

# WASHINGTON STATE

## UNIVERSITY

### COMPLIANCE NEWS

October 11, 2013 – October 17, 2013

#### **RECRUITING CALENDER**

##### Baseball

Oct 11 – Oct 17: Contact Period

##### Men's Basketball

Oct 11 – Oct 17: Contact Period

##### Women's Basketball

Oct 11 – Oct 17: Evaluation Period

##### Football

Oct 11 – Oct 17: Evaluation Period

##### Cross Country/Track

Oct 11 – Oct 17: Contact Period

##### Women's Volleyball

Oct 11 – Oct 17: Contact Period

#### **Tip of the Week**

##### **Comments Before Commitment**

Before the signing of a prospective student-athlete to a National Letter of Intent or an institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or before the institution receives his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission, a member institution may comment publicly only to the extent of confirming its recruitment of the prospective student-athlete. The institution may not comment generally about the prospective student-athlete's ability or the contribution that the prospective student-athlete might make to the institution's team; further, the institution is precluded from commenting in any manner as to the likelihood of the prospective student-athlete committing to or signing with the institution.

NCAA Bylaws 13.10.2

**As Always, Please Remember to Ask Before You Act!**

### WSU Compliance News

#### **SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

- The Special Assistance Fund will be available beginning next week Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Coaches please inform your student-athletes to come to the Compliance Office for application forms.

### **NCAA News: Texas A&M President Violates NCAA Rule with Tweet to Recruit**

Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin received a talking-to this summer after he inadvertently committed a secondary NCAA infraction by tweeting a top football recruit, according to documents obtained by The Eagle.

On June 14, Loftin — who is known not just for his colorful bow ties, but also student engagement and active social media use — tweeted out a seemingly innocuous message: "Enjoyed meeting you yesterday during your visit to #TAMU." Loftin has 26,640 followers on Twitter.

The target of the tweet was 16-year-old Jordan Davis, a 6-foot 4-inch, 250-pound tight end from Clear Lake, who tweeted back, "Yessir it was nice meeting you #gig'em."

Davis visited College Station on June 13 and committed to A&M that same day; he also met Loftin. According to [247sports.com](http://247sports.com), the four-star rated Davis is the highest rated tight end recruit who has committed to the Aggies since Martellus Bennett in 2005. Davis is set to join the team in December 2014 or May 2015.

Loftin's tweet was a violation of NCAA bylaw 13.10.2, which states that "a member institution shall not publicize (or arrange for publicity of) a prospective student-athlete's visit to the institution's campus...."

David Batson, Texas A&M's director of athletics compliance, said an athletics department staffer caught the tweet, which was later deleted by Loftin. Batson said Loftin, who has sent out nearly 5,000 tweets, simply didn't know the NCAA rule.

The self-imposed action by A&M, which they reported in July to the SEC, meant that Loftin was informed about NCAA rules prohibiting the publicizing of a prospect's visit to campus, according to e-mails and the A&M-generated report passed on to the NCAA. The Eagle obtained the documents through the Texas Public Information Act.

It is unclear if the NCAA will take any additional action. An NCAA spokeswoman said she could not answer the question; a different NCAA spokeswoman said to ask A&M. Lesser infractions are processed through the Southeastern Conference office, and Batson said he had not received a letter back from SEC Commissioner Mike Slive.

Still, Batson said he doesn't expect the infraction to carry any additional penalty.

Batson was tasked with disciplining the person he reports to: Loftin. Batson said it was the first infraction Loftin had committed and described the A&M president as receptive and remorseful.

"[Loftin] takes compliance very seriously," Batson said. "He took it very well. He said, 'Well, write me up. Report me. I messed up.'" Loftin — who announced his resignation in mid-July, saying he wanted to return to teaching at his alma mater — declined to comment for this story.

Some universities publicize the number of minor NCAA infractions, but Texas A&M does not. Batson said A&M typically reports 20 to 40 inadvertent secondary violations annually. The minor violations are caught because A&M actively self-polices to stay compliant with the NCAA, Batson said.

"It's just a technical, very minor violation," Batson said of the tweet. "If this was something widespread or something over and over and over again then it may be a different story, but this is one occasion, and, given the circumstances, a very minor issue... When you have the abundance of rules we deal with, those mistakes will happen."

Michael Buckner, an attorney with Florida-based Buckner law firm, which represents colleges and universities, agreed that Loftin committed a very minor infraction.

"These types of violations are common," Buckner said. "Persons at universities sometimes do not know about the specific rule or forget about it ... This is something I'm not sure was intentional and is something that could happen with any senior campus administrator that has an active engagement with students."

"The NCAA rule book is very thick. It has a lot of rules and sometimes people from the president or chancellor all the way down to a regular staff member are sometimes not aware of all the rules. That's why the NCAA has a category for minor violations." David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports management at Ohio University, had a similar take. He said no violation is acceptable, but that plenty are unintentional.

"[Loftin] is colorful and he probably thought he was doing a favor and made a mistake; It does happen," Ridpath said. "It has to be looked at in proper context. He is probably duly embarrassed and it won't happen again."

## COMPLIANCE QUIZ

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1. Institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability MAY be reduced or canceled during the period of the award for which of the following
  - A. An injury, illness, or physical or mental condition that prevents the recipient from participating in athletics.
  - B. The student-athlete renders himself or herself ineligible for the intercollegiate competition.
  - C. For any athletic reason.
  - D. A student-athlete voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons.
  - E. Both b and d.
2. Which of the following may be sent to a prospective student-athlete during his or her sophomore year of high school?
  - A. Questionnaires.
  - B. Game programs.
  - C. Media guide.
  - D. All of the above

## Telephone Reminder

October 11, 2013 – October 17, 2013

### **All Sports (except Football and Basketball)**

- Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> before the senior year – **One Call Per Week**

### **Football**

- Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> of the senior year – **One Call Per Week**

### **Men's Basketball**

- Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup> at the completion of the sophomore year – **Unlimited Phone Calls**

### **Women's Basketball**

- Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup> at the completion of the sophomore year – **Unlimited Phone Calls**

## Compliance Website/Social Media

October 11, 2013 – October 17, 2013

- Compliance Website – <http://www.wsucougars.com/compliance>
- Compliance Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/WSUCompliance>
  - Compliance Twitter – <http://twitter.com/WSUCompliance>

## Compliance Quiz Answers

October 11, 2013 – October 17, 2013

Answers to Compliance Quiz:

1. E) Both b and d
2. A) Questionnaires. 13.4.1; 13.4.1.1



Scoop Sheet is distributed every week to all department staff members. If you would like to receive a hard copy in lieu of the email version, please contact Rachel at 5-2006 or [ncaa.compliance@wsu.edu](mailto:ncaa.compliance@wsu.edu). If you would like to include news or information in the next Scoop Sheet, please send it to Rachel via e-mail or by other means before 12:00p.m. Thursday October 17, 2013