

## **SPECIAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

### **Hockey**

The UMC Hockey Program participates in the Mid-West Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA). Current members of the MCHA include; Northland College - Ashland WI, Lawrence University - Appleton, WI, Marian College - Fond du Lac, WI, Milwaukee School of Engineering – Milwaukee, WI, and Finlandia University - Hancock, MI.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is a NCAA Division II institution and does not have an option to participate in Division II Hockey because the NCAA does not recognize hockey championships at that level.

The UMC Hockey program applied for and was accepted to participate in the Mid-West Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA) in 1998 and has participated for the past eight years. Since that time, the MCHA membership has developed and shared concerns regarding UMC's membership.

Anytime MCHA members and other Division III schools participate in a contest against UMC, the game is classified as a "no-contest" in regards to pair-wise rankings therefore, credit is not given to the member institutions competing with UMC. Of the 23 small college hockey programs in the Mid-West – 22 are NCAA Division III members while UMC participates as a Division II member.

NCAA Division III does not grant the MCHA conference an automatic bid to the national tournament because it was formed after 1996 (after the grandfather period) and has to go through the Pool B process, which is also known as the "pair-wise ranking" system.

Regarding goals and objectives, UMC will not obtain a bid to the national tournament because UMC is Division II affiliated. Those that compete against UMC Hockey will not receive credit for participation.

Because of growth in the league and the conflicts listed above; the membership has discussed at length the probability that action will be taken to remove UMC from the MCHA. A decision/vote is scheduled to take place by spring of 2007.

If UMC were to be eliminated from the MCHA, there would be two alternatives possible. (1) Participate as an independent program and (2) Initiate approval to move to a NCAA Division I program.

By participating as an independent program UMC would face many difficulties in recruiting students, travel, scheduling, and retaining student athletes. Requesting approval to move to Division I is fraught with barriers.

One way to avoid being omitted from the MCHA is to shift all UMC athletic programs to the NCAA Division III level or remain a Division II member and review the possibility of eliminating the hockey program at UMC.

<b>Hockey Advantages/Disadvantages Listing</b>			
<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Cost</b>
30 student-athletes	\$150,000.00	Expensive Sport	
Popularity of sport in community & region		Hockey Budget operating & recruiting	\$51,000.00
Tradition at UMC		Spent	\$63,337.28
Male Sport offering		Ice rental Budgeted	\$13,000.00
		Spent (will increase to \$25,000 2006-07)	\$16,000.00
		Salary Head coach/Fringe	45,650/9,735
		Assistant coach	5,000/435
		Total cost of program	\$140,157.28
		Deficit spending	-\$18,337.28
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$158,337.28</b>

**Comments:**

- No Division II Conference
- Travel costs associated w/MCHA WI & MI travel
- No National Playoffs
- Arena Facilities inadequate
- No showers
- Locker room space is limited
- Seating capacity is 1200

**Equestrian**

The NCAA News states that the NCAA committee on women’s athletics believes there is no evidence of enough growth in the sports of handball, rugby, synchronized swimming, archery, badminton, and squash to keep them on the emerging sports list.

The committee did note and agree that Equestrian should remain on the emerging sport list because of its sponsorship and growth in recent times (NCAA News, October 24, 2005 – Vol. 42).

*Emerging Sport* is defined by the NCAA as one that provides additional athletic opportunities to female student athletes.

Institutions are allowed to count emerging sports towards the NCAA minimum sports sponsorship requirements and minimum financial aid awards.

The article also stated that unquestionably, Title IX opened doors in terms in making athletic opportunities available to women. The NCAA’s decision to designate selected sports as emerging sports for women has helped generate significant opportunities for female student athletes.

**Practice Times and Scheduling Difficulties**

Difficulty in scheduling practice has become a greater frustration for coaches and students in recent years. The best interest of the student athlete is suffering because available time for practice is becoming consistently more inconvenient and unreasonable due to class conflicts. Classes are now scheduled during the “prime” practice hours, where in the past an allotted time span of three hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. was open to accommodate varsity sport practices, club meetings and other student-related interests. The addition of more adjunct faculty, limited lab availability and insufficient staffing in some areas on campus has added to

the increasing scheduling problems. The scheduling problems affect student's ability to balance the responsibilities of academics and athletics.

## **Gender Equity**

(Information by Valerie M. Bonnette, *Good Sports, Inc., Title IX and Gender Equity Specialists*)

"Title IX" refers to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal civil rights statute that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs, including athletics programs, that receive or benefit from federal funding. Since nearly all educational institutions benefit from federal funding, nearly all educational institutions must comply with Title IX. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) within the U.S. Department of Education is responsible for enforcing Title IX. The federal regulation implementing the Title IX statute became effective July 21, 1975. On December 11, 1979, OCR issued an Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Interpretation (Policy Interpretation) to clarify the Title IX regulatory requirements for athletics programs.

The 1979 Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Interpretation divides athletics issues into three major categories to be analyzed for compliance: sports offerings; scholarships; and everything else, which includes 11 program areas. The three categories are:

1. Accommodation of Interests and Abilities; UMC women's sports additions since 1998 are as follows: Soccer, Golf, Equestrian, and Tennis).
2. Athletic Financial Assistance; UMC offers scholarships in women's athletics programs with the exception of the emerging sport, equestrian.
3. Other Program Areas
  - equipment and supplies;
  - scheduling of games and practice time;
  - travel and per diem allowances;
  - tutoring;
  - coaching;
  - locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities ;
  - medical and training facilities and services ;
  - housing and dining facilities and services ;
  - publicity;
  - support services; and
  - recruitment of student-athletes.

The 1979 Policy Interpretation provides that as part of this determination, OCR will apply the following three-part test to assess whether an institution is providing nondiscriminatory participation opportunities for individuals of both sexes:

- Whether intercollegiate level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments; or
- Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes, whether the institution can show a history and continuing practice of program expansion which is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex; or

- Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes and the institution cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion, as described above, whether it can be demonstrated that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.

The UMC Administration and Athletic Department has made a commitment to gender equity. A survey completed in 1998 and as a result UMC has in the last six years added the following women's athletic programs: soccer, golf, equestrian, and tennis to accommodate the interests of female student-athletes. In 2003 the UMC Administration hired the first female athletic director who at that time was the youngest female athletic director in NCAA II. UMC need to continually work on scholarships, budgets and salaries of athletic administration and coaches to ensure gender equity.

### **Additional Information**

#### **The Importance of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR)**

In the October 24, 2005 issue of NCAA News, an article titled *Division II Faculty Charged with Ensuring "Balance"* stated that Division II Faculty Athletic Representatives (FAR's) drafted a mission statement urging FAR's to play "a strategic role to ensure academic integrity, facilitate institutional control of intercollegiate athletics, and enhance the student athlete experience." They also urged that FAR's must collaborate with the President and appropriate constituencies "to provide significant leadership in the governance of intercollegiate athletic programs." NCAA President Myles Brand said that FAR's play an integral role in the collegiate sports model. First he said, faculty are responsible for ensuring that athletics are aligned with the university mission. Brand said "athletics are a part of the university and ancillary enterprise. The mission of college sports cannot differ from the mission of higher education."

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