THE DAILY CLIPS

January 27, 2012

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by East Carolina University News Services:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
   The New York Times
   The Wall Street Journal
   USA Today
   The Charlotte Observer
   The Fayetteville Observer
   The Greensboro News & Record
   Newsweek
   U.S. News & World Report
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Editorial: ECU handles violation well
Friday, January 27, 2012

Collegiate athletics can be instrumental in the molding of young men and women because it teaches them the importance of determination, sportsmanship and — perhaps most importantly — accountability. The East Carolina University baseball team saw that last principle on display this week as Head Coach Billy Godwin accepted a two-week suspension for an apparent violation of NCAA rules.

The governing body of intercollegiate athletics boasts a list of statutes so arcane and numerous that it nearly puts the United States tax code to shame, but coaches are expected to know them inside and out nonetheless. Godwin’s infraction may not have been inadvertent, but taking responsibility and accepting punishment demonstrates an admirable commitment to always playing by the rules.

The baseball and softball season is a special time in Greenville, as the sport dominates local headlines and occupies the minds of the city’s youth. Throughout the summer, area diamonds are a flurry of activity and a place where the community gathers to watch its boys and girls learn and grow by testing themselves against one another. At the heart of that culture sits Clark-LeClair Stadium, home of the East Carolina Pirates, where the quest for the College World Series will soon begin anew.

Baseball operates under intense scrutiny here as the team often competes with the very best in the sport. Postseason play is expected as the local nine inspires fans to believe that East Carolina will one day take home a title. Leading that program is no easy task, but Godwin has done well in his seven seasons at the helm. His teams win and represent the university and this community well.

It was therefore a disappointment to hear of an NCAA violation this week. Apparently East Carolina had provided impermissible housing to volunteer assistant coaches, which violated a rule governing benefits. While that practice was instituted before Godwin’s arrival, he bears responsibility as the man in charge now and accepted a two-week suspension without pay as a result.
A glance at the landscape of college sports shows some schools without similar scruples when it comes to reporting violations and taking swift, decisive action in response. They fight the NCAA, argue innocence, fail to impose penalties against coaches or otherwise act as an aggrieved party.

East Carolina under Athletic Director Terry Holland has always been the opposite, acting as a model for how a Division I program should behave. This is another example and, while unfortunate, should allow the focus to return to the diamond and the annual quest for Omaha.
Columnist Janet Storm’s column absolving East Carolina University of wrongdoing in the firing of its journalism adviser (“Freedom isn’t always free,” Jan. 22) fundamentally misstates how the First Amendment works. Storm contends that there is no First Amendment problem with firing Isom over his students’ decision to publish a “streaker” photo, because the photo itself was not withheld from the paper.

By this logic, it would be legitimate for North Carolina to enact a law saying, “Any newspaper editor who publishes material the government deems ‘offensive’ will be jailed for 30 days.” Would the editors of the Reflector say, “Ah well, no First Amendment problem there. We can publish anything we want. We just have to pay the price afterward.” No, they’d be crying “free speech” all the way to the courthouse, faster than a naked 21-year-old can cross Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

A government edict that says “do not publish X” and a government edict that says “if you publish X, you are fired” have the same practical effect, and they are equally unconstitutional.

Storm is right that the exercise of free speech at any newspaper comes with consequences, but those consequences are to be imposed by the marketplace, not the government. If advertisers and readers want to boycott the paper, that is the American way, and it is the proper way to teach editors about respect for audience standards.

Storm likens Isom’s firing to the “price” that a speaker pays when he is punched out for insulting a bruiser in a bar. She’s correct. Just as there is no legal right to punch a person who offends you — Storm’s “bruiser” is going to jail for battery — there was no legal right to “punch out” Paul Isom for the photos his students chose.

FRANK D. LoMONTE
Executive Director
Student Press Law Center
Alexandria, Va.
Hot Stove a hot ticket

By Jordan Anders
The Daily Reflector
Friday, January 27, 2012

It may only be January, but baseball fans were out in full force Thursday night as the Pitt-Greenville Hot Stove League held its annual banquet at J.H. Rose High School.

The 23rd annual event brought together players from little league to high school and beyond to celebrate the tradition of youth baseball in Greenville and eastern North Carolina.

The night’s featured guest speaker was East Carolina head coach Billy Godwin. Godwin — who played baseball at Northern Nash High School in Rocky Mount and Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) in Wilson — shared various stories as he talked of rising through the coaching ranks, from high school to American Legion to junior college at Louisburg and now ECU.

Godwin joined a list of speakers that includes North Carolina coach Mike Fox, former Major League manager Jerry Narron, and former big league player Trox Nixon.

For a guy who attended the very first banquet back in 1990, Godwin said it was an honor to join that list and speak at this year’s event.

“It’s a tremendous honor,” he said. “When you look at the list of (past) speakers and the history of baseball in this community and what Greenville Hot Stove has been able to put together, it’s just a great privilege to be here.”

One of his Godwin’s players, former Rose standout Chase McDonald, was awarded the Amateur Player of the Year award.
Rose’s Dalton Britt and Walker Gaddis shared the George Williams Scholarship, the first time that two players have ever received dual awards.

Volunteer Coach of the Year went to Ron Chapman, while Brian Bailey and Winterville Machine Works took home the Outstanding Individual and Corporate Contributor awards, respectively.

The Steve Ward Scholarship went to Rose’s Gray Dixon and the President’s Special Recognition award went to Laura Walsh.

“We’re really proud of what the Hot Stove league does,” said Chuck Humphrey, who is in his eighth year as the Hot Stove League’s president. “It’s really fun to be able to get the baseball community and come out once a year. It’s just a bunch of people that love baseball and love our community.”
Contests against five bowl qualifiers, games versus a trio of programs that finished in the Top 25 and home matchups with Navy and Conference USA West Division champion Houston highlight East Carolina’s 2012 football schedule released Thursday by C-USA officials.

After the Pirates kick off the campaign Sept. 1 by renewing an in-state football rivalry with Appalachian State that covers 30 games and spans 80 years, ECU will open a three-game road swing that begins with a Sept. 8 trip to Columbia to face South Carolina. It will be the Pirates’ first visit to a Southeastern Conference program since a 21-3 victory over the Gamecocks on Sept. 18, 1999. Head coach Steve Spurrier’s club ended the 2011 season ranked No. 8 in the USA Today Coaches’ Poll after posting an 11-2 record and 30-13 victory over Nebraska in the Capital One Bowl.

East Carolina will continue its September journey by opening C-USA play against defending champion Southern Miss on Sept. 15 before closing out the trek by facing North Carolina on Sept. 22.

The Golden Eagles earned the league title last December after defeating Houston 49-28 and went on to top Nevada in the Sheraton Hawai‘i Bowl to end the campaign with a 12-2 record and No. 19 ranking. In the Pirates’ last meeting against USM in Hattiesburg, ECU came back to claim a 44-43 victory after trailing 20-0 in the first quarter.

East Carolina's short voyage to Chapel Hill will mark the fourth-straight season the two in-state programs have squared off. The Tar Heels finished last year with a 7-6 mark and fell to Missouri 41-24 in the AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl.

The Pirates will return to league action by welcoming UTEP to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the first time since 2008 a week later to close out the month of September. C-USA East Division clashes against UCF, Memphis and UAB will follow on successive weeks before East Carolina wraps up non-conference play by hosting Navy on Oct. 27. The Pirates will try to even the four-game series after edging the Midshipmen 38-35 in Annapolis last fall.

Houston, which rolled to an unblemished 8-0 regular season league record on the way to a 13-1 overall mark in 2011, returns to Greenville on Nov. 3 for the first time since the 2009 C-USA Championship Game. The Cougars stood 14th in the final USA Today Coaches’ Poll after their 30-14 win over No. 22 Penn State in the Ticket City Bowl.

Following an off week, East Carolina will travel to Tulane on Nov. 17 before wrapping up regular season play at home for the fifth time in the last six years when it meets Marshall on Nov. 24.
"It's pretty obvious we'll need to come out of the gate ready to go," third-year ECU Head Coach Ruffin McNeill said. "Although challenging, we're all excited to open the season against four teams that earned the right to go to the postseason. I like the way our Conference USA schedule is set up and consider it an honor to have Navy back at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium."

The Pirates will play three of the last four and four of their last six at home after enduring identical stretches on the road to open the campaign. Additionally, half (six) of ECU's opponents in 2012 will feature first-year head coaches at their respective schools - Southern Miss, North Carolina, Memphis, UAB, Houston and Tulane.

Season ticket packages will go on-sale Wednesday, February 22. Fans who purchased season tickets in 2011 will receive their renewal application in mid-February with a priority deadline of April 1.

Sept. 1 — APPALACHIAN STATE
Sept. 8 — at South Carolina
Sept. 15 — *at Southern Miss
Sept. 22 — at North Carolina
Sept. 29 — *UTEP (FW)
Oct. 6 — *at UCF
Oct. 13 — *MEMPHIS (HC)
Oct. 20 — *at UAB
Oct. 27 — NAVY (MIL)
Nov. 3 — *HOUSTON (HOF)
Nov. 17 — *at Tulane
Nov. 24 — *MARSHALL (SD)

Home games in ALL CAPS; *Conference USA game; FW-Family Weekend, HC-Homecoming, MIL-Military Appreciation Day, HOF-Hall of Fame/Letterwinners Day, SD-Senior Day; Dates and designations subject to change pending finalization of television scheduling
RALEIGH—N.C. State University police issued a security alert Wednesday after two different reports of individuals possibly carrying guns on campus.

But a spokesman, stressing that the situation was being taken very seriously, couldn't rule out the possibility that the individuals sighted were taking part in a scheduled charitable Nerf zombie war.

"We still implore people to be vigilant," said NCSU spokesman Mick Kulikowski, who also said that aside from the two calls, no one else reported seeing a suspicious suspect or the subjects in question.

The first NCSU Zombie War for Charity was held last fall, and Monday was the start of another rendition of a weeklong game. In it, zombies and humans battle, with zombies trying to convert humans to stay alive in the game and humans hunting zombies with Nerf guns, trying to avoid getting converted.

Police searched for the two college-aged suspects described by the witnesses but found neither. There was no campus lockdown; classes continued as scheduled.

The first witness called in a description of a college-age, heavy set male wearing a blue toboggan hat, dark jacket and dark pants walking on Current Drive toward Hillsborough Street at 10:43 a.m. At noon, a witness reported a roughly 20-year-old man possibly carrying a gun heading towards Riddick Hall in a toboggan hat, tan jacket and baggy blue jeans.
The Wilmington Star News

Published: Thursday, January 26, 2012

**UNCW surpasses $65M fundraising goal early**

By Pressley Baird
Pressley.Baird@StarNewsOnline.com

The University of North Carolina Wilmington ended its seven-year fundraising campaign Thursday ahead of schedule and in the black.

The Campaign for UNCW: Soaring to Greatness surpassed its $65 million goal 11 months ahead of schedule, raising $66.4 million through more than 27,800 private donations to the university, announced Chancellor Gary Miller at a press conference Thursday.

The campaign, which will fund student scholarships and professorships, began in July 2005 and was set to end in December 2012.

Among the campaign's banner achievements include funding for 239 new scholarships at $29 million. Before the campaign was created in 2005, the school had established 200 scholarships in its entire 58-year history. More than $10 million also has been donated for eight new distinguished professorships, including professorships in oncological nursing and education.

Most private donations are earmarked for specific purposes and can't be used to alleviate budget concerns, Miller said. But donors can make unrestricted gifts, which allow the chancellor to decide what those funds should be used for, said school spokeswoman Dana Fischetti.

As far as using the unrestricted dollars to relieve the budget or lower the university's proposed 10.7 percent tuition increase, "no decisions have been made to go in that direction," Fischetti said. "Campaign funding is completely separate from the university's operating funds that come from the state."

The bulk of the campaign was led by former chancellor Rosemary DePaolo, who retired in June 2011. Marla Rice-Evans, UNCW's associate vice chancellor and director of the campaign, said a transition in leadership can affect the dynamics of a fundraising campaign.

"People do give to people they believe in," Rice-Evans said. "There were donors who very likely completely supported (DePaolo) and donors who completely supported Miller."
Rice-Evans called the university an "important economic engine in Southeastern North Carolina that's vital and thriving."

"Having a highly educated workforce is profoundly important for economic development," she said, "and to keep the state smart."

Pressley Baird: 343-2328

**Facts**

**By the numbers**

- **Student scholarships**: $29 million
- **Support for academic programs**: $11.3 million
- **Professorships**: $10.8 million
- **Regional outreach efforts and global programs**: $5.4 million
- **Annual fund, supporting highest priority needs each year**: $6 million
- **Unrestricted funds**: $3.8 million
Front entrance of Wake Forest University Charlotte Center on ribbon cutting day. Wake Forest University Charlotte Center officially opened Thursday with a ribbon cutting ceremony and news conference on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 11:00 a.m., followed by public tours. DIEDRA LAIRD - dlaird@charlotteobserver.com

Wake Forest makes its uptown presence known
By April Bethea

Wake Forest University leaders say its new classroom facility in uptown is a way to recommit the school’s connection with the Queen City.

On Thursday, the university formally dedicated the 30,000-square-foot facility, which is in the old International Trade Center at College and Fifth streets. The location replaces Wake Forest’s old site in South Park.

The new building is nearly double the size of the old location, with four classrooms, state-of-the-art technology, study rooms and meeting space.

The facility offers Wake “more than a presence, but a place to call home,” in Charlotte said Melenie Lankau, an associate dean in the business school.

Wake Forest University Charlotte Center will initially house classes for the MBA program for working professionals, along with executive and continuing education programs.
But President Nathan Hatch said he hopes the location could one day be a site for programs in other fields as well. The school also hopes to host networking and community events in the space.

Charlotte is home to the largest number of Wake Forest alumni, with more than 6,000 graduates living in the area.

Wake’s main campus is in Winston-Salem.

The university first began offering MBA programs in Charlotte’s Morrocroft Centre in 1995. The program started with 30 students, and now has more than 200, the university said.

Jim McCorkle was part of the inaugural class in Charlotte. McCorkle, who attended Wake as an undergrad, said he was excited about the opportunity to take classes in the MBA program in Charlotte. He said the new building uptown is really nice, and he thinks it could help attract more people who want to take courses from Wake.

Charlotte is home to about 15 colleges and universities, and uptown has emerged as a major hub for higher education institutions in the past decade.

UNC Charlotte opened a classroom building in First Ward last fall. Northeastern University is offering a doctorate in education and master’s-level programs in space at Trade and Tryon streets, the school’s first expansion outside of Boston.

Meanwhile, Queens University of Charlotte hopes to one day offer graduate and other adult courses in the federal courthouse building. Johnson & Wales University also has a campus uptown, and Johnson C. Smith University is located minutes away.

Wake’s Dean of Business Steve Reinemund said the university hopes to collaborate with other institutions. That, he said, could help further encourage innovation in the region.

Learn more: http://business.wfu.edu/charlotte

Bethea: 704-358-6013
January 27, 2012

Obama College Aid Proposal Puts a Focus on Affordability

By TAMAR LEWIN

President Obama is proposing a financial aid overhaul that for the first time would tie colleges’ eligibility for campus-based aid programs — Perkins loans, work-study jobs and supplemental grants for low-income students — to the institutions’ success in improving affordability and value for students, administration officials said.

Under the plan, which the president is expected to outline on Friday morning in a speech at the University of Michigan, the amount available for Perkins loans would grow to $8 billion, from the current $1 billion. The president also wants to create a $1 billion grant competition, along the lines of the Race for the Top program for elementary and secondary education, to reward states that take action to keep college costs down, and a separate $55 million competition for individual colleges to increase their value and efficiency.

The administration also wants to give families clearer information about costs and quality, by requiring colleges and universities to offer a “shopping sheet” that makes it easier to compare financial aid packages and — for the first time — compiling post-graduate earning and employment information to give students a better sense of what awaits them.

These proposed changes would all require Congressional approval.

With student-loan debt now outpacing credit-card debt — and becoming a rallying point in the Occupy movement — the administration has for some time promised to address the issue, knowing its potency with voters in an election year. The president met privately with a group of college presidents in December, and has been collecting examples of colleges that have kept their costs from spiraling upward.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, Mr. Obama turned up the heat, alluding to the plan without fleshing out details.

“Let me put colleges and universities on notice: If you can’t stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down,” he said. Even without specifics, that raised hackles in higher-education circles.
“When we hear things like a shift in federal aid, it causes our antennas to go straight up,” said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education. “Anything that smacks of price controls is of great concern on many levels, especially at a time when states are cutting their budgets — and if the effect of this is to limit tuition, what else would you call it but price controls?”

Ms. Broad said that she and university presidents across the nation shared the president’s commitment to affordable higher education, but that it was not so easy to keep tuition down at a time when institutions must also absorb state budget cuts, increase enrollment and bolster financial aid for the growing number of families who need it.

The administration officials who spoke about the proposals did so on the condition of anonymity, and on the condition that details not be shared until publication.

They stressed that expanding the pool of money for Perkins loans would not require new tax dollars, since those loans are repaid with interest. And even without new money, they said, it would be possible to change the formulas under which colleges receive funds for work-study jobs and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants — at nearly $1 billion, the second largest federal grant program for low-income students, after Pell grants.

While Pell grants and Stafford loans are larger programs than the ones the administration wants to change, they are federally administered and can be used by students at any college. In contrast, the campus-based programs the administration is proposing to change are administered by individual schools, whose financial aid offices have substantial discretion. About 1,700 colleges and universities now offer Perkins loans, a number that would increase to more than 4,000 in the new proposal.

While administration officials said the Perkins changes would have no impact on the federal budget, other parts of the plan — like doubling the number of work-study jobs, and keeping the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans at the current 3.8 percent — would be expensive.

The officials said the current financial aid system rewards colleges for longevity in the program, and provides perverse incentives for keeping college costs high. Under their new proposal, they said, colleges would instead be rewarded for lower net tuition prices; restrained tuition growth; enrolling and graduating low-income students; and providing education and training that help graduates get jobs and repay their loans.
Some education experts, however, worry that by tying aid to costs, changes like those proposed might instead lead to lower-quality college education, with larger class sizes and greater use of adjuncts. Furthermore, they worry that public institutions suffering the most from declines in state support — and therefore under the most pressure to raise tuition — could be further hurt by losing access to some federal aid.

As with the original Race to the Top grants, in which the Obama administration used federal money to leverage its education agenda, the White House hopes to use the new college competition to spur systemic state reform that would reduce costs and encourage college completion. To win money, officials said, states would have to maintain their funding levels for higher education and align their entry and exit standards with secondary education and community colleges to help promote graduation on time.

The competition for individual institutions would reward colleges or nonprofit organizations that boost productivity through such approaches as course redesign that exploits new technology; early-college preparation that reduces the need for remedial work; and competency-based approaches to college credit that replace the traditional model of rewarding hours spent in class.
Wisconsin athletic official accused of groping student

By Jenna Johnson

In the wake of sexual assault charges against former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, a University of Wisconsin-Madison official e-mailed the entire campus with instructions for what to do if they see, suspect or are the victim of sexual abuse.

“To put it more plainly: If you see something, say something,” wrote Dean of Students Lori M. Berquam on Dec. 12. “[B]y allowing improper conduct to go unreported, you may put the safety of the victim and the stature of our institution at risk.”

At colleges across the country, administrators have been examining their sexual assault reporting policies and reminding officials what to do when they receive a report. The Wisconsin legal office also gave two presentations to Athletic Department coaches and employees in December titled “If you see something, should you say something?”

Just a few weeks later, a Wisconsin student reported to officials that an associate athletic director had groped him while in Los Angeles for the Rose Bowl and then threatened to fire him. Although it took several days for the report to reach top officials, the university chancellor quickly put the accused official on administrative leave and assembled a four-person committee to investigate the charge.

Senior Associate Athletic Director John Chadima, 46, resigned earlier this month. His attorney, Charles W. Giesen said Wednesday afternoon that Chadima does not dispute the accusations and “makes no excuses for what he did.” Giesen added that his client is not currently facing criminal charges and is seeking help for alcohol-related issues.

“There were absolutely no prior incidents,” Giesen said. “This was just a single, isolated lapse in judgment, and he has paid an enormous price for that.”
On Tuesday night, the university released a 34-page report titled, “2012 Rose Bowl Incident Review.” The university had previously kept quiet on why Chadima had resigned, despite questions raised in several articles in the Wisconsin State Journal this month. In addition to detailing the events of that night, the review examined how the university’s sexual assault reporting process worked.

“There always will be opportunities for improvement in the training of university staff in responding to and reporting misconduct allegations. But we cannot imagine a better process outcome than the response that happened in this case,” the report reads. “We view this response process as nearly a model of how we might hope all such cases would be handled.”

So what exactly happened on the night of Dec. 30 and early morning of Dec. 31 in a hotel in Los Angeles? Here’s the series of events, according to the report:

In late December, the Badgers football team and support staff traveled to Southern California for the bowl game. The night before the game, Chadima hosted a party in his hotel suite to recognize athletic employees and student staffers who support the team but aren’t invited to formal receptions and events.

Chadima has hosted such “B team parties” during the past four bowl games. At the party on Dec. 30, he served alcohol, beer and mixers, which were paid for by the athletic department using donor funds. Several student staff members who attended and drank at the party were under 21, according to the report.

The university’s athletic director and assistant athletic director were aware of the party, but did not attend. Several “Athletic Department academic and classified staff” did attend.

The party alarmed university investigators, who wrote in their report: “While we certainly understand the wish to find ways to recognize the hard work of those who are “behind the scenes” of the Bowl productions, we question the wisdom of this use of alcohol in these circumstances.”

(For more on this topic, see the Wisconsin State Journal article, “UW’s lack of off-campus alcohol policy may be revisited.”)

As a group of students were leaving the party between 1:30 and 2 a.m., Chadima told one student to stay and have a drink with him. While the two were alone in the room, the student says Chadima asked the student if he was gay, removed the student’s belt and put his hand down the student’s
pants. The student told university investigators that he slapped Chadima’s hand away and swore at him. Chadima told the student he could have him fired and later said he was joking around, according to the report.

The university is protecting the identity of the student, who is identified in the report as “John Doe.” Chadima’s attorney said the student is over the age of 21 and “this was no pedophilia.”

At about 3:15 a.m., the student knocked on the hotel room door of Chadima’s supervisor and reported what had happened. He also told three of his student co-workers.

The next morning, two athletic officials met to discuss the incident. According to the report, the student did not want to take action until after the team returned to Madison on Jan. 3.

Upon returning, two officials contacted the university police lieutenant who had traveled with the team to Los Angeles. At a meeting the afternoon of Jan. 4, the lieutenant showed them a copy of a memo sent to deans and directors in December that says employees are required by state law to report sexual assault.

The lieutenant “emphasized the importance of acting promptly,” according to the report, but the two athletic officials “were uneasy about reporting without first alerting the appropriate officials” in their department.

The next day, the two officials met with the department’s human resources director, who immediately contacted the university’s legal counsel.

On Jan. 6, Chadima was placed on administrative leave and the university chancellor appointed a committee to investigate the incident. That committee interviewed 23 people and examined Chadima’s office computer and school-issued cell phone.

University officials were concerned by text messages Chadima had sent to another student employee the night before the party, demanding that the student come to his room and threatening to fire him if he did not comply. That student was not willing to talk with investigators.

Chadima’s attorney said those text messages were sent in jest, and that university officials could not find evidence of any prior improper behavior. He said Chadima, who worked at the university for more than 20 years, has never acted like this before.

As for media coverage of the incident, Giesen said: “If Penn State or Syracuse hadn’t happened, we wouldn’t be having this conversation.”