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Tougher academic requirements proposed

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• Imagine what would happen if your university's football players not only had to meet NCAA academic requirements but had to mirror the academic qualifications of your university's student body as a whole. Imagine what would happen if they had to maintain a 2.0 grade-point average to stay eligible to play. Those are two of 28 proposals put forward recently by a group of professors from 55 major college football schools. "If these proposals were implemented at most schools, most of the problems currently associated with intercollegiate athletics would disappear," said **Nathan Tublitz**, co-chair of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics and a biologist at the University of Oregon.

Only four of the Coalition's proposals require new NCAA legislation, and most of the others could be implemented through the NCAA's certification process, which is designed to ensure that athletics departments operate with integrity and in accordance with basic standards. "We are already in conversation with the NCAA and are meeting with them next month," Tublitz said.

Meanwhile, the Coalition is encouraging individual university faculties to begin implementing or pushing for reform measures at their campuses. Georgia's faculty senate belongs to the Coalition, as do the faculty senates of every SEC school but Florida, Kentucky and LSU. The only ACC members are Duke, Florida State, North Carolina and Wake Forest. All 28 proposals and more information about the Coalition may be found at [www.neuro.uoregon](http://www.neuro.uoregon.edu/~tublitz/COIA/index.html)

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• Versus, cable hiding place for NHL telecasts and niche events like the America's Cup and the Tour de France, will show 18 college football games in 2007. The home teams will be from the Pac-10, Big 12 and Mountain West, but the schedule opens with a game of interest to ACC fans: Virginia at Wyoming at 2 p.m. on Sept. 1.

• **Jordan Cameron** is transferring from BYU to Southern Cal. What makes it interesting: Cameron redshirted as a swingman on the Cougars' men's basketball team and plans to play tight end at USC.

• Michigan has never played a Division I-AA team. Now, I-AA is called the "Football Championship Subdivision," and the Wolverines are playing one of its teams, but they're not exactly taking things easy. The opponent is Appalachian State, with 13 offensive and defensive starters returning from a team that won a second consecutive I-AA title.

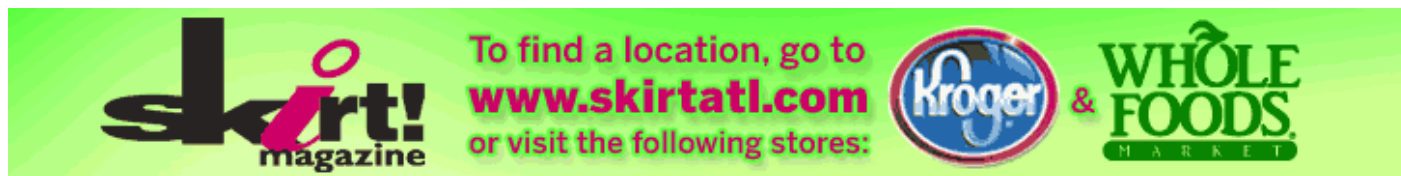
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