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Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates for 2008 NCAA Women's Division I Basketball Tournament Teams
Graduation Rate Study of Division I NCAA Women's and Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Marked Improvement in Overall Graduation Rates But Large Continuing Disparities of the Success of Male and Female and White and African-American Student-athletes

Orlando, FL...March 18, 2008 – The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida released its annual study, “Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates for 2008 NCAA Men’s and Women’s Division I Basketball Tournament Teams,” which compares graduation rates for Division I teams that have been selected for the men’s and women’s brackets of the 2008 NCAA Basketball Tournaments. The author of the study is Dr. Richard Lapchick, who is director of The Institute and of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Eric Little.

The study examines the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) for the tournament teams. The study compares the academic performance of male and female basketball student-athletes and of African-American and white basketball student-athletes. The study on the men’s tournament teams was released on March 17th.

Lapchick emphasized that “women basketball student-athletes do much better academically than men and the gap between the academic success between African-American and white women’s basketball student-athletes is smaller, although still significant, than between African-American and white men’s basketball student-athletes. Women have regularly been the best news academically in college sport.”

Lapchick noted “the new GSR, developed in late 2005, provides a more accurate picture of the success student-athletes have in the classroom at NCAA member institutions. Based on the GSR, 62 women’s teams (98 percent, equal to that in 2007) of the total graduated at least 50 percent of its basketball student-athletes. That compared to 41 men’s teams (64 percent, equal to that in 2007).”

In addition:

- 61 women’s teams (97 percent, equal to that in 2007) compared to 31 (48 percent, down from 52 percent in 2007) of the men’s teams graduated at least 60 percent.
- 51 women’s teams (81 percent, down from 82 percent in 2007) compared to 22 (34 percent, down from 37 percent in 2007) of the men’s teams graduated at least 70 percent.
- One women’s team (up from zero teams in 2007), Jackson State, graduated less than 40 percent compared to 14 (22 percent, up from 19 percent in 2007) of the men’s teams.

Lapchick said, "The GSR tells us far more than the new Academic Progress Rates. In April 2008 we will have four years of data for the APR and then it will be much more useful. That is why we will not include APR data in this study."ⁱⁱ

In spite of all the general progress with GSR data, Lapchick "remains alarmed at the persistent gap between African-American and white basketball student-athletes although it is far less severe among the women. The results for women stand in stark contrast to the men's teams."

Based on Graduation Success Rate dataⁱⁱⁱ, highlights from the study include the following:

70 percent graduation rates

- **55** (89 percent, up from 86 percent in 2007) of the women's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes vs. **33** (61 percent, down from 68 percent in 2007) of the men's teams, a **28 percent gap** which is up from an 18 percent gap a year ago.
- **36** (61 percent, down from 63 percent in 2007) of the women's teams graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes vs. **only 19** (30 percent, equal to that in 2007) of the men's teams, a **31 percent gap** which is down from a 33 percent gap a year ago.

60 percent graduation rates

- **58** (94 percent, down from 95 percent in 2007) of the women's tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes while **38** (70 percent, down from 82 percent in 2007) of the men's teams did so, a **24 percent gap** which is up from a 13 percent gap a year ago.
- **42** (71 percent, down from 85 percent in 2007) of women's teams graduated 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes while **only 23** (37 percent, down from 46 percent in 2007) of men's teams graduated 60 percent, a **34 percent gap** which is down from a 39 percent gap a year ago.

50 percent graduation rates

- **61** (98 percent, down from 100 percent in 2007) of the women's teams graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes vs. **45** (83 percent, down from 95 percent in 2007) of the men's teams, a **15 percent gap** which is up from a five percent gap a year ago.
- **53** (90 percent, down from 93 percent in 2007) of the women's teams graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes while **36** (57 percent, up from 54 percent in 2007), a **33 percent gap** which is down from a 39 percent gap a year ago.

Lapchick noted, "African-American student-athletes are doing better recently according to the overall GSR. I attribute that to NCAA President Myles Brand's being at the forefront of the charge for academic reform. As with the men's teams, we are seeing the positive results of the initiatives led by Dr. Brand. Schools are responding.

Nonetheless, race remains an ongoing academic issue because of the continued gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes. A significant disparity remains between graduation rates for white and African-American basketball student-athletes.

White male basketball student-athletes graduate at 77 percent versus only 53 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes. While white female basketball student-athletes graduate at 88 percent, only 72 percent of African-American female basketball student-

athletes graduate. These 24 and 16 percent disparities are alarming, yet slightly improved from the 25 and 17 percent gaps respectively a year ago.

However, African-American male and female basketball players graduate at a higher rate than African-American male and female students who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 37 percent, versus the overall rate of 61 percent for male white students, which is a horrible 24 percentage point gap. The graduation rate for African-American female students as a whole is only 48 percent, versus the overall rate of 66 percent for female white students, which is a disturbing 18 percentage point gap. Our predominantly white campuses too often are not welcoming places for students of color, whether or not they are athletes. These gaps are identical to those of a year ago.

In addition, schools are recruiting many of our African-American basketball players from urban areas. Too many urban schools are underfunded and cannot deliver the resources that would level the academic playing field. This makes it far more difficult for student-athletes and students in general to be successful. In the meantime, admissions officers need to admit only students who can succeed academically.”

More distressing results from the GSR data are:

- **15 women’s tournament teams**^{iv} (24 percent, up from 22 percent in 2007) and **22 men’s tournament teams**^v (34 percent, down from 49 percent in 2007) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 30 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.
- **22 women’s teams** (35 percent, down from 39 percent in 2007) and **28 men’s teams** (44 percent, down from 61 percent in 2007) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 20 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick concluded, “As always, there are schools that win big enough to be here in March *and* graduate their student-athletes. For the women, 11 schools had a 100 percent graduation rate. They included: Marist, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Robert Morris, San Diego, Syracuse, Tennessee, Texas, and Vanderbilt.

If we were to choose a Top Ten among the men for Graduation Success Rates, these schools would be there: Butler, Davidson, Marquette, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Purdue, San Diego, Villanova, Western Kentucky, and Xavier. The Final Four would include five teams because of a tie: Butler, Notre Dame, Purdue, Davidson and Western Kentucky.”

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 2000-01 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four class average (freshman classes of 1997-99, 1998-2000, 1999-2001, and 2000-01).

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sports. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sports, as well as the internationally recognized Racial and Gender Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management in professional and college sport. Additionally, The Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. The Institute also monitors some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the

potential for exploitation of student-athletes, gambling, performance-enhancing drugs and violence in sport.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport is part of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the University of Central Florida's College of Business Administration. This landmark program focuses on business skills necessary for graduates to conduct successful careers in the rapidly changing and dynamic sports industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service and sport and social issues.

APPENDIX

Graduation Rates for 2008 Women's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament

School		Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student- Athlete
Arizona State	GSR	78	33	100	68
Auburn	GSR	78	64	100	75
Baylor	GSR	86	88	83	87
Bucknell	GSR	94	100	94	94
Cal-Berkeley	GSR	71	60	100	75
Chattanooga	GSR	68	75	67	53
Cleveland State	GSR	92	50	100	81
Connecticut	GSR	92	83	100	79
Coppin State	GSR	75	80	0	61
Cornell*	GSR	-	-	-	-
DePaul	GSR	93	80	100	80
Duke	GSR	90	75	100	97
East Tennessee State	GSR	73	40	100	69
Florida State	GSR	73	100	63	78
Fresno State	GSR	80	78	75	63
George Washington	GSR	92	83	100	93
Georgia	GSR	80	67	100	65
Georgia Tech	GSR	69	71	60	69
Hartford	GSR	83	78	100	84
Illinois State	GSR	93	50	100	77
Iowa	GSR	92	67	100	84
Iowa State	GSR	79	0	83	69
Jackson State**	GSR	26	26	-	38
Kansas State	GSR	82	100	71	77
Liberty	GSR	93	100	86	79
Louisiana State	GSR	55	56	50	69
Louisville	GSR	73	71	71	72
Marist	GSR	100	100	100	88
Maryland	GSR	71	73	100	78
Miami (OH)	GSR	88	100	93	86
Minnesota	GSR	67	56	75	71
Montana***	GSR	91	-	89	72
Murray State	GSR	92	83	100	77
Nebraska	GSR	100	100	100	77
New Mexico	GSR	79	50	78	64
North Carolina	GSR	64	57	75	83
Notre Dame	GSR	100	100	100	98
Ohio State	GSR	100	100	100	77
Oklahoma	GSR	69	50	100	65
Oklahoma State	GSR	100	100	100	73
Old Dominion	GSR	73	67	100	72
Oral Roberts	GSR	67	67	77	73
Pittsburgh	GSR	79	71	86	79
Purdue	GSR	92	100	83	82
Robert Morris	GSR	100	100	100	97
Rutgers	GSR	75	86	100	75

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School		Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student- Athlete
San Diego***	GSR	100	-	100	87
SMU	GSR	92	100	80	89
Stanford	GSR	92	80	100	94
Syracuse	GSR	100	100	100	84
Temple	GSR	93	86	100	71
Tennessee	GSR	100	100	100	75
Texas	GSR	100	100	100	74
Texas A&M	GSR	61	50	100	73
Texas-San Antonio	GSR	60	57	56	61
UC-Santa Barbara	GSR	77	0	91	78
Utah***	GSR	85	-	100	74
UTEP	GSR	63	50	100	51
Vanderbilt	GSR	100	100	100	94
Virginia	GSR	71	57	75	85
West Virginia	GSR	60	80	50	68
Western Kentucky	GSR	92	80	100	73
Wyoming***	GSR	93	-	92	81
Xavier	GSR	73	0	86	94

*Cornell does not report Federal Graduation Rates nor Graduation Success Rates

**Jackson State had no white basketball student-athletes for GSR purposes

***Montana, San Diego, Utah, and Wyoming had no African-American basketball student-athletes for GSR purposes

ⁱ For the women's teams, Cornell did not report a GSR so the number of schools eligible is 63; among the men, Cornell did not report so the pool of teams was 64.

ⁱⁱ The APR was created in 2004 as an integral piece of the extensive academic reform package developed to more accurately measure student-athletes' success in the classroom and encourage an increase of the graduation rates at member institutions by providing sanctions in the form of lost scholarships when teams fail to meet the NCAA standard for academic performance.

There is currently a margin of error used in the calculation of the APR that provides protection to certain institutions which have a small sample size of data or some teams who would have been subject to penalties by their APR scores, but did not have to take any actual penalties because they did not have any students leave ineligible in the last year or received a waiver from penalties. These margins of error will be eliminated when a four-year rolling average APR can be determined.

ⁱⁱⁱ The statistical pool for women's team in regards to white student-athletes was 62 schools, because one school (Jackson State) did not have data for white student-athletes so they were omitted from the category. The statistical pool for women's teams in regards to African-American student-athletes was 59 schools, because four schools (Montana, San Diego, Utah, and Wyoming) did not have data for African-American student-athletes so they were omitted from the category.

The statistical pool for men's teams in regards to white student-athletes was 54 schools, because ten schools (Connecticut, Coppin State, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Mississippi Valley State, Temple, UMBC, Villanova, and Winthrop) did not have data for white student-athletes so they were omitted from the category. The statistical pool for men's teams in regards to African-American student-athletes was 63 schools, because one school (Gonzaga) did not have data for African-American student-athletes so they were omitted from the category.