

Athletes give: Do they get?

sports columnist

f Ronnie Harmon's own attorney is to be believed, Harmon accepted payments from New York agent Norby Walters while Harmon was a member of the lowa football team.

Walters is said to have given Harmon about \$54,000 in order to sign him as a client.

wa coach the first to capture honor in first season in conference

By Mike Hlas Gazette sportswriter

He said he has "mixed feelings" about the honor, but lowa's Tom Davis has been voted Big Ten Conference basketball Coach of the Year all the same.

The announcement from the Big Ten office came Tuesday. Davis is the first coach to win the award after his first season in the conference. Davis totaled 390 points in balloting by

sportswriters and broadcasters covering the conference. He received 77 of a possible 238 firstplace votes, 59 second-place votes and 41 thirds. Second was Purdue's Gene Keady, with 346 points, followed by Indiana's Bob Knight (247) and Ohio State's Gary Williams (243).

Keady and Knight coached their teams to shares of the Big Ten title at 15-3. Iowa was alone in third place at 14-4. The Hawkeyes, 29-4 overall, face Oklahoma Friday at 9:12 p.m., low time, in an NCAA tournament West Regional semifinal.

"NO," DAVIS responded when asked if he felt he deserved the award. "I just think the team played so well. In light of that, I certainly accept

"There's no question the team did a nice job,"

Davis said. "But a lot of other coaches in the league had teams that did a nice job this year, so there's some mixed feelings."

"I just give thanks to my own ballclub for making me look like a good coach."

Davis is also a strong contender for Associated Press' national Coach of the Year award, which will be given later this month. He finished a close second to DePaul's Joey Meyer in preliminary voting to narrow the field to 10 candidates.

"They're nice honors," Davis said, "but that's not what really drives me in this profession. They're a reflection of the ballclub, so I'm appreciative of that."

Davis was named Big East Conference Coach of the Year in 1981 when his Boston College squad captured the league title.

Tom Davis

"No question that going back to Ronnie's junior year at Iowa that he received that money," said Martin Rausch, Harmon's agent/attorney. "Ronnie is not the type of person to do something illegal or otherwise," Rausch said, "but they dangled a lot of money in front of him."

"What civil or criminal law have I broken?" asked Lloyd Bloom, an agent who works with Walters and represents several athletes. "None. The only thing that has been broken are the silly rules of the NCAA, which doesn't care at all about athletes."

Say what you will about the character of **Bloom** and Walters, Bloom hit the nail on the head with that remark. Who is sleazier, the agent who offers college athletes money in defiance of NCAA rules or the NCAA itself, which gives its athletes next to nothing in terms of the big picture?

ASK YOURSELF these things: Were you shocked when you heard a former University of Iowa athlete was accused of accepting payments from an agent? Did you think it couldn't happen here? Do you fail to understand why an athlete would do such a thing when it could come back to damage his school?

Ask yourself why this type of thing doesn't happen more often, or why it isn't revealed more often. As things are now, the college athlete's piece of the pie is ridiculously small. What are the athletes - particularly those who play for the so-called major sports at the socalled major schools - getting? Well, they're getting a free college education with room and board included. Granted, a college education doesn't always have a price tag attached to it. For many of the athletes, college wouldn't be viable without that scholarship. But the face value of a state university full ride is probably around \$40,000. It's more at some schools, less at others. No other financial benefits to athletes are permitted by the NCAA. Now, what are the athletes given? Consider this: Chris Blocker of Texas-El Paso hits a last-second jump shot to send his team into overtime against Arizona last week in the first round of the NCAA tournament. UTEP went on to win in the overtime. Somebody wrote that Blocker's shot was good for \$200,000 since advancing to the second round is worth about \$400,000 to a school, while making it only to the first round is good for half that much. That's oversimplification, but it illustrates the point. Blocker did a lot to line UTEP's pockets, just as so many athletes have done for so many schools.

Hawk frosh GPA above average

By Bob Mann Gazette correspondent

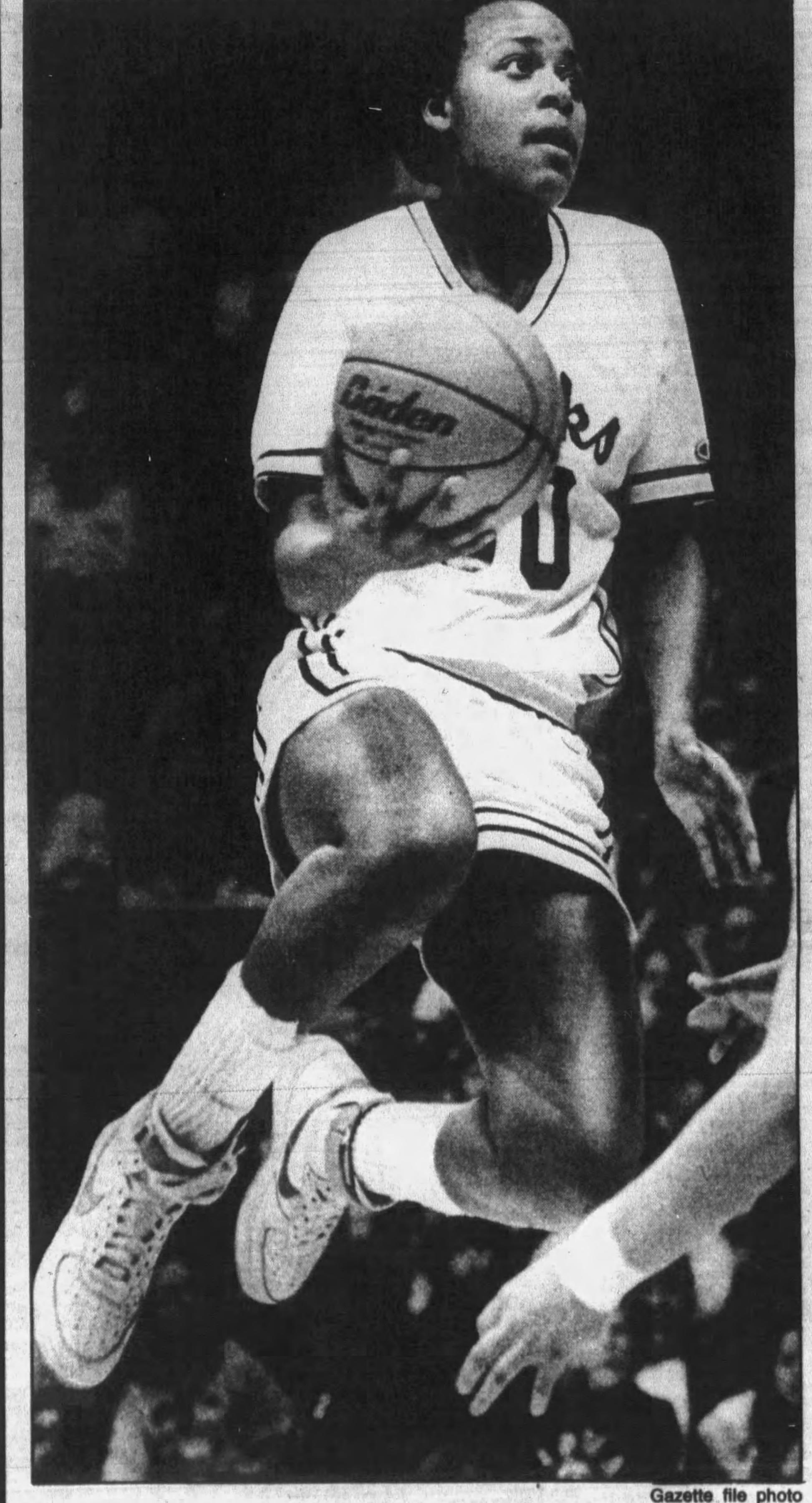
IOWA CITY — Iowa freshman student athletes have a higher grade-point-average than the overall male freshman student population, but tend to make lower gains as they progress through school, according to a report presented to the University of Iowa Board in Control of Athletics Tuesday.

The ad-hoc committee studying freshmen eligibility provided a 50page report examining studentathletes' grades and graduation rates.

The report found that in 1985, the average freshman male athlete had a grade point average of 2.43, while the average male freshman had a 2.39.

The study showed that the overall male made significant improvement during his four years, going from 2.39 as a freshman to 2.62, while the athlete showed slight improvement, from 2.43 to 2.47.

According to the report, "This anomaly is probably explained by a high drop-out rate among the poorer students in the rest of the university. Student-athletes have a greater incentive to remain in school, despite low grades, than do non student-athletes." **Committee Chairman Randall Be**zanson pointed out to the board, however, that this is a preliminary study.



Edwards' consistency has helped lift Hawk women to lofty new heights

By Bob Hilton Gazette sportswriter

he is such a model of consistency that her achievements are recorded almost matter-offactly.

But coaches — her own and those of her rivals recognize 5-foot-9 lowa junior Michelle Edwards as one of the most gifted No. 2 guards in the country.

Her soaring medium-range jump shots and acrobatic layups have been dazzling Hawkeye fans and foes with increasing frequency since she broke into the starting lineup early in her freshman year.

This winter, Edwards, a former Boston, Mass., prep and AAU standout, became the seventh lowa player to reach the 1,000-point career-scoring plateau, and the second to score over 500 points in a season.

She will take a 39-game double-digit scoring streak into the ninth-ranked Hawkeyes' NCAA Midwest Regional semifinal game against sixth-ranked Georgia Thursday night in Monroe, La.

Averaging 18.1 points, Edwards has led Iowa scorers in 17 of 29 games this season. She has a school-record 65 steals, leads the team in field goal accuracy (.534), free

WHAT DO THE athletes get for their time and effort besides free schooling, room and board? Well, they get a certain amount of fame and glory. They also get to eat, breathe and sleep their sport at the same time they're supposed to be retaining their academic eligibility. They get to miss many of the other social and educational aspects of college that many students enjoy. They get to experience people sticking microphones in their faces and expecting them to be articulate, when relatively few of us at any age can do likewise. They get to perform in front of thousands of people - millions when television is involved - with their mistakes open for all to see and criticize.

Other findings included:

• 59 percent of male athletes who entered the university in 1980 have graduated, while another 36 percent left the university in good standing. Only 55 percent of the overall male student population graduated over the same period.

 Only 19 percent of those athletes graduated in four years, and just 25 percent of the overall male population did the same.

• Women freshmen had an average GPA of 2.39 and freshmen women athletes averaged 2.73. Basketball players had the lowest freshmen grade point at 2.10 while women golfers have 3.25 gpa during their first year.

 Of those women athletes who entered the university in 1980, 60 percent have graduated and 33 percent have left in good standing.

Michelle Edwards, a 5-foot-9 junior from Boston, Mass., has been a key ingredient in the success of Iowa's women's basketball team this season. She leads the team in scoring (18.1 points per game), steals (114) and is second in assists (65).

throw accuracy (.742) and minutes played (978), and is second in assists (114).

She ranks fourth on Iowa's all-time scoring list with 1,150 points, seventh in rebounds with 329.

A year ago, Edwards became Iowa's first first-team all-Big Ten player. She was a shoo-in repeater this season.

But, she says, "I don't really get into what I do. It's what the team does. If I don't have a good game, I think a lot about it, especially what I did or didn't do defensively.

"I think since last year I've matured a lot. In pickup games, I still hate to play defense. But in our games . .. Coach (C. Vivian) Stringer has somehow made me realize that if you're on defensively, you're going to be okay offensively."

Edwards describes herself as "really sort of a laidback person" who usually sleeps well the night before a game.

To prepare herself, she says, "I try to remember what I've been doing. I never want anyone to say about me, 'She disappeared.'

"I know the team depends on my shooting. But there's no pressure on me except what I put on myself.

"Sometimes I wish I could be challenged more at my position. I'd probably get that in the SEC and ACC (Southeastern and Atlantic Coast conferences). But I'd rather be doing what I am than be struggling."

Please turn to 3B: Edwards

lowa's Randall isn't dwelling on the past





They get to become attuned to their bodies, since many of them get twisted and mangled.

Then, when their athletic eligibility has elapsed, a select few move on to professional sports. Some others land on their feet. Some do not, often in the wake of realizing their school and fans have little use for them once they take off their jerseys for the last time.

So a player accepts money while he is still in school, maybe because he sees everybody profiting from his skills and labor except himself. Gee, how do you figure a guy like that?

Mt. Vernon senior takes final shot at NCAA mat gold

By J.R. Ogden Gazette sportswriter

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Greg Randall admits he thought he'd have added to his gold collection by

But the senior from Mount Vernon isn't going to worry about what might have been entering his final NCAA Wrestling Championship, Thursday through Saturday at the University of Maryland's Cole Fieldhouse.

"I thought I'd be a three-timer (champion) by now," said Randall. "But some things just don't turn out the way you plan.

"I can't say I'm completely satisfied because I didn't win them. But I'm not going to worry about it now. You can't look back. You have to keep going."

Randall was one of Iowa's most celebrated prep grapplers. He was the state's fifth four-time state champion and won 120 of a 125 matches at Mount Vernon, including 60 straight during his junior and senior campaigns.

Coming out of high school, Randall was hoping to be lowa's first four-time prep champ to win an NCAA title. Former Iowa State standout Joe Gibbons beat him to that goal, however, winning the NCAA 142-pound title in 1985.

"I wanted to be the first one, but being the second would be all right," he said.

Randall had a chance to be first, however.

After redshirting the 1982-83 season, Randall won his only Big Ten title and advanced to the NCAA finals, only to lose of Penn State's Scott Lynch.

He was fifth at the 1985 NCAA meet and made the finals again last season. But he has yet to come away a champion.

"I had two shots at it but I came up short," he said. "Everytime you go into a match you expect to win." And being a three-time All-American and a two-time runner-up is nothing to be ashamed of.

"If I did it all over, I wouldn't do it any differently," he said.

Randall has won 108 matches at wa, lost 24 and has been tied three times. He is 20-5-1 this season at 142 pounds — up a weight from his previous three seasons - and ranked third in the country.



Greg Randall

"I think I have as good a shot as anybody," he said of winning the gold this time. "I'm not expecting to lose at all.

"But it's not a life or death situation . . . hopefully."

While Randall has had an outstanding career with the Hawkeyes, there have been some frustrating times. Besides the losses in the finals, Randall has been bothered by several nagging injuries.

He's forfeited in the Big Ten finals the past two years because of injuries and will enter the national meet for the second straight season hurting. Last year, it was a neck Please turn to 2B: Randall

for state crown bid

By Bob Denney Gazette sportswriter

DES MOINES — Cedar Rapids Washington's bid for its first state boys' basketball championship in 18 years begins tonight, and Coach Don King believes his club is ready for the pressure cooker.

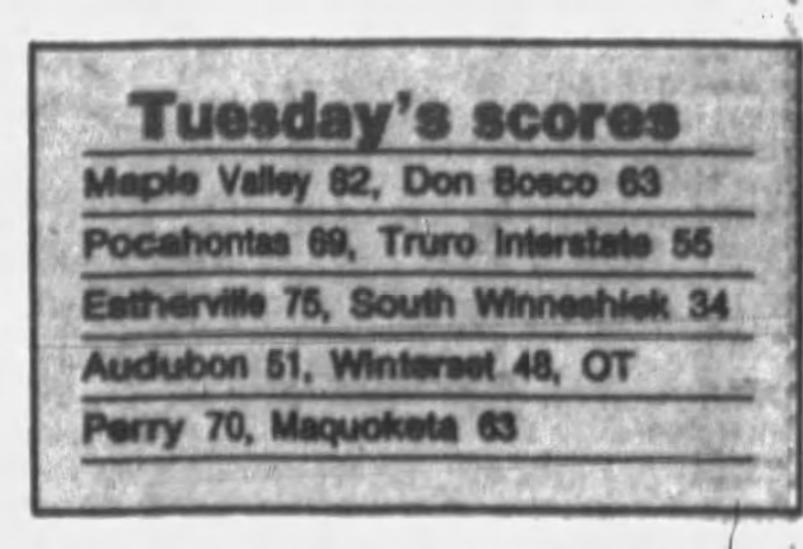
The third-ranked Warriors, 20-2, face Burlington, 15-7, last year's runner-up, at 6:35 p.m. in the Class 3A opening round of the 76th state tournament at Veterans Auditorium.

Burlington's Grayhounds are making their third consecutive appearance under their third different coach, Tom Elmore. The Grayhounds have never won a title in 11 previous tries, but have been runners-up three times.

Washington is making its 11th state tourney appearance, having won its lone title in 1969. The last Warrior team to place here was in 1980, finishing third.

In an earlier game today, Regis (12-11) faces Washington, Iowa (17-4), in the first round of the 2A tourney at 12:05.

King, 57, is the senior coach in the 32-team, four-division tourna-



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ment. He owns a 468-295 mark since beginning coaching in 1951.

His Warriors, the highest-rated 3A survivor in the field, have benefitted from a tough tournament series. Washington sailed through the regular season by whipping foes by an average of 17.8 points, then weathered three straight thrillers in the district and sub-state tournaments.

They meet a Burlington unit that runs like hounds after a fox.

"We saw film of Burlington's substate game against Muscatine (a 61-49 win) and they are certainly a very quick and explosive team," King said. "They are playing very well together, perhaps more so than last

year.

Please turn to 2B: Wash