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## Keeping Score When It Counts: Sweet 16 Men's and Women's Teams A Look at Their Academic Success

**Orlando, FL – March 24, 2010...**If the Sweet 16 for men's/women's basketball teams were based on Graduation Success Rates<sup>1</sup>, then the complete seeding would be as follows (team's overall GSR is in parentheses after the school's name):

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
#1. Duke (92%)	#1. (tie) Connecticut (100%)
#2. Butler (90%)	#1. (tie) Nebraska (100%)
#3. Xavier (89%)	#1. (tie) Notre Dame (100%)
#4. Northern Iowa (78%)	#1. (tie) Stanford (100%)
#5. Purdue (64%)	#1. (tie) Tennessee (100%)
#6. Kansas State (62%)	#6. (tie) Duke (92%)
#7. Ohio State (60%)	#6. (tie) Gonzaga (92%)
#8. Michigan State (58%)	#6. (tie) Kentucky (92%)
#9. St. Mary's (57%)	#9. Iowa State (90%)
#10. Syracuse (55%)	#10. Xavier (88%)
#11. West Virginia (44%)	#11. Mississippi State (86%)
#12. Baylor (36%)	#12. (tie) Baylor (83%)
#13. Kentucky (31%)	#12. (tie) Oklahoma (83%)
#14. Tennessee (30%)	#14. Georgia (79%)
#15. Washington (29%)	#15. San Diego State (75%)
#16. Cornell (NA)	#16. Florida State (67%)

In addition, based on Academic Progress Rates<sup>2</sup>, the Sweet 16 seeding for men's/women's basketball would be the following (team's APR is in parentheses after the school's name):

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
#1. (tie) Baylor (989)	#1. (tie) Connecticut (991)
#1. (tie) Duke (989)	#1. (tie) Nebraska (991)
#3. Michigan State (985)	#3. (tie) Duke (989)
#4. Kentucky (979)	#3. (tie) Stanford (989)
#5. Cornell (977)	#5. Georgia (986)
#6. Xavier (976)	#6. Notre Dame (983)
#7. Butler (964)	#7. (tie) Gonzaga (981)
#8. West Virginia (960)	#7. (tie) Oklahoma (981)

RICHARD E. LAPCHICK, DIRECTOR • KEITH HARRISON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR • FITZ HILL, VISITING SCHOLAR  
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#9. Washington (956)	#9. Iowa State (980)
#10. Northern Iowa (942)	#10. Mississippi State (977)
#11. Syracuse (932)	#11. (tie) Kentucky (973)
#12. St. Mary's (931)	#11. (tie) Tennessee (973)
#13. Tennessee (924)	#13. San Diego State (965)
#14. Ohio State (911)	#14. Florida State (956)
#15. Kansas State (900)	#15. Baylor (955)
#15. (tie) Purdue (900)	#16. Xavier (946)

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida released a new study on the Graduation Success Rates and Academic Progress Rates of the teams in the men's and women's Sweet 16. It is a follow-up to its annual study, "Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for 2010 NCAA Men's and Women's Division I Basketball Tournament Teams," which compared graduation success and academic progress rates for Division I teams that had been selected for the men's and women's brackets of the 2010 NCAA Basketball Tournaments. The author of the study is Dr. Richard Lapchick, who is director of The Institute and of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Brian Hoff, Christopher Kaiser, David Benoit, and Jamile M. Kitnurse.

Lapchick noted "Five of the Sweet 16 women's teams had a higher graduation success rate than the men's team with the highest GSR. In addition, **100 percent** of the women's teams graduated at least 67 percent of its basketball student-athletes compared to four men's teams or **27 percent**. Whether it is all 64 teams or the Sweet 16 teams, the women do better than the men academically.

"There was good news for many of the Sweet 16 men's and women's teams with their APR rates. There were nine men's teams (56 percent) and 15 women's teams (94 percent) with an APR of 950 or above, eight men's teams (50 percent) and 13 women's teams (81 percent) with an APR of 960 or above and six men's teams (38 percent) and 12 women's teams (75 percent) with an APR of 970 or above."

In this year's Sweet 16, Kansas State, Purdue, Ohio State and Tennessee are the men's teams (25 percent) to have APR scores below 925. Purdue, Ohio State and Tennessee are the men's teams that will be subject to contemporaneous penalties by the NCAA. All the women's teams were above the 925 score by more than 20 points.

In addition:

- 16 women's teams (**100 percent**) compared to seven of the men's teams (**47 percent**) graduated at least 60 percent of their overall basketball student-athletes.
- 15 women's teams (**94 percent**) compared to four of the men's (**27 percent**) teams graduated at least 70 percent.
- No women's team graduated less than 40 percent while four of the men's teams (**27 percent**) were below that mark.

Lapchick emphasized, "Race remains an ongoing academic issue because of the continued gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes including a significant disparity between white and African-American basketball student-athletes. The good news is that the GSR rates for both whites and African-Americans are going up and the gap has narrowed slightly.

"Yet it is the disparity that is troublesome. Among the Sweet 16, white male basketball student-athletes graduate at 76 percent versus only 49 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes.

White female basketball student-athletes graduate at 93 percent, while 88 percent of African-American female basketball student-athletes graduate. The men's 27 percent disparity is five percent greater than last year. The women's five percent gap is a whopping nine percent decrease from the 14 percent gap between Sweet 16 teams last year. However, the disparity is still present."

Distressing results on the topic of race and academics for the Sweet 16 teams' GSR data are:

- Three women's Sweet 16 teams (**20 percent**) and seven men's Sweet 16 teams (**50 percent**) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 30 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.
- Three women's teams (**20 percent**) and ten men's teams (**71 percent**) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 20 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick concluded that, "No matter how many teams we examine, overall women basketball student-athletes succeed academically better than their male counterparts. And no matter whether we look at women's or men's college basketball, the gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes is too big and must be narrowed. I believe that the late NCAA President Myles Brand's reform package is leading us in the right way but the job is not done. The increasing graduation rates show this."

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 2002-03 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four-class average (freshman classes of 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2003-04). The APR data in this study does not include data from the 2008-09 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses the four-year data from the 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 academic years.

**Note: The men's and women's percentages were calculated as follows:**

1. All men's graduation rates were based on 15 teams (Cornell, like other Ivy League Schools, does not report graduation rates).
2. The disparity figures for men's teams are based on 14 teams. In addition to Cornell not reporting graduation rates, Xavier has no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review.
3. The disparity figures for women's teams are based on 15 teams because Iowa State had no African-American basketball student-athletes.

### **ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT (TIDES)...**

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 internationally recognized Racial and Gender Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management in professional and college sport. Additionally, The Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. The Institute also monitors some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for 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.

<b>Graduation Success Rates for 2010 Men's Sweet 16 Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>Overall Student-Athlete</b>	<b>African-American Basketball Student-Athlete</b>	<b>White Basketball Student-Athlete</b>	<b>Overall Basketball Student-Athlete</b>
Baylor	989	77	29	100	36
Butler	964	86	75	100	90
Cornell	977				
Duke	989	97	89	100	92
Kansas State	900	77	38	100	62
Kentucky	979	73	18	100	31
Michigan State	985	80	44	100	58
Northern Iowa	942	76	75	80	78
Ohio State	911	78	50	100	60
Purdue	900	77	57	83	64
St. Mary's	931	87	40	63	57
Syracuse	932	86	43	75	55
Tennessee	924	76	38	0	30
Washington	956	84	20	0	29
West Virginia	960	69	30	60	44
Xavier	976	94	88	-	89

<b>Graduation Success Rates for 2010 Women's Sweet 16 Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>Overall Student-Athlete</b>	<b>African-American Basketball Student-Athlete</b>	<b>White Basketball Student-Athlete</b>	<b>Overall Basketball Student-Athlete</b>
Baylor	955	77	82	86	83
Connecticut	991	82	100	100	100
Duke	989	97	86	100	92
Florida State	956	79	75	50	67
Georgia	986	75	70	100	79
Gonzaga	981	91	67	100	92
Iowa State	980	78	-	90	90
Kentucky	973	73	90	100	92
Mississippi State	977	78	83	100	86
Nebraska	991	75	100	100	100
Notre Dame	983	99	100	100	100
Oklahoma	981	70	100	100	83
San Diego State	965	68	100	67	75
Stanford	989	94	100	100	100
Tennessee	973	76	100	100	100
Xavier	946	94	67	100	88

<sup>1</sup> The Institute no longer examines Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) because it has taken the position that the FGR gives an unfair depiction of a school since it does not account for transfer students. A student-athlete who transfers in good standing and graduates at another institution counts as a non-graduate at the initial school. The FGR also does not count a junior college student who transfers into a four-year college and graduates or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's Graduation Success Rates, developed in 2005, as a better way to fairly measure the results because the GSR includes students transferring into the institutions. The GSR also allows institutions to subtract student-athletes who leave their institutions prior to graduation as long as they would have been academically eligible to compete had they remained.

<sup>2</sup> The NCAA created the APR in 2004 as part of an academic reform package designed to more accurately measure student-athletes' academic success as well as improve graduation rates at member institutions by providing sanctions in the form of lost scholarships when teams fail to meet the NCAA standard for academic performance. Every Division I sports team calculates its APR each academic year, based on the eligibility, retention and graduation of each scholarship student-athlete. Teams that score below a 925, which is equivalent to an NCAA GSR rate of approximately 60 percent, can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time.