

## 2 stars fell shy of requirements

| By ToM WITOSKY and John CaRL <br> Register Staff Writers <br> When Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell left the University of Iowa for the National Football League, their grades were below a "C" average and neither was close to earning a |  |
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| demic performance, which was questioned during the federal extortion, |  |
| racketeering and fraud trials ofsports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, was a source of discomfort for U of I officials, who launched |  |
| fort for U of I officials, who launched an investigation of the school's supervision of athletes' classwork. |  |
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| college transcripts were submitted into evidence last week by defense at |  |
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| torneys at the conclusion of testimo- |  |
| letes were substantially shy of ademic credits needed to $g$ |  |
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| The transcripts |  |
| Harmon and Mitchell had amassed nearly 100 college credits each, they fell substantially short of the number of class credits required both in up-per-level courses and in general education courses. |  |
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| A review of Mitchell's transcri shows that during his five years at |  |
| U of I, he failed to meet course requirements in five of nine general education categories. Mitchell also failed to get any credit in three required categories. <br> In all, Mitchell, now a defensive |  |
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| back for the Detroit Lions, appears to need up to 20 credits to satisfy his general education requirements and |  |
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| Mitchell's. But the Buffalo Bills running back is up to 28 credits short in upper-level courses and 14 credits |  |
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| hort in general education credits. |  |
| Harmon and Mitchell testif |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { grant } \\ & \text { spart } \end{aligned}$ |  |
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| ment with the government. |  |
| The athletes said they had signe greements to be represented by the |  |
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| ISU officials ponder athletes' academic rules |  |
| Iowa State University officials met Saturday to discuss formulation of a committee to review academic requirements for ISU athletes, Provost Milton Glick said. |  |
| Glick said he met with Athletic Director Max Urick, Executive Vice President Charles McCandless and their staffs to draft recommendations for ensuring that athletes meet university standards. Those recommendations will be presented to ISU |  |
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| mendations will be presented to ISU President Gordon Eaton on Monday. |  |
| move com |  |
| bask |  |
| yer Levin White. Both men were |  |
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| when they attempted to flee a Burger |  |
|  |  |
| King restaurant. They are being heldin the Story County jail on $\$ 128,750$ |  |
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| gned to brainstorm ideas for |  |
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## Tougher academic standards sparked by current progress

| ATHLETES <br> Continued from Page One completed by the time the student began the fourth year of athletic eligibility. Most students complete that requirement no later than their sophomore year. <br> Instead, the athlete filled most of the academic plate with elective courses, including 22 physical education and exercise science credits - 18 more than the general education requirement of four physical education skill courses. <br> Though the student had obtained 86 total credits - 70 credited toward graduation - and a 2.1 grade-point average (slightly above a " C "), the athlete's record appears to be substantially deficient when held up against current $U$ of $I$ progress guidelines for athletes. <br> That student's transcript - and some others similar to it - are the reason for the reforms ordered into effect by Rawlings last week. <br> But the U of I president did not place the blame solely at the feet of the athletes. <br> "Not Paying Close Attention" <br> "It's pretty clear that some mistakes were made, he said. There were some cases where faculty members were not paying close attention <br> where good judgment wasn't made. We have to put oversight into place to look at each student individu- ally as a person and not just as an athlete. <br> The most recent guidelines were released in February by the Academic Achievement Advisory Committee of the university's Board in Control of Athletics. Among other things, those age completion of two general-education requirement courses and a total of 14 credits each semester. <br> In the committee's recommendations last week, that guideline now will become a requirement. The committee said a student still would be |
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|  |  | permitted to drop to 12 credits in any

semester but would be required to
make up that work during summer sessions.
In addition, the guidelines recommend that athletes begin to work on
the foreign-language requirement no
later than the second later than the second semester of the sophomore year. They suggest com-
pletion of all math and quantitative reasoning requirements before
end of a student's second year end of a student's second year.
Such an average workload would
permit graduation with 124 credits in permit graduation with 124 credits in
$41 / 2$ to five years.
Vernon and other university officials described the school's system o overseeing the academic work of ath
letes as sound and successful. As evidence, , hey poins to an over-
all graduation rate among student all graduation rate among student-
athletes that is higher than the overall student body. In reports filed with
the NCAA, Iowa has reported overall athletic graduation of student ath-
letes of about 60 percent. letes of about 60 percen
"Some Slip-Ups"
V Vernon, whose investigating com-
mittee reviewed more than 600 tra meripes, reviewed morere than 600 tran-
but only in rare instans were found, but only in rare instances.
"There were some slip-ups. I saw
some transcripts I didn't like" " Ver. "There were some slip-ups. I sa
some transcripts I didn't like," Ver-
non said "Some did slip thes non said. "Some did slip through.",
Vernon said the steps recom Vernon said the steps recom-
mended Tuesday by the committee and put into effect by Rawlings would give faculty members and academic
advisers additional tools to make it more difficult for athletes to "slip more difnicuit fork. obtaining a degree in four or five
years. Like other students, he said years. Like other students, he said,
some athletes have learning disabilities or need substantial remedial
work because of poor elementary and high school educations.
"Our system is geared to help stu-
dent-athletes to earn a degree, and
$= \pm=$
are trying to avoid is any more slip-
ups." ups."
At the same time, Vernon warned
that even with the new steps taken that even with the new steps taken by
Uof I officials, a 100 percent
tion rate cannot be tion rate cannot be guaranteed.
Student Responsible
"We can give all the advice possi"We can give all the advice possi-
ble, but we all must face the fact that bie, but we all must face the fact that
the student is responsible for himself
or herself, " Vernon said "If you think or herself," Vernon said. "If you think
we can control it absolutely, you are we can control it absolutely, you are
wrong."
He said the school's latest action to He said the school's latest action to
bolster monitioring of athletess class
work should be seen as relatively work should be seen as relatively
modest changes. Vernon alsos. defended the school's policies dealing with admission of
atheetes under the ecchool's athletes under the school's special ad-
mission authority.
During the past During the past four years, the
school has admitted more than 1,000 school has admitted more than 1,000
students who did not meet the students who did not meet the
school's regular admission standards. schoo's regular admission standards.
Of those students, Vernon said, 58
were athletes with either substanwere athletes with either substan-
dard scores on college entrance
exams or low grades. The school's dard scores on college entrance
exams or low grades. The school's
graduation rate reports of the past graduation rate reports of the past
three years shows the school has adhrree years shows the school has ad-
mitted 22 football and men's basket-
ball players under the scholls balled players sunder the school's special
authority policy. Vernon defended the practice by ungesting that some students' ad-
mission should not be judged solely by test scores or even grade-point aver-
ages.
"Again, we believe the question is

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& \text { through the cracks." } \\
& \text { Vernon also said athletes should } \\
& \text { not all be judged on the basis of } \\
& \text { obtaining jugeree in hour }
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$$ background," Vernon said, "We have

had good success with many, many
students who have not students who have not scored, well on
tests or haven't done very well in high tests or haven't done very well in high
school."
Rawlings said he also supports the continuation of special admisporis aue
hority because, "quite simply thority because, "quite simply, we
have to take the risks" even if it means allowing students into school
when they rank in the bottom 20 perwhen they rank in the bottom 20 per-
cent of their class and have substan-
dard test scores.

| DEVON MITGHELL |  |
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