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ECU gives its men’s soccer team the boot

Funding, poor record play into decision

ECU Sports Information

GREENVILLE — The East Carolina University Department of Athletics will discontinue its men’s soccer program as an intercollegiate sport effective immediately, director of athletics Terry Holland said Tuesday.

After a two-month evaluation, which was conducted concurrently with the search for a new head coach, ECU’s senior athletic administration (Holland, senior associate athletics director, senior woman administrator and faculty athletics represented) unanimously decided that the program should cease varsity competition.

“In our discussions with coaching candidates, it became clear that a significant increase in resources would have to be made available to men’s soccer to improve our competitive position in Conference USA,” Holland said. “The only source for the needed resources would be from the budgets of our other programs and we do not feel that any of our programs could withstand a significant budget reduction without an equally significant loss of competitiveness for the team(s) involved.

“It has become obvious to us that our current strategy has been largely ineffective in terms of on-field performance. Of even greater concern is the record against our conference opponents during a total of 23 years in the Colonial and C-USA.”

Including the Pirates’ 0-15-1 overall record in 2005, East Carolina has posted just one winning season in 41 years of competition dating back to 1965. Furthermore, ECU has produced a 17-151-5 league mark while a member of the CAA and Conference USA. Since joining C-USA, the Pirates have registered a 7-37-3 record and have won just two conference games during the past three seasons.

“While we all regret the effect that this decision will have on current men’s soccer players enrolled at ECU, we believe that continuing the current course is just as unfair to those young men, as well as to future recruits and staff members,” Holland said.

The athletics department will honor all current men’s soccer scholarships as well as any grants-in-aid that have been offered by the coaching staff. In addition, ECU will assist any team members wishing to transfer by granting a release and will provide ancillary support, as permitted by the NCAA, to the men’s soccer club team(s) which play under the supervision of the ECU Department of Recreational Services.

“During the next three years, it is our desire to carefully evaluate the intercollegiate soccer environment to determine if there is a realistic approach to building a men’s program on a solid foundation that provides varsity competition for ECU students with a better opportunity for on-field success,” Holland said.

Chad Halverson, who was appointed the Pirates’ interim head coach July 22 after the departure of Michael Benn, will be retained and has been offered a reassignment to a position on the women’s soccer staff under the direction of Rob Donnenwirth.

Despite the termination of the men’s soccer program, ECU, along with Memphis, tops all Conference USA institutions with the highest number of intercollegiate sports sponsored with 19. Among regional competitors, the number of Pirates’ programs will be consistent or higher than Cincinnati (17), Clemson (19), Pittsburgh (19), South Florida (18), Wake Forest (18) and West Virginia (17).

East Carolina currently fields 10 women’s programs and will now support nine men’s teams.
Supreme Court seems supportive of military recruiting at universities

By GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court appeared ready Tuesday to rule against colleges that want to limit military recruiting on campus to protest the Pentagon’s policy on gays.

New Chief Justice John Roberts and other court members signaled support for a law that says schools that accept federal money also have to accommodate military recruiters. The justices seemed concerned about hindering a Defense Department need to fill its ranks when the nation is at war.

“There’s the right in the Constitution to raise a military,” Roberts said.

Law school campuses have become the latest battleground over the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy allowing gay men and women to serve in the military only if they keep their sexual orientation to themselves.

A group of law schools and professors had sued the Pentagon, claiming their free-speech rights are being violated because they are forced to associate with military recruiters or promote their campus appearances. Many law schools forbid the participation of recruiters from public agencies and private companies that have discriminatory policies.

E. Joshua Rosenkranz, the lawyer for the schools, told justices: “There are two messages going on here and they are clashing. There is the military’s message, which the schools are interpreting as ‘Uncle Sam does not want you,’ and there is the school’s message which is ‘we do not abet those who discriminate. That is immoral.’”

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said: “Your argument would allow schools to exclude anybody in a uniform from a cafeteria.”

Justice Stephen Breyer said that many people disagree with government policies, but they are not allowed to get out of paying taxes or following laws because of that.

Outside court, about a half-dozen supporters of the law from Topeka, Kan., waved signs and yelled at reporters and passers-by in front of the court before the argument.

Dan Noble, 28, a gay Yale Law School student who camped out overnight to get a courtroom seat, said, “You feel discriminated against when some recruiters will interview your fellow students but won’t interview you.”

In an unusual move, immediately after the argument the Supreme Court released an audiotape to news organizations because of high interest in the case. Cameras are not allowed in court and recordings of the proceedings normally are not released until the end of the term.

A federal law, known as the Solomon Amendment after its first congressional sponsor, mandates that universities, including their law and medical schools and other branches, give the military the same access as other recruiters or forfeit federal money.

Federal financial support of colleges tops $35 billion a year, and many college leaders say they could not forgo that money.

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who is retiring and probably won’t get to vote in the case, said colleges can post disclaimers on campus noting their objections to the military policy.
M.B.A.’s Are No Longer One Size Fits All

Want to run a company?
Open a lemonade stand?
Or are you totally clueless?

LEARN through case studies or hands-on experience? Generalize or drill down? Stay home or go abroad? These are just a few of the choices facing students who are contemplating a master’s in business administration.

With the number of programs proliferating, business schools have been scrambling to woo students — and company recruiters — by trying to distinguish themselves from the rest of the field. Thus more and more schools are departing from the once-hallowed “case method” established by the Harvard Business School, in which deskbound students analyze the situations of companies, real or fictitious, and make recommendations. Instead, schools are offering opportunities to, say, set up and run actual companies, or take electives in other schools within the university.

“There was a time when the M.B.A. was one size fits all,” says John Fernandes, president of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, which accredits business schools. “Now, by and large, schools are trying to be very good at fewer specialties and less generic.”

In this changing landscape, how does a student find the right educational fit? Of course, time and money often make the choice for you; faced with the cost of tuition and the need to work, nearly 60 percent of M.B.A. candidates attend part time, often subsidized by their employers. Grade point averages and admissions test scores may also limit your options.

But all else being equal — which it rarely is — here are some programs to consider, depending on what you want to do and who you are.

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR PASSION?

Many business schools are adding “tracks” to their curriculum that play to their particular strengths and, they hope, to a marketplace that wants M.B.A.’s prepared to hit the ground running. If you already know that you want to work in a specific field, this could be a good fit.

The specialized curriculum that the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon rolled out last year, for example, includes tracks in biotechnology, computational marketing, technology leadership, operations strategy and management, management of innovation and product development, and wealth and asset management.

ARE YOU A MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

Most newly minted business-school graduates begin their careers in a department like product management or finance. But if your goal is to move into general management in 5 to 10 years and ultimately lead an organization, it makes sense to get a strong foundation.

Most of the perennially top-ranked graduate business schools — Stanford, Harvard, Columbia, Kellogg at Northwestern, Wharton at the University of Pennsylvania — still adhere largely to the traditional core curriculum, which is meant to provide an overview of the entire corporation. Students get little or no choice of courses in the first year, typically taking multiple classes in each of some half-dozen categories — strategy, operations, finance, accounting, marketing, leadership and organizational behavior. In the second year, the universe widens to include electives.

“We sometimes describe the first year as the old East Germany and the second as a free market,” says Joseph L. Badaracco Jr., chairman of the elective curriculum at the Harvard Business School. “We’re very much a general management school. A lot of students come here because they want to run something.”

There’s an additional advantage to mastering business basics: trendy concentrations can be a blot on one’s résumé when a hot market cools. Sharon Hoffman, associate dean and director of Stanford’s M.B.A. program, notes that the school was criticized for not focusing on Internet-related business during the dot-com bubble. “But we said, ‘The fundamentals remain the fundamentals,’ ” she recalls.
The idea is to build not scientists and engineers but the people who can manage them. "You can't manage a group of people who think you don't know anything about their field," says Kenneth B. Dunn, Tepper's dean. "We've had a big increase in the number of new firms coming to recruit at Carnegie Mellon as a result of the tracks."

**ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR A FIELD OF INTEREST?**

While all graduate business schools have greatly expanded their lists of electives, some M.B.A. programs make a point of giving students free range, not only in the business school but in other schools within the university.

The University of Chicago, that champion of free-market economics, boasts on its Web site that "we offer the most flexible curriculum of any top business school in the world," with "very few required courses."

In sweeping changes at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Sloan School of Management last year halved the number of required courses to a half dozen. What's more, M.I.T. has added a number of courses that are only six weeks long and divided the traditional 13-week semester into two sessions, with an "innovation" week in between when professors present their research. This schedule allows students to sample a greater variety of subjects. Compared with the track approach, the M.I.T. program "gives students more opportunity to explore, and also to customize their own curriculum," says Andrew W. Lo, director of the school's Laboratory for Financial Engineering, who was involved in the redesign. "The real benefit is the flexibility."

**DO YOU WANT TO CREATE A BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN?**

If you were the kind of child who couldn't wait to set up a lemonade stand each summer — and maybe took over the neighbor's stand as well — then you may be interested in one of the growing number of hands-on programs for entrepreneurs.

The Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, which has a strong emphasis on entrepreneurship, is adding a program in January in which student teams create and run their own companies for six months. At the F. W. Olin School of Business at Babson College, entrepreneurship is embedded in the core curriculum, with yearlong consulting projects for local companies. While only 20 percent of Babson graduates start their own businesses, the rest tend to go into new business development in established concerns.

**ARE YOUR SIGHTS SET ON THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE?**

These days, it's the rare M.B.A. program that doesn't include an opportunity to study abroad. An M.B.A. candidate at one of two dozen Jesuit universities participating in a consortium, including Fordham, Boston College and Loyola University Chicago, can take up to 12 credits at Beijing University. The University of Chicago has a campus in Singapore. The Stern School of Business at New York University lets you spend a couple of weeks in Chile or Denmark. Now, to intensify their international perspective, an increasing number of students are leaving the country altogether to get their M.B.A.'s — in Canada, Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

"In today's global business world, the most sought-after employees know how to work cross-culturally, how to motivate international teams and how to deal with the uncertainty and ambiguity that the global economy throws up," says Julia Tyler, associate dean of the M.B.A. program at the London Business School. (The school's dean, Laura D. Tyson, formerly headed the business school at the University of California, Berkeley, and worked in the Clinton White House.)

Studying with students and faculty representing dozens of nationalities helps prepare M.B.A.'s for doing business internationally, even if based in the United States. If English is your only language, not to worry: generally, M.B.A. classes are taught in English, even in France and Spain.
