

Atlantic 10 too confusing, Ivy League too simple

In my last "Gripes," I tried, and probably failed, to describe how the Atlantic 10 Football Conference is organized and how its system of confusion involved five other conferences.

The Atlantic 10 was the first conference I looked at as I prepare to follow the 2004 college football season. I decided to start with NCAA Division I-AA football this year because I was becoming disenchanted with Division I-A and wanted to try something simpler. Boy was I fooled.

The Atlantic 10 is a mess and made worse by changes for the upcoming season, but enough about them.



greg stover

• greg's gripes

On the opposite end of the confusion scale is the Ivy League, the second Division I-AA conference I looked at. It has a simple organization. It has eight schools and all of them play football in the Ivy League. Each team plays a 10-game schedule, seven conference games and three non-conference. Nice and

simple, so why do I have gripes?

As I said, Ivy League teams play 10 games when nearly every other team in Division I-AA play 11. I think all teams playing at one level should play the same number of games. Plus, with a 10-game schedule there is a good chance one or more teams will end their season 5-5, neither a winning nor losing season.

I think players would rather not play a whole season just to break even. This peeve also applies to Division I-A now that most of those

teams play a 12-game schedule.

Another gripe I have with the Ivy League is that they don't play in the national playoffs. Granted, since the league is not known as a football power, there is little chance for one of its team to qualify. However most teams, at any level, will "have their day in the sun" just as the University of Pennsylvania did last season. The Quakers went 10-0, winning their second straight league title.

Pennsylvania finished No. 12 and was the only undefeated Division I-AA team in the final 2003 USA Today/ESPN football poll, but was not among the 16 teams in the national playoffs.

So now I've griped about a conference that is too complicated and one that is too simple. Will I ever be happy? Probably not, but I do have hope. I just believe that schools should compete within their own conference for all sports. For those schools with football in a conference that doesn't sponsor it, the best solution is get with others in a similar position and form a football-only conference.

Each team playing at a certain level should play the same number of games. All teams who qualify should participate in the playoffs, but I also believe each school has the right to decline post-season play

for whatever reason.

Some readers may wonder why I concentrate on college football and not the pros. I stopped paying attention to professional football after the second players' strike in 1987, which — with the absurdity of its players-versus-owners contract negotiations — convinced me to find the real football spirit elsewhere.

Division I-A football is starting to lose its luster for me as well, but as I said, I have hopes.

Last season was my first reporting on high school football so its too early for me to offer any opinions about it for now.

Baseball fund-raiser Tuesday

Pizza Hut, 1803 Cherry Ave., is taking part in a fund-raiser next Tuesday to benefit the Goodland Baseball Club.

Pizza Hut will donate 20 percent of its proceeds that day to support the club and its programs. To order a pizza, or other item from the menu, for delivery or

carryout call (785) 899-3661.

The first practice along with the parents' meeting for Goodland's American Legion baseball team will be 6:30 p.m. next Thursday at Centennial Park.

For more information about either subject call John Dautel at (785) at 890-7426.

music program

MUSIC, from Page 1

Cole Knitig, Makayla Loya, Yidam Mendoza, Dalton Moser, Bianca Olivas, Kaitlynn Raile, Jordan Siruta and Dayne Webring.

Stone's students are (morning class) Ethan Black, Amber Chaffman, Grace Cole, Mason Fritz, Hunter Harkins, Sarah Johnson, Mario Lazo, Jose Ledesma, Dominick Lewis, Aubrey Pershall, Jade Petrach, Braxton Redlin, Austin Shelley, Jacob Stasser, Teryn Tompkins, Alyssa Wear, Sophia Williams and Samantha Zupko.

The afternoon class Phillip Carver, Alinexis Castillo-Lozano, Daniel Cepeda, Ussiel Gallegos, Lindsey Gessseka, Chandler Gibbs, Brevin Gough, Perla Guzman, Rheagan Hageman, Austin Hernandez, Marco Magana, Katlyn Seeger, Janessa Selby, Zackery Walls and Riley Wilson.

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