

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, March 26, 2009

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NCAA Announces Committee on Infractions Decision Following Review of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Intercollegiate Athletics

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) today (March 26) released its decision following an investigation into rules infractions and other issues in the intercollegiate athletics program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions stated that the University is being penalized for major violations in women's volleyball, men's tennis and men's basketball. The violations include ineligible participation, receipt of recruiting inducements, impermissible recruiting phone calls, failure to report NCAA violations, and lack of institutional control.

Penalties include four years probation, postseason game bans for women's volleyball and men's tennis, scholarship reductions in women's volleyball and men's tennis, recruiting restrictions, vacation of several wins during the 2005-2006 volleyball season, and vacation of several men's tennis match wins during spring 2005 and the 2005-2007 academic years. In addition, Brian Teter and John Secord, both former employees, were cited for unethical conduct.

"This has been a very serious issue for us, and we believe that today we have in place the operational structure and quality people who can ensure our intercollegiate athletics program is above and beyond reproach," said University President Flavius Killebrew.

President Killebrew said that officials at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi will review the NCAA's decision over the next few days and decide if there are any areas for a

possible appeal to the Infractions Appeal Committee. The University is given 15 days following the public release of the infractions report to submit a notice of appeal.

In fall 2007 the University began an investigation of intercollegiate athletics when it notified the Texas A&M University System's auditor to undertake a review of the program. The auditor examined finances, personnel and operations.

Following the receipt in spring 2008 of the notice of inquiry from the NCAA, the University jointly undertook the investigation, with President Killebrew appointing an athletic oversight committee to give the NCAA easy access to records and personnel. The committee also was charged with recommending operational changes within intercollegiate athletics. The oversight committee will remain in place throughout the four-year probationary period levied by the NCAA.

Among the first steps for improving athletics was the restructuring of compliance and student-athlete advising by adding staff and changing supervision of these units to the University's academic affairs division. With changes in athletic compliance underway, the University began the implementation of new procedures for reviewing student-athlete eligibility as well as a comprehensive program for educating coaches and athletic program staff regarding compliance issues and NCAA regulations.

The Intercollegiate Athletics Council has also increased its involvement in the athletic program to ensure that there is stronger oversight in compliance, student-athlete advising, finances and athletic education programs. In addition, many new procedures and strengthened policies, as well as a violations reporting system and eligibility monitoring, were put into place in the early weeks of the fall 2008 semester.

The NCAA infractions report comes nearly four months after officials from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi presented their response to the NCAA Committee on Infractions. The hearing held Dec. 5 in Kansas City dealt with alleged violations in women's volleyball, men's tennis, men's basketball, and the reporting of income earned outside the University by athletic department staff.

"At this point, we are looking forward to continual improvement of our intercollegiate athletic program," Killebrew said. "Athletics at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi continues to gain strength, and our focus is on ensuring that the best and brightest student-athletes do well in the classroom, on the court and in the field."

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EDITORS/REPORTERS: The University has created a link on its Web site home page (www.tamucc.edu) that provides the following documents for viewing and downloading:

- Media Release
- NCAA Infractions Report
- NCAA Enforcement Staff Case Summary, Case No. M289
- Response to the NCAA Notice of Allegations

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