

Colleges Extend Grant Limit

By Manny Topol

Nashville — In an attempt to prevent cash payments to college athletes by corrupt sports agents, the NCAA approved a proposal yesterday that would allow student athletes to keep more of the money they receive in federal aid.

The proposal allows athletes in Division I schools to keep a maximum of \$1,400 a year in money provided from Pell grants — federal grants for needy, disadvantaged students that are based solely on need — in addition to whatever money they receive from athletic scholarships.

According to current NCAA rules, student athletes are not permitted to keep more than \$900 of Pell grants.

The maximum awarded by the grants is \$2,100 a year and the colleges now take any money over \$900 for use for other purposes, usually for scholarships for other students.

Only Division I delegates voted on the plan, approving it, 208 to 101, with seven abstentions. The vote followed an unsuccessful move to approve another proposal that would have allowed the athletes to receive the full \$2,100 a year in Pell grant funds. That proposal was rejected, 200 to 100.

Both proposals were sponsored by several Division I schools, including Pittsburgh, Penn State, Georgia, LSU, Nebraska and Florida.

Pittsburgh was hit particularly hard by agents giving money to players with eligibility remaining, in violation of NCAA rules. The NCAA declared former running back Charles Gladman ineligible after it was alleged he accepted money from New York agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**. Defensive back Teryl Austin, ruled ineligible for taking money from the agents, was reinstated after he sat out two games and repaid the money. It was also revealed that former Pitt player Tony Woods, who graduated last year and was the first-round draft choice of the Seattle Seahawks, took about \$1,500 from **Walters** and **Bloom** while still playing for Pitt.

It is estimated that the athletes accepted between \$1,200 and \$2,500 each from **Walters** and **Bloom**. A

NCAA Rejects Championship

Nashville — The proposal for a long-awaited Division I-A football championship game was trounced yesterday by NCAA delegates.

Only 13 schools voted in favor and 95 voted against it. Before the vote there was mounting opposition within the NCAA to the idea.

John Slaughter, chancellor of the University of Maryland and chairman of the NCAA's Presidents Commission, had said that the college presidents feared that a single championship game "would evolve into a complex system of playoff games."

Wayne Duke, commissioner of the Big Ten, said before the vote, "It's not right. It's not good for college football."

After the vote, DeLoss Dodds, athletic director at the University of Texas, said, "This means that we will not discuss a I-A championship in the near future."

Dodds is chairman of the NCAA's postseason football subcommittee, which had recommended the championship game. — **Manny Topol**

don't understand that it is a loan they are getting from the agents. They will have to pay back that money some day. The Pell grant isn't that. It's a grant. You don't have to pay that back.

"It's not the answer to the agent problem," Bozik said, "but it's one of the tools you could take away from them. Certainly, the Pell grant takes away another inducement. Look at the money the kids got from the agents — \$1,200, \$1,500, \$2,000. Not very much. This helps somewhat with the agent problem, but the real answer is, these kids are entitled to their money anyway."

"This will have an effect on the agent problem, a little bit," said Gene Corrigan, commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference. "This, along with education and the other things people are working on. Whether it will have a dramatic effect, I don't know. But none of us wanted to go back to our campuses and say to the kids, 'I'm sorry, but we weren't able to help you again this year. We have to do a study.'"

Federal funds and the student athlete always have caused concern over just what is covered in NCAA guidelines regarding aid to athletes. In a strict definition, the NCAA has recognized only "commonly accepted educational expenses," which covers only tuition, school fees, room and board, and costs of required books. The Pell grant covers the "cost of education," which also includes expenses outside of the school, such as funds for trips home, laundry and school clothes. The only criteria for the grant is need.

Colleges generally pay the full amount of tuition and education related costs, for football and basketball players under scholarship but have set a cap on Pell grant money.

College officials have always felt that any money over the \$900 would give the athlete more money than the cost of education.

"That's the inequity of it," Bozik said. "We have been trying for years to get it changed. You see the money helps some institutions pay their bills . . . First of all the kid is entitled to the money, not the institution, and it helps with the agent problem in some way . . ."

federal grand jury in Chicago has been investigating **Walters** and **Bloom** for several months.

Edward Bozik, athletic director at Pittsburgh, said, "**Walters**, by his own admission, focused almost entirely on black student athletes. They are the largest percentage of student athletes who qualify under Pell. It's those kids who the agents come in and pay. You put \$2,000 or \$2,500 in \$20 bills under their noses and it looks like a lot of money. The kids



AP Photo

Packers coach Forrest Gregg is interested in the head-coaching job at SMU, his alma mater.

SMU Officials Talk To Packers Coach Gregg

Combined News Services

Packers coach Forrest Gregg met yesterday morning at an Appleton, Wis., hotel with Southern Methodist University officials but said he has not been offered the coaching job at the scandal-ridden Southwest Conference school.

"I've met with representatives of SMU this morning and we talked about the job in an exploratory manner," Gregg said in a statement released by the Packers' public relations office. "SMU has not offered me the job, nor have I decided I will take the job if it were offered."

SMU athletic director Doug Single confirmed he has not made a decision. Gregg met with Single and university president A. Kenneth Pye.

"The football coaching advisory committee was impressed with coach Gregg during his visit in a consulting capacity with us last week," Single said in a statement. "At this time, no offer has been extended to coach Gregg or any of the other candidates."

Gregg, 54, recently completed the fourth year of a five-year contract with the Packers. Green Bay was 5-9-1 in 1987, giving Gregg a 25-37-1 record with the Packers.

Gregg, a Hall of Fame tackle who starred with the Packers during their glory years in the 1960s, played at SMU, which both of his children also attended.

Other reported candidates for the SMU job are former Ohio State coach Earl Bruce, former Kansas City Chiefs coach John Mackovic and high school coach Tim Edwards of Hurst, Texas.

SMU will restart football in 1989 after the NCAA shut down the program in 1987 and placed limitations on its 1988 season after finding that players received money and other incentives from boosters. SMU voluntarily canceled the 1988 season as well.

SMU wants to hire a coach immediately because it will be eligible Feb. 10 to sign 15 high school seniors to national letters of intent. The Packers also want the situation resolved quickly because the contracts of seven of their eight assistant coaches expire Feb. 1.

Vikings' Koch Probably Will Play

Guard Greg Koch, who left the Vikings' 36-24 playoff win over the 49ers with back spasms, is expected to play Sunday in the NFC championship game against the Redskins at RFK Stadium. The Vikings left last night for Tampa, where they will prepare for the game.

Broncos May Activate Defensive Backs

Broncos coach Dan Reeves said he will decide today whether to activate safeties Dennis Smith and Randy Robbins for Sunday's AFC title game against the Browns in Denver . . . The Browns worked out at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, located at 5,314 feet above sea level, similar to the altitude of Mile High Stadium.

Around the League

Cowboys coach Tom Landry ruled out getting a first-round draft pick for Tony Dorsett when the team soon puts the running back on the trading block to comply with his request. Dorsett, 33, has a two-year contract at \$500,000 a year and a \$2.4-million annuity . . . The financially troubled Patriots will meet this month's payroll, keeping their players from becoming eligible for free agency, general manager Patrick Sullivan said. A report in The Patriot Ledger of Quincy, Mass., cited NFL sources as saying the team's owners have requested permission to use a league fund set up for deferred payments.