



JOHN MILLS III/The Gamecock

USC guard Lisa Diaz looks for room to dribble in the Lady Gamecocks 86-52 Metro victory over the Lady Hokies. Diaz picked up 14 points in the win.

# USC professors don't think NCAA Proposition 42 racist

By DAVID CARAVIELLO  
Staff writer

The politics of the National Collegiate Athletic Association have long been criticized by coaches, and the decision of the 83rd NCAA convention on Jan. 13th to adopt Proposition 42 has added more fuel to the fire.

The proposition, passed on a 163-154 vote after being narrowly defeated the day before, affects the most elementary of questions facing college athletics — the question of eligibility.

It will eventually replace Proposition 48, a policy that the NCAA put into effect four years ago. That ruling mandated a minimum 2.0 high school grade point ratio or a 700 score on the SAT in order for a freshman to be eligible for scholarship in collegiate athletics. At the time, the proposal was widely criticized and was charged with being detrimental to blacks.

Under Proposition 42, which will take effect in 1990, the eligibility requirements will be strengthened, and both the 2.0 GPR and the 700 SAT score will be required for eligibility. Already, the new proposition has come under a considerable amount of fire, with head coaches John Thompson of Georgetown, John Chaney of Temple and Dale Brown of Louisiana State holding the big guns.

The main objection the coaches have with Proposition 42 is not with the 2.0 high school GPR, but with the required 700 SAT score.

"I'm in support of a core curriculum. I'm in support of a 2.0," Thompson said. "But I'm not in favor of SAT scores which have been proven to be culturally biased. . . I feel it (the SAT) is a discriminatory thing, especially for a kid who is at a low socio-economic level."

In protest of the ruling, Thompson staged a three-day walkout, while his assistants coached the Hoyas. Thompson walked off the court before a game with Boston College and also missed a game with Providence before being assured by NCAA officials that the ruling would be re-evaluated.

An even more vocal opponent of the new policy is Temple head coach John Chaney, who has charged that the new proposition is racist. Charging that the new rule was instigated "by racist presidents," Chaney, also a vehement opponent of Proposition 48, said that he would try anything "humanly possible" to change the new rule.

"We have fought it in the face of racist coaches and racist presidents from its inception and knew that when racism takes flight, it continues to fly," Chaney said.

Dale Brown of LSU, the final member of the so-called "committee of three" fighting the new proposition, was downright angry when he heard of the NCAA's tightening of eligibility requirements.

"Once again, the NCAA has demonstrated that it is without compassion when dealing with human beings," Brown said. "I am shocked and saddened at this incessant desire to label kids from the poorer strata as losers in the game of life. The most important rule for all of us to follow is that of respecting human dignity, and the NCAA certainly has not followed that rule."

"A youngster that did nothing illegal, but failed to meet a standard test score, is saved from the guillotine, but is embarrassed in front of the whole world," Brown added. "That is not the justice this great country stands for."

Dick Schultz, the executive director of the NCAA, is opposed to Chaney's characterization of the NCAA as a racist organization.

"He's been opposed to Proposition 48 from the start, and he's spoken very strongly against it," Schultz said, adding that he does not believe that opposition from only three coaches is enough to consider repealing the decision. "You certainly can't call it a mandate from the membership," he said.

Thompson, Chaney and Brown allege that the big problem with Proposition 42 is that standard intelligence tests, such as the SAT, now a requirement, are culturally biased, especially against blacks.

"Despite the efforts of test-makers to make tests culturally fair and not biased," says Dr. Lester A. Lefton,

"I don't think it's racist. One of the most important things you find when you look at intelligence testing is that differences within racial groups are greater than differences between racial groups. That's a key piece of information, because what it really does is minimizes black-white differences and suggests that within any one group, you're going to find a lot greater variation than between them."

Lester A. Lefton  
USC psychology professor

chair of USC's department of psychology, "there still exists questions on certain tests of intelligence or achievement, such as the SAT, which many researchers consider biased items."

"I don't think the SAT has anything to do with athletics," Lefton said. "The SAT is a wonderful predictor of success in college; on the average, if you do well on the SAT, you'll do well in college."

Lefton believes that there should be some minimum standards for student-athletes.

"Universities have strong athletic departments, and they represent an important part of the university," he said. "I think it is reasonable for universities to go out of their way to facilitate the careers of student-athletes, but there has to be some minimum standard for all students."

Lefton disagrees with Chaney's assessment of the SAT as a racist test.

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Dr. Richard Negle, a USC psychology professor and nationally recognized intelligence-testing expert, believes that Proposition 48 was "a step in the right direction."

"The criteria which 48 set forth was really fairly minimal criteria," he said. "But beyond that, what 48 did was give the student-athlete an opportunity, without pressure, to become acclimated to academics."

Negle said Proposition 48 was not given long enough to have an impact.

"It had not been demonstrated what the effectiveness of 48 was, for there was no data, or at least no data available to the public, showing what effect Proposition 48 had, if any, on collegiate athletics," he said. "But the main problem with 42 is that it may hinder students with poorer high school backgrounds from going to college."

Negle said the SAT may be unfair to students with lower calibers of education.

"The point is that the presumption of any intelligence test is that those who take it have had a reasonable opportunity to learn the skills contained on the test," he said. "If a student has not had the opportunity to learn the skills that are assessed on the test, then it can be considered an unfair test."

Like Schultz and Lefton, Negle also disagrees with Chaney's charge of Proposition 42 being racist.

"I don't think I would agree that it's a racial type of thing," Negle said. "I don't think the intent of the policy is to be racist, although it may decrease the opportunity for some kids to get into college."

Racist or not, Proposition 42 will be put into effect next year. And, Dick Schultz said, it's going to take a lot more than just the arguments of three coaches to force the NCAA to repeal it.

## Ladies Continued from page 8

travel to Knoxville, Tenn. on Thursday to face No. 2 Tennessee. The Lady Volunteers rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit last year in Columbia to defeat USC, 85-80.

"We should be able to match up against them, but it's going to be a tough game," Hunt said of the game with Tennessee. "If we play like we did tonight and keep our composure we can win it."

### VIRGINIA TECH (52)

Green 1-5 2-4 4, Sallade 3-9 5-6 11, Byrne 9-15 2-3 20, Michel 2-3 1-2 6, Garber 4-11 0-0 9, Walvius 1-1 0-0 2, Tonkin 0-2 0-0 0, Brown 0-0 0-0 0, Bergmann 0-1 0-0 0, Smith 0-0 0-2 0, Justice 0-0 0-0 0, Jamieron 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-47 10-17 52.

### USC (86)

Hunt 9-13 3-3 21, Parker 2-6 6-6 10, Banner 4-9 2-4 10, David 1-4 0-0 2, Diaz

6-8 2-2 14, Hawkins 4-8 2-3 10, Middleton 5-11 0-0 11, Joyner 2-7 0-0 4, Gardner 2-6 0-0 4, McMillian 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 35-72 15-20 86.

Halftime — USC 43, Virginia Tech 25. 3-point field goals — Virginia Tech 2-6 (Michel 1-2, Garber 1-4), USC 1-3 (Middleton 1-3). Rebounds — Virginia Tech 31 (Sallade 12), USC 37 (Hunt 10). Assists — Virginia Tech 9 (Green, Garber 3), USC 24 (Parker 7). Total fouls — Virginia Tech 13, USC 18. A — 1,639.

## Sports shorts

### Abdul-Jabbar tops NBA scoring list

LOS ANGELES — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, in his last year with the Los Angeles Lakers, began the 1988-89 NBA season with 37,639 points, the most in league history.

His total points were more than each of the opening day rosters of 14 clubs in the league. In fact, his record was greater than the entire rosters of two teams combined, Indiana and Miami.

### Laimbeer another Charlie Hustle?

DETROIT — Detroit Piston center Bill Laimbeer is rated one of the most aggressive players in the NBA. He loves the role.

Laimbeer is booed constantly in the arenas of opposing clubs. "I think it has something to do

with people not being comfortable with competitive types," he said. "Pete Rose, as a player, was just doing his job but he turned off some people because of his aggressive style of play."

### Carter gets psyched for big contests

MINNEAPOLIS — Anthony Carter, the loose and limber touchdown maker of the Minnesota Vikings, loves to play in big games.

The sure-handed wide receiver says he gets psyched up for the important games.

"I know it's a great feeling to be playing for big stakes. It's the main reason you're a ball player. There is nothing else in the world like it," he said.

### Morrow donates Olympic medals

MISSION, Kan. — The NCAA

reported that Bobby Morrow, the sprinter who won three gold medals in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, has donated each one of the awards to a different institution.

Morrow sent one of the medals to his alma mater, Abilene Christian University. Another was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and the third to the Texas Hall of Fame.

Morrow won the James E. Sullivan Award as the outstanding amateur athlete for 1956.

### Magic sympathizes with sidelined Bird

LOS ANGELES — Magic Johnson, the miracle man of the Los Angeles Lakers, says he knows exactly what Larry Bird, the injured Boston Celtic star, is going through on the sidelines.

Johnson missed the better part of the 1980-81 season with a knee injury.

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