

News

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NCAA imposes penalties on GWU

men's golf, women's golf, men's soccer, women's soccer, men's basketball, women's basketball, softball, indoor and outdoor track and men and women's tennis.

- The institution failed to follow its own procedures in documenting the designation of degree programs for 14 student athletes entering their third year of enrollment.

- The former head women's basketball coach purchased a one-way airline ticket for a prospective student athlete. The community additionally found that the coach violated NCAA bylaws related to ethical conduct.

The secondary violation was committed when the university exceeded its maximum financial aid equivalency limits in baseball, men's soccer and men's tennis during the 2000-01 and 01-02 academic years.

Yeager said that it is "unfortunately" not unusual to see a new Division I school commit violations in so many sports.

"This is a very tricky time for any institution," Yeager said. "We now have a good comfort level with the institution and many committee members' concerns are leveled."

Yeager said there was no mention of Gardner-Webb returning to Division II level. He said the committee feels the situation has improved dramatically.

However, the school will still face nearly a dozen punishments. Several of the penalties were self-imposed by the university and have already occurred.

- Public reprimand and censure.
- Three years probation beginning March 4, 2004, and ending March 3, 2007.

- Any contest in which the aforementioned men's basketball student athlete participated in during the 2000-01 academic year shall be vacated. Further, the university's records regarding the team and the head coach will be reconfigured to reflect the vacated records. (The university has already voluntarily removed banners and signage from the National Christian College Athlete Association championship.)

- The men's basketball team will not be eligible to participate in any postseason competition this year nor is the team permitted to take advantage of the exceptions to the limitation on the number of basketball contests during the 04-05 season.

- The number of total athletically related financial aid awards in men's and women's basketball shall be reduced by one grant for the 2004-05 and 05-06 years.

- As a result of the secondary violation, the university reduced the permissible numbers of equivalency grants by twice the amount by which the equivalency limits were exceeded in men's soccer, baseball and men's tennis.

- The number of official paid visits in men and women's basketball will be limited to no more than nine for the 2004-05 year.

- The former head women's basketball coach resigned and must meet with a NCAA committee to seek permission before gaining employment at another NCAA affiliated institution.

- The former university president resigned on Oct. 12, 2002, in part because of his involvement with the violations regarding the men's basketball student athlete.

- The former assistant director of athletes for compliance and former head women's track and field coach were issued letters of reprimand by the university for their involvement in the violations.

- The faculty athletics representative and director of athletics each received letters of admonishment for their involvement in the violations.

During the next three years, the university will have to submit reports to the NCAA. For the next five years, the university is subject to provisions of NCAA law concerning repeat violators.

The NCAA investigation began in April 2002 when a confidential source went to the organization about violations, Yeager said during the press conference. The investigation hit hard in September of 2002 when the NCAA enforcement staff and GWU started making realizations and announcements about violations.

Thursday afternoon, President Frank Campbell met with faculty, staff and students about the issue. Campbell was not available for comment by *The Pilot's* deadline.

Anyone interested in reading the entire NCAA report can do so at www.ncaa.com.

Students travel on break

Sarah Olimb
Pilot Editor

You can see the relief on their faces. Spring break begins today and many students welcome this much needed break. Whether they are participating in missions, relaxing at home or cruising to Mexico, GWU students celebrate this spring tradition in different ways.

Some GWU students are venturing to various locations to minister to different cultures and groups of people. GWU campus ministries is sponsoring trips to Honduras, St. Louis, Alaska and Poland, while the ASL department is sponsoring a trip to El Salvador.

Freshman Kori Zollinhofer is a member of the group traveling to Warsaw, Poland over the break. Zollinhofer and 13 other students will join Andy Byers, director of student ministries and Jim Whitlow, director of the counseling center and professor of psychology. According to Zollinhofer, the group plans to minister to college students in Warsaw.

"I am excited about meeting the people," she said.

The mission team plans to hang out in Warsaw's coffee houses in order to reach the college constituency.

"We'll specifically be talking about Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' because the movie comes out the day we arrive in Poland," she said.

While Zollinhofer and the other members of her team are across the Atlantic, Danae Addison, a GWU junior and ASL major, will venture south to El Salvador. She joins 13

other students and Mary High and Robert Moore, GWU professors of American Sign Language. Planning to work with a missionary whose main concern is the deaf community of San Salvador, the mission team will work in a deaf school and help to establish deaf churches.

"I'm very excited, and I am looking forward to the opportunity," said Addison. "This trip will also help my skills in ASL improve because I'll be surrounded by sign language 24/7."

Some students want to go home for the break for much needed relaxation and home-cooking. Freshman Tyler Kettering is homebound, traveling eight hours to Xenia, Ohio. He plans to relax and visit friends at Ohio State.

Lamenting his lack of funds for travel this year, Kettering plans to take advantage of the break later.

"Money is always a factor," he said. "But it's nice to take off for home. It's the thing to do as a freshman."

Other students, like senior Ashley Tucker, decided to spend the week traveling and spending time with friends. Tucker and four other GWU students, Laura Barnes, Megan Godwin and Monica Winsler, are going on a seven night, eight day cruise.

Their ship departs from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and will travel to two destinations in Mexico and the Grand Cayman Islands. The group got their fare for 75 percent off the regular price from cheapcruises.com.

"I've never been on a cruise before," said Tucker. "This is my first big spring break."



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