would have made the Tournament.

The study also shows that there are basketball programs that can play at the championship level and still assure the meaningful and complete education of their student-athletes.

Lapchick added, "If there were a Sweet 16 for the top graduation rates among Tournament teams, then the bracket would include (in order of graduation rates for all basketball student-athletes): Stanford (100 percent), UNC-Ashville, Butler and Wagner (tied), San Diego, Dayton, Holy Cross, and Austin Peay (tied), Notre Dame, Duke, Kansas, Marquette and Manhattan (tied), Xavier, and Michigan State and Vermont (tied). All of these schools graduated at least 50 percent of their African-American student athletes and 56 percent of all basketball players. Six of them made the actual Sweet 16 (Butler, Notre Dame, Duke, Kansas, Marquette and Michigan State).

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Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport

DeVos Sport Business Management Program University of Central Florida
P. O. Box 161400 Orlando, FL 32816-1400 (407) 823-4887 FAX (407) 823-4771
www.bus.ucf.edu/sport
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"In the academic Sweet 16, Stanford would win a close one over UNC-Ashville for the National Championship," Lapchick continued.

"These schools are proof that you can have scholar athletes and win at the same time," said Lapchick. "They are the types of schools that Dr. Brand's plan would reward."

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 1995-96 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four class average.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sports. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sports, as well as the nationally recognized *Racial and Gender Report Card*, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management. Additionally, the Institute conducts diversity management training and will hold a biannual National Conference to address diversity issues in sport. The Institute also will monitor some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for the exploitation of student-athletes, gambling, performance-enhancing drugs and violence in sport.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport is part of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the University of Central Florida's College of Business Administration. This landmark program focuses on business skills necessary for graduates to conduct successful careers in the rapidly changing and dynamic sports industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service and sport and social issues.

News release and charts are available at www.bus.ucf.edu/sport/ides/sweet16men

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See accompanying documents:

2003 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Sweet 16 Graduation Rates Chart

2003 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Graduation Rates Chart

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