

standing, the odds are against him.

A) Was Smith hired to promote the next coach from within?

B) Will an Orr assistant keep the ticket buyers excited - the way Orr did - when the team isn't winning?

#### BILL NEIBERGALL/THE REGISTER

the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon at Pella Buena Vista won the game, 7-5, and went on to sweep Central.

Erickson said.

Erickson, who has been the Big Eight supervisor since 1988, said it sometimes hasn't been easy for him when it came to Orr. "Because of our long relationship, I've had to keep my distance," Erickson said. "I tried to do things professionally when it came to things he did. We reprimanded and suspended John just like everyone else.

C) Smith's stated goal is to watch Cyclone basketball progress to the next level. If Orr couldn't coax the elevator to that floor, is it fair to ask an underling to hit the right button?

Speaking of fairness, Hallihan also has a few things working for him above and beyond his basketball mind. He was almost co-coach near the end, and who knows these players better than he?

When Orr was raging at the officials, Hallihan's head was in the game, figuring out what to do next.

He has head coaching experience. I'm not certain why Hallihan didn't last at East Tennessee State. He won more games than he lost.

Hallihan was an assistant when Auburn hired Sonny Smith away from East Tennessee State. Four years after moving up, Hallihan was out as head coach and Barry Dowd was in, but not for long.

Next came Les Robinson, who eventually left for North Carolina State. LeForce took over and rang up the third-best winning percentage of any first-season coach in NCAA history.

While East Tennessee State was finding prosperity at last, Hallihan was becoming Orr's most trusted assistant. Twelve seasons he spent alongside Johnny.

In the old days, that sort of loyalty probably would have been rewarded with a promotion.

When Al McGuire retired at Marquette, Hank Raymonds took over. Recent success aside, the program hasn't been the same since.

When Ralph Miller retired at Oregon State, his right-hand man of 20 years was his successor. "I'm not going to change too much," Jim Anderson said at the time. "The biggest difference will be my personality.

7-5 in nine innings, and 5-3. **Third-ranked Buena Vista** 

Buena Vista's Jennifer Erickson slides safely across the plate to

score as the ball gets away from Central catcher Amy Wood in

Buena Vista improved to 20-2, 4-2 in the conference. Central is 19-9, 4-2 in the conference.

A sweep for Buena Vista

"It's unbelievable," said Haeder, who pitched 31/3 innings of relief in the first game and seven innings in the second. "It's the biggest game of the season. We always key up for it and look to play Central. Then to come down here and sweep is unbelievable."

It was a noteworthy enough that senior third baseman Heidi Kerian headed to the infield with a camera to take a picture of the scoreboard. That was only appropriate since Kerian had her share of Kodak mo-

Waverly doubled in two runs in the ninth inning to give Buena Vista

the victory. The previous inning, she tagged out Central's Shannon Merkle, who was heading home as the winning run.

"I was not going to let her get home," Kerian said. "I had a sneaking suspicion they were going to try to bring that run in."

With Buena Vista leading, 5-4, in the seventh inning, Central's Stacey Sonnek hit a two-out double to left field. Merkle tripled to score Sonnek and was waved home by Coach George Wares. Merkle was caught in a rundown between Kerian and Buena Vista catcher Ellen Leary to send the game into extra innings.

"If you regret calls like those, you have to quit coaching," Wares said. "You just have to live with them.'

That ended a strong Central rally, which began when the Dutch broke up a no-hitter by Heather White in the sixth inning.

White, a sophomore, mowed through the Central batters with nine strikeouts. Then Central had three consecutive hits, a fly out and a double by Shannon Carlson when Buena Vista Coach Marge Willadsen brought in Haeder.

"Heather was throwing the best I've seen her throw until the fifth inning," Willadsen said. "Somehow the ball just quit for her."

The gusting wind, which was blowing in from left to right field, wreaked havoc with both teams' defenses. Despite 12 runs in the first game, Central starting pitcher

SOFTBALL Please turn to 4D

When Erickson became coach at Wisconsin prior to the 1959-60 season, he brought Orr aboard.

"There's a story behind that," Erickson said. "Both of us had been high school coaches --- I was at Stevens Point, Wis., and Johnny at Dubuque.

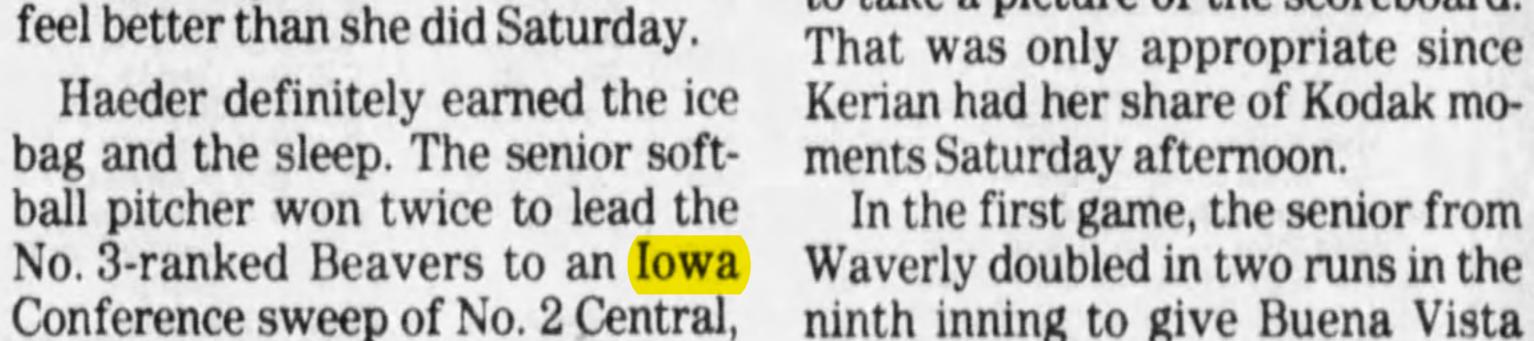
"We made an agreement that the first one of us who got a big-time job would call the other to be the assistant."

Orr stayed on Erickson's staff for four years before coaching at Massachusetts for three seasons.

"I also was instrumental in helping Johnny go to Michigan," Erickson said. "He had left Massachusetts, and was out of coaching. I had no opening at Wisconsin, but I

**ORR** Please turn to Page 10D

**RUNNING INTO SPRING** NCAA reforms ease concerns



And winning percentage and approval rating.

In his first season, Anderson was the Pac-10 coach of the year. His first winning season has been his only winning season. In 1994, Oregon State finished last in the league.

At DePaul, Joey Meyer carried on for his pop, but not in the style to which Blue Demon fans had been accustomed.

Lou Carnesecca tied for first place in his last season at St. John's. Brian Mahoney, who'd worked 16 years for Carnesecca, became the new coach. After Mahoney's surprisingly successful rookie season, St. John's was shut out of the postseason for the first time in a quarter century.

For a walk on the bright side, consider Michigan. An assistant named Bill Frieder followed Orr without missing a beat. Then an assistant named Steve Fisher followed Frieder, won a national title and appeared in two more championship games.

Surely there are other examples. Either way, so much depends on the individual situation. At Iowa State, too.

#### **By SUSAN HARMAN** REGISTER STAFF WRITER

visits No. 2 Central and

softball victories.

takes two Iowa Conference

**By JANE BURNS** 

**REGISTER STAFF WRITER** 

exception of an ice bag on her

shoulder and some sleep, Buena

Vista's Amy Haeder couldn't think

of anything that would make her

**NEW STANDARDS HELPED** 

of Rawlings

Pella, Ia. — With the possible

It has been five years since University of Iowa President Hunter Rawlings stirred up a whirlwind of controversy when he proposed that Iowa make its freshman athletes ineligible even if the NCAA and Big Ten Conference did not follow suit.

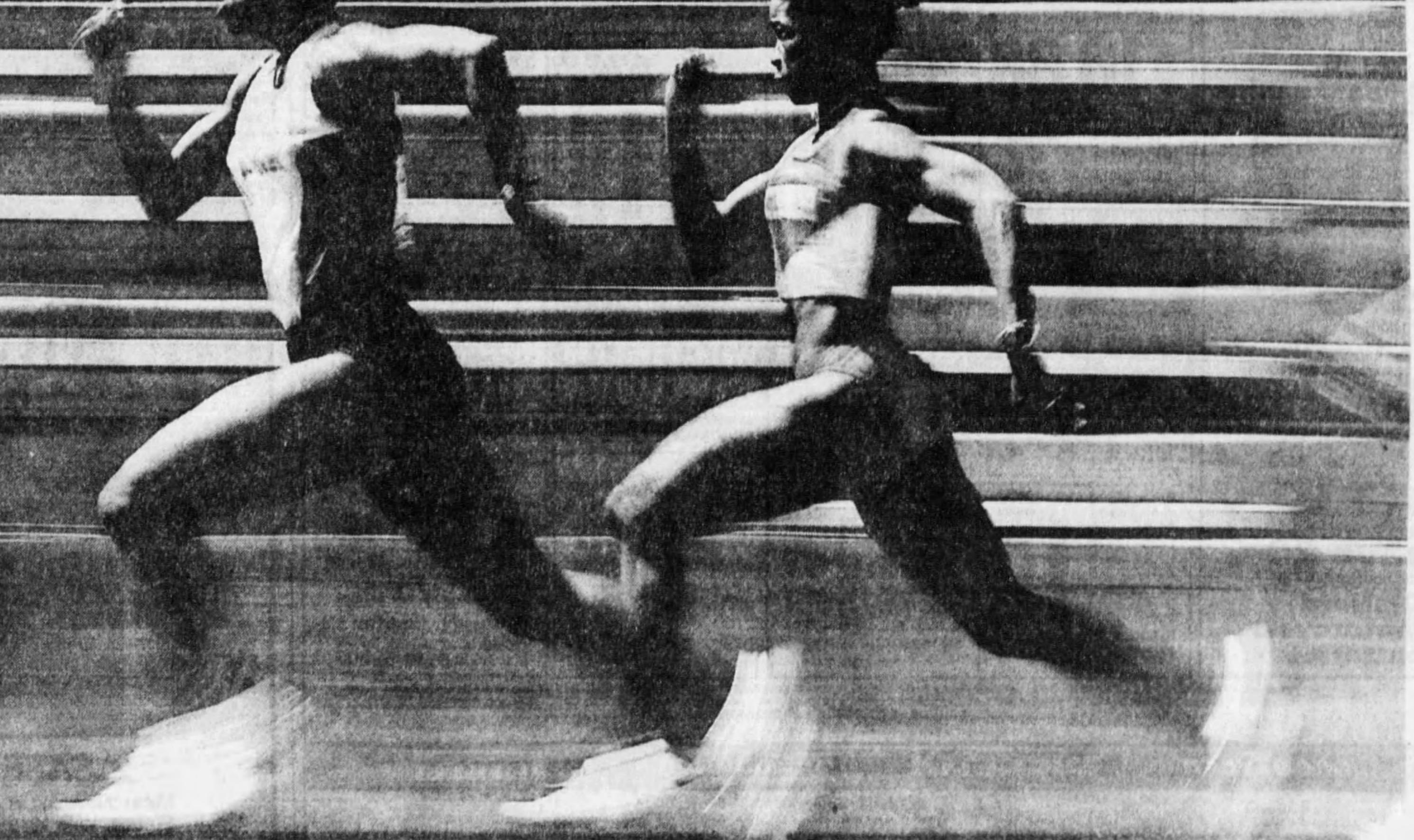
That didn't happen, but today Rawlings thinks reforms adopted by the NCAA in recent years have answered most of his concerns.

Rawlings made his original comments after the embarrassingly poor academic transcripts of former Iowa football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell were made public in a Chicago trial involving sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

"It comes down to the presidents being willing to take leadership in an area that is losing credibility college athletics," Rawlings said in April 1989.

"Freshmen never should have been eligible to play because, in my view, it is where most of the errors get started. It sends the wrong message to these young people when

**RAWLINGS** Please turn to 10D



Northern lowa's Shantel Twiggs pulls away from South Dakota's Michelle Christie to win the women's 100 meters in a school record 11.31 seconds at Drake Stadium Saturday. Twiggs also ran on a winning relay team. STORY: Page 7D.

DAVID PETERSON/THE REGISTER

10D DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER APRIL 17, 1994

### COLLEGES

## Reforms ease Rawlings' concerns about academics

#### RAWLINGS

Continued from Page 1D

they arrive on a campus, and the message they are getting is that athletics should come first. Well, academics should come first."

Rawlings' proposal had lowa football coach Hayden Fry "mad as hell" and Gov. Terry Branstad calling for Rawlings to reconsider. Democratic legislators got into the act and criticized the Republican governor.

The rhetoric cooled, and Rawlings eventually decided that such a unilateral move wasn't in Iowa's best interests. But his interest in the subject never waned.

Five years later, Rawlings is a member of the influential NCAA Presidents Commission, which has spearheaded the reform movement in college athletics. He continues to believe that taking the first year off would be a benefit to most studentathletes, but Rawlings said he thinks that recent reforms should serve much the same purpose. Rawlings also indicated a willingness to consider reinstating a fourth season of eligibility to student-ath-

That's where we have the biggest drop-out rate, in the first year. After the first year they've adjusted, and I think they are able to take some of the pressures of competitive sport along with the competitive academ-

But since in fact (the NCAA) decided to increase the eligibility standards coming out of high school and the eligibility standards each year in college, I am much more satisfied that we have taken care of a good part of this issue.

It means these students come into college ready to make it academical-

Q: Do you think the new standards for the most part ensure that students are prepared?

A: I do. We've got to see two to three years of experience before we

A: Right. That's one of the really key principles I was speaking of, the (25-50-75 rule), but that's not the only one. I mean the entire eligibility in the first year has been reformed.

We have a method now of using both the (grade-point average) and board score to determine eligibility. This indexing is a real breakthrough because that's what admissions directors will tell you is the best means of predicting success.

Q: Why not reinstate the fourth year of eligibility for those ineligible under Proposition 48? Why penalize them with the loss of athletic aid and loss of a year's eligibility if they take the first year off for studies and prove they do belong? Will that be considered?

A: Very definitely. I'm personally



**Hunter Rawlings** On NCAA commission

and then we are saying let's support the student right through gradua-

# Big Eight official sings praises of Orr

### ORR

Continued from Page 1D

#### got him together with Dave Strack at Michigan.

Orr was Strack's assistant for one season, then became the Wolverines' coach in the 1968-69 season. He stayed 12 seasons before moving to Iowa State prior to the 1980-81 season.

Erickson said he and Orr will attend Beloit's 45-year class reunion in October.

Orr transferred to Beloit from Illinois, where he had been secondteam all-Big Ten in football and honorable mention in basketball. He served in the Navy before enrolling at Beloit.

#### accuracy.

"But basketball wasn't his only game. He was a terrific football and baseball player as well as golfer. Some say baseball was his best sport. He even liked to play tennis."

Erickson said Orr did some things that few coaches get to do.

"He was a coach in two major conferences, and has been president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches," Erickson said. "It was during his year as president (1992-93) that Jim Haney was hired as executive director of the group.

"The NABC has had more influence than ever since Haney took over."

Erickson said everything Orr attained was through hard work.

"He went through a lot of fires," Erickson said. "He came from the

student-athletes to take the first

can be entirely confident. In fact, we are willing and other institutions are willing to take very significant risks with a small number of students occasionally to give them a chance. But for the student who really has no way of making it academically, you are not doing that student a favor by bringing her or him into the institu-

we need to be very responsive to

quite open to considering that position. Because in essence you are saying to the student, if you come and take a serious year of study in which you are not competing in big-time sports, you then have a real chance to make it academically - and why then say you have only three years of eligibility?

tion. Let's face it, most student-athletes in the big sports take five years to graduate. In fact, most students generally take five years to gradu-

Q: Do colleges admit too many athletes who are unprepared?

A: We certainly had that feeling

Erickson said he doesn't know if people in Iowa realize what an outstanding athlete Orr was.

"He was a great shooter in basketball," Erickson said. "He could put a lot of today's three-point field-goal shooters in the back seat with his

coal mines of south central Illinois, and he coached a lot of years before he made any money.

"He can lull you to sleep with his personality, and some people didn't think he did a lot of coaching. But he was a very, very good coach."







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