Educators want tougher Club pulls out of ACC tourney standards for athletes

Some North Carolina education officials, who say the current prep rules are too weak, are calling for more stringent academic requirements for high school athletes.

"We would be very much in favor of tightening up the academic programs," said Gene Hooks, Wake Forest's athletic director. "Based on some of the athletes we see, I think you'd be doing a whole lot of them a service to make them as academically responsible as they can

Athletes can fail as many as half their classes under current academic standards set by the State Board of Education with the concurrence of the N.C. High School Athletics Asso-

The current rule, in effect since 1953, requires athletes to pass three or more courses each term - with one English, mathematics, social studies, natural sciences or a foreign language.

In that case, a student could take six courses, pass only half and participate in sports. A passing grade in the academic course and D's in all others would fulfill the requirement.

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, men's basketball coach and athletic director at Winston-Salem State University, prefers a C average

requirement that his athletes must maintain in at least three courses.

"I think the C average statewide would be sound," Gaines said. "And I think they should demand that they take certain academic subjects. I think a kid only does what he has to do. If you tighten them up, they'll get C's."

The Durham School Board adopted regulations three weeks ago which disqualify athletes from sports if they fail more than one course. The rule was adopted partly in response to the new National Collegiate Athletic Association rules adopted in January, according to a spokesman for the Durham schools.

Under the NCAA rules, athletes must keep a C average in a mandatory 'core' curriculum of basic courses like English, math and science. Prospective collegiate athletes also must score a combined 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or a 15 on the American College Testing entrance exam.

With those stiffer standards, some high school coaches also are worried about losing athletes. The requirement could present hardships to slow students.

But Kenneth G. Tilley, Jr., a spokesman for the N.C. High School Athletic Association, points out that requirements for graduation are universal.

The Associated Press

RALEIGH-Rocky Mount's Northgreen Country Club has pulled out of its commitment to host the Atlantic Coast Conference golf tournament after a continuing controversy over the club's membership policies.

In a prepared statement issued last Thursday, a country club official said the decision to terminate was made at the direction of V.W. "Pat" Thomas, owner of Northgreen. The annual tournament had been held at Norththrough 1986.

... is effective with this statement and confirmation by letter to the commissioner's office of the Atlantic Coast Conference," the letter

The controversy was brought to light by Steven Rogers, a black whose house is adjacent to the golf course. He wrote several letters to Northgreen because the club did not permit blacks in its membership.

Rogers erected several signs in his back yard conference, he added. during this year's tournament, protesting the conference's decision to continue the tournament at Northgreen.

On Tuesday, July 12, ACC athletic directors and administrators held a conference call meeting to discuss the details of an ACC study into the situation. Details of the matter were not released, and commissioner Bob James said any action on the controversy would occur either at the regularly scheduled ACC

meeting in October, or by special request of conference president Dr. William Bradford of

"The opportunity to host this event for four years has provided very favorable and positive relationships for our club and the Rocky Mount community," the letter said. "The support of the club members, sponsors of the event, and the community, made the tournament a big success.

"If the opportunity occurs, we welcome the Atlantic Coast Conference to pursue the use green since 1980, and was scheduled there of our facilities for future events. We wish continued success to the academic and athletic "Termination of the remaining three years programs for all the schools in the Atlantic Coast Conference," said the letter, which was signed by Northgreen general manager Earl Elingberg.

> Elingberg made no further comments on the letter or the decision. ACC Assistant Commissioner Marvin "Skeeter" Francis said there was no indication from Northgreen officials that they were planning to pull out of the commitment. There was also no pressure from the

> Francis said the tournament was highly successful thanks to the work of the people at the country club as well as citizens of Rocky Mount. Now, the conference must find an alternate site, as soon as we can investigate and talk with different people...we will certainly look to them for guidance in securing a site," Francis said in reference to the ACC's golf committee. "Those people know more about it than anybody else."

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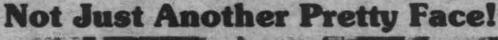
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