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Keeping Score When It Counts: Analyzing the Academic Performance of the 2017 NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16 Teams

Orlando, FL – March 21, 2017The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) has released a new study on the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) of the teams in the NCAA Division I Women's and Men's Sweet 16. This study is a follow-up report to the annual study, **"Keeping Score When It Counts: Academic Progress/Graduation Success Rate Study of the 2017 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament Teams"** (published here: <http://www.tidesport.org/d1-men-s--women-s-basketball.html>), which compared the GSR and APR for all teams that were selected for the men's and women's basketball tournaments.

Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, is the director of TIDES and Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Bharath Balasundaram.

Lapchick commented that, "The generally positive news reported in the study of the full tournament continues in the Sweet 16 study. It breaks the often held belief that to get to the top you have to cut corners. Most of the 32 remaining teams have commendable academic records bringing good news to the men's and women's Sweet 16 teams. The GSR and the APR rates of the teams are overwhelmingly high. Nonetheless, the women still do better than the men."

Lapchick stated, "There are six women's and two men's Sweet 16 teams that had 100 percent graduation success rates. There are eight women's and seven men's teams with GSRs above 90 percent. In addition, 100 percent of the women's teams and 81 percent of the men's teams graduated at least 60 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

There was also positive news for both the women's and men's Sweet 16 teams regarding the APR rates. There were 15 men's teams (94 percent) and 16 women's teams (100 percent) with an APR of 960 or above, and 12 men's teams (75 percent) and 16 women's teams (100 percent) with an APR of 970 or above."

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Lapchick added, “There was an increase in the gap between the GSR of white male and African-American male basketball student-athletes while the gap between white female and African-American female basketball student-athletes remained the same. The GSR of white male basketball student-athletes was 95 percent (up six percentage points) versus 77 percent (down two percentage points) for African-American male basketball student-athletes resulting in an 18 percent gap. In the 2016 Sweet 16, the gap was 10 percent.

White female basketball student-athletes graduated 95 percent (up from 94 percent) compared to 88 percent (up one percentage point) for African-American female basketball student-athletes. The 7 percent gap is the same as 2016. The gap on the men’s teams remains cavernous at 18 percent.

Other positive findings include:

- With the NCAA APR cut rate at 930, none of the 32 teams in the men’s and women’s Sweet 16 was below that standard.
- 16 women’s teams (100 percent) and 13 men’s teams (81 percent) graduated at least 70 percent of their basketball student-athletes.
- There were no women’s teams and one men’s team (Oregon) that graduated less than 40 percent of their basketball student-athletes.

Baylor, the University of South Carolina, the University of Oregon and UCLA have teams in both the men’s and women’s 2016 Sweet 16 fields. Among these schools, the University Of South Carolina achieved the highest level of success on the court and in the classroom with both the men’s and women’s teams having an APR of 970 or above and a graduation rate above 75 percent.

If the Sweet 16 for men’s and women’s basketball teams were seeded based on Graduation Success Rates (GSR), then the complete seeding would be:

Men’s	Women’s
#1 (tie) Butler University (100)	#1 (tie) Florida State University (100)
#1 (tie) University of Kansas (100)	#1 (tie) Quinnipiac University (100)
#3 Purdue University (92)	#1 (tie) Stanford University (100)
#4 (tie) University of Arizona (91)	#1 (tie) UCLA (100)
#4 (tie) University of Michigan (91)	#1 (tie) University of Connecticut (100)
#4 (tie) Xavier University (91)	#1 (tie) University of Washington (100)
#7 Gonzaga University (90)	#7 Mississippi State University (94)
#8 University of Florida (88)	#8 Oregon State University (91)
#9 West Virginia University (85)	#9 University of Maryland (89)
#10 University of Kentucky (82)	#10 University of South Carolina (87)
#11 University of South Carolina (75)	#11 (tie) Ohio State University (86)
#12 University of Wisconsin, Madison (73)	#11 (tie) University of Texas (86)
#13 Baylor University (71)	#13 (tie) University of Louisville (83)
#14 UCLA (50)	#13 (tie) University of Notre Dame (83)
#14 (tie) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (50)	#15 Baylor University (80)
#16 University of Oregon (38)	#16 University of Oregon (79)

Based on Academic Progress Rates (APR), the Sweet 16 seeding for men's and women's basketball teams would be as follows:

Men's
#1 (tie) University of Florida (1000)
#1 (tie) West Virginia University (1000)
#1 (tie) University of Kentucky (1000)
#4 (tie) University of Michigan (995)
#4 (tie) Gonzaga University (995)
University of Kansas (990)
#7 (tie) University of South Carolina (989)
#7 (tie) University of Arizona (979)
#9 University of Wisconsin, Madison (976)
#10 Baylor University (975)
#11 (tie) Butler University (974)
#11 (tie) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (974)
#13 Purdue University (965)
#14 Xavier University (964)
#15 UCLA (962)
#16 University of Oregon (945)

Women's
#1 (tie) Stanford University (1000)
#1 (tie) Oregon State University (1000)
#1 (tie) University of Texas at Austin (1000)
#1 (tie) University of Notre Dame (1000)
#5 University of Louisville (996)
#6 University of South Carolina (995)
#7 Quinnipiac University (992)
#8 University of Maryland (990)
#9 UCLA (988)
#10 University of Oregon (986)
#11 University of Connecticut (983)
#12 University of Washington (981)
#13 (tie) Florida State University (975)
#13 (tie) The Ohio State University (975)
#15 (tie) Baylor University (972)
#15 (tie) Mississippi State University (972)

Lapchick emphasized, "For the second straight year, academically this is the sweetest Sweet 16 ever. Nonetheless, we still need to further close the gaps between the GSR of white male and female basketball student-athletes and African-American male and female basketball student-athletes. But this is a good year! It is a clear indication that the academic reforms instituted more than a decade ago have helped."

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

1. All men's and women's graduation rates were based on 16 teams.
2. GSR and APR scores are based on the most recent statistics provided by the NCAA.
3. Disparity figures are based on the difference of the average GSR for white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes.
4. One women's Sweet 16 teams (University of California, Los Angeles) did not have any white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.

THE INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND ETHICS IN SPORT (TIDES)

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport ("TIDES" or the "Institute") serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sport. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sport, 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. 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 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 sport business and entertainment management industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service, and social issues in sport.