



Study Reveals Some College Baseball Teams Strike Out with Graduation Rates

Lapchick Report Unveils Graduation Rates for 2003 NCAA Super Regional Baseball Teams

Orlando, FL... June 4, 2003 - The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida today released a first-ever study of college baseball graduation rates. "Striking Out In Academics: Graduation Rates for 2003 NCAA Division I Baseball Super Regional Teams" reports graduation rates for teams that have reached the Super Regional round of the NCAA baseball 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 reviewed for all schools that play Division I baseball, with final analysis conducted on 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 baseball student-athletes in general and African-American and Latino baseball student-athletes in particular. According to the NCAA, 286 teams play Division I baseball with nearly 9,500 student-athletes competing. More than 86 percent of the baseball student-athletes are white, 4.9 percent are African-American and 5 percent are Latino.

Lapchick concluded, "College baseball joins basketball and football as sports where playing the game far outweighs studying in the classroom. Many of these results are deeply disturbing."

Among the results were the following:

- Four (25%) of the 16 teams had baseball student-athlete graduation rates that were **30 to 43 percentage points lower** than the school's overall student-athlete graduation rate.
- Only nine of the 16 schools had African-American student-athletes.
 - Seven of the nine schools **did not graduate a single African-American student-athlete in six years.**
 - Six (67%) of the nine schools had graduation rates for African-American baseball student-athletes that were **30 to 71 percentage points lower** than the school's overall student-athlete graduation rate.
 - Only two (22%) of the universities (Stanford and Long Beach State) **graduated at least one-half** of their African-American baseball student-athletes.

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- Just 10 schools had Latino student-athletes who played baseball.
 - Three of the 10 schools with a Latino student-athlete **did not graduate a single Latino student-athlete in six years.**
 - Six (60%) of the ten schools had graduation rates for Latino baseball student-athletes that were **30 to 53 percentage points lower** than the school's overall student-athlete graduation rate.
 - Four (40%) of the ten schools (Houston, Stanford, Rice and Florida State) **graduated at least one-half** of their Latino baseball student-athletes.

- Only five (31%) of the 16 schools **graduated at least 50 percent** of all baseball student-athletes (Stanford, Rice, UNC-Chapel Hill, Ohio State and Baylor).

With the exception of Ohio State University, the graduation rate of all student-athletes was higher than that of baseball student-athletes. The study also revealed that African-American and Latino baseball student-athletes had lower graduation rates than their teammates at most of the schools. According to report findings, if 2003 Super Regional participants were required to have baseball graduation rates of at least 50 percent, only five of 16 the schools would be able to play. If that requirement were lowered to 35 percent, only half of the 16 teams would have been eligible.

Institute Director Dr. Richard Lapchick explained, "We are releasing these graduation rates in order to give the Super Regional and College World Series fans a perspective on how well our institutions of higher education are doing off the baseball diamond. It has long been assumed that basketball and football programs had the lowest graduation rates. That makes the results of this first-ever study of college baseball graduation rates startling.

"There are 328 Division I basketball teams. As we reported in March 2003, 58 schools did not graduate a single African-American baseball player in six years. In Division I baseball, only 118 of the 286 teams had an African-American student-athlete. A shocking 55 percent (65 of the 118) did not graduate a single African-American student-athlete in six years. While the number of African-American players is much smaller, this still is a terrible record. Moreover, 101 of the 286 Division I schools had overall baseball graduation rates lower than 40 percent. Worst of all, 183 of the 286 schools (64 percent) graduated fewer baseball student-athletes than the NCAA's overall student-athlete graduation rate, which is 59 percent."

"This baseball data gives NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand even more ammunition in his attempt to get the NCAA to provide incentives for schools with high graduation rates and to impose penalties for schools that fall short of reasonable graduation rate goals," Lapchick added.

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 1995-96 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four class average. Lapchick noted, "I think the NCAA data is slightly unfair because it does not consider student-athletes who transfer to and graduate from other schools, junior college transfers who graduate at the school, nor student-athletes who earn a degree more than six years after they enter. That being said, the graduation rates published by the NCAA are the best measure we have to assess how our schools are doing."

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Lapchick observed, "If there were a Super Regional tournament based on top graduation rates among all Division I schools that play baseball, then the bracket would include (in order of graduation rates for all baseball student-athletes): Belmont, Davidson College, LaSalle, Samford, Bucknell, Lafayette, Pace, Villanova, Duke, Lehigh, Niagara (NY), the University of Richmond, Santa Clara and Wofford College. Drexel, Gonzaga and St. Joseph's (PA), all with an 82 percent graduation rate, would have a playoff for the final two spots.

"In an 'Academic College World Series,' the four finalists, all with 100 percent graduation rates, would be Davidson College, LaSalle, Belmont and Samford. One of them would be the National Champion!" Lapchick continued.

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.

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News release and chart are available at www.bus.ucf.edu/sport/ides/baseball2003

See accompanying chart:
2003 NCAA Division I Baseball Super Regional Team Graduation Rates