## COVER STORY

To get a better perspective on this sue, it's important to look at what each anization offers. The differences

ave at least a 2.0 GPA in high school ore curriculum courses. If not, they can't

ic requirements in part, but has serio

30 for new scholarships. A total of 70 scholarships, which includes the 30.

scholarships. Allowed a total

ce they are in school. Athletes must could have more control over our pro- fore, it makes sense that Proposition 48 is the Missouri Intercollegiate Athlet umulate at least 12 credits a term and gram," explains Billy Joe, CSU head really designed for the large schools who Association joined us in trying to block cir eligibility is certified each term. football coach and athletic director. "Our have had those kinds of problems. the passage of Proposition 64. We're In school year and they are certified of the NCAA's limitations on the number hard-pressed to recruit enough quality not giving up on it. I've got my finger

when they joined the NAIA last May. \$15 to \$20 million a year. With that kind Moorman emphasizes that colle Eligibility: The NAIA has a tighter 48. leges haven't had problems with athletes, only ones," he says. "There are a lot of stem for monitoring athletes' academics "We had to make the move so we being abused and not graduating. There- white schools concerned about it. In '86'

ore the start of their athletic season. of athletes who can get financial aid." athletes to play Division I black colleges crossed

CIAA

CONTINUED

and Kentucky State are believed to be taking a hard look at making such a

Because of the public focus on college sports and academics, the NAIA is viewed by some as a "dumping ground" for athletes who can't hack it in the classroom. Some feel it's only a matter of time before a Proposition 48 type measure is passed by the NAIA. "Our Council of Presidents have discussed adopting a similar measure," admits Charlie Eppler, NAIA communications director. "There is a lot of concern because there is the perception by some of our people that we're looked down on because we have no entrance requirements. However, the NAIA contends that it's up to the individual school to decide who's admitted, regardless of whether they are athletes or not."

Not having entry requirements doesn't mean that the NAIA is soft on academics, asserts Thomas Feld, president of Mount Mercy College and chairman of the NAIA Council of Presidents.

"Most of our thrust has been to ensure that once in school, athletes are on course to get their degree," Feld says. "we don't have a Proposition 48 equivalent yet and I don't think we will move in that direction. but -- you just never know.

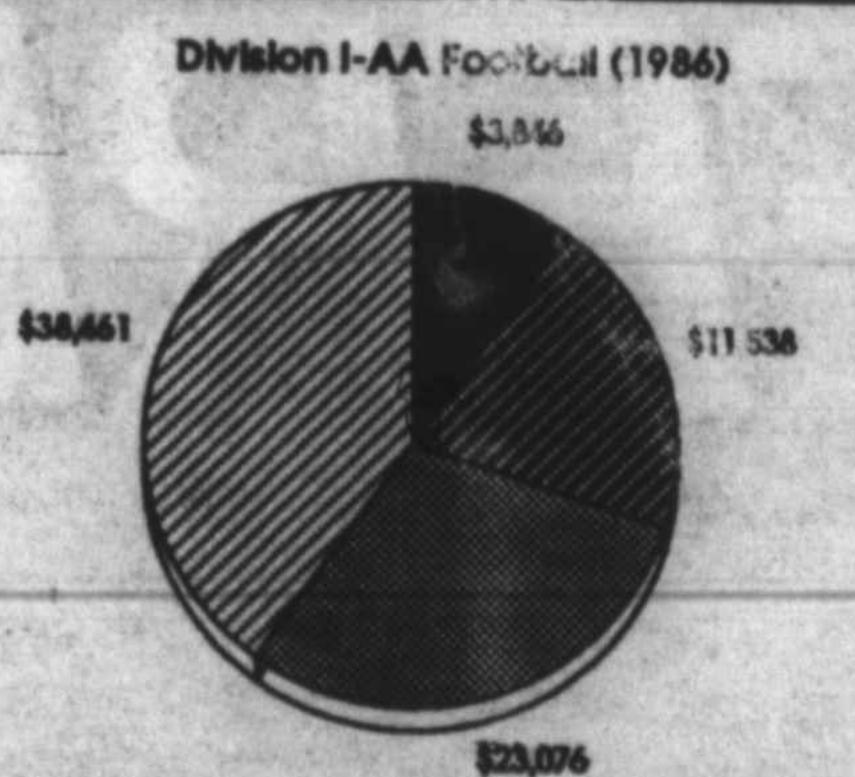
"We will continue to strengthen ou emphasis on people graduating once they are in school and see how that works after a couple of years. Many of our schools have open admissions and we don't want to interfere with that."

Feld doesn't see the "dumping ground syndrome" engulfing the NAIA as many have forecasted. A marginal student who wants to play major college sports, he explains, is more likely to attend a community college or junior college in order to bring his grades up to become eligible to play.

Historically, the NAIA has been very accommodating to black colleges. The NAIA opened its doors when the NCAA wouldn't. However, there is one view that the NCAA can better serve black college sports because of increased media exposure and public notoriety.

"From a black college perspective says Wallace Jackson, Alabama A&M sports information director, "we must compete at the highest available level. Black colleges suffer from a lack of media exposure, not level of competi-

For example, there's little doubt that in the '50s and '60s, the black college football titans like Grambling, Tennessee State and FAMU would have had excellent chances to whip the Penn States, Georgias and LSUs of that day -- had they been allowed to play. So when black colleges only played against one another, they never gained the full respect of their white counterparts. Black college sports was and still is considered below par by



How the money is spread: championshir game: \$38,461 per school; semi-finals: per school; first round: \$3,846 per school. Schools participating in Division I-A football bowl games receive 75 percent of the

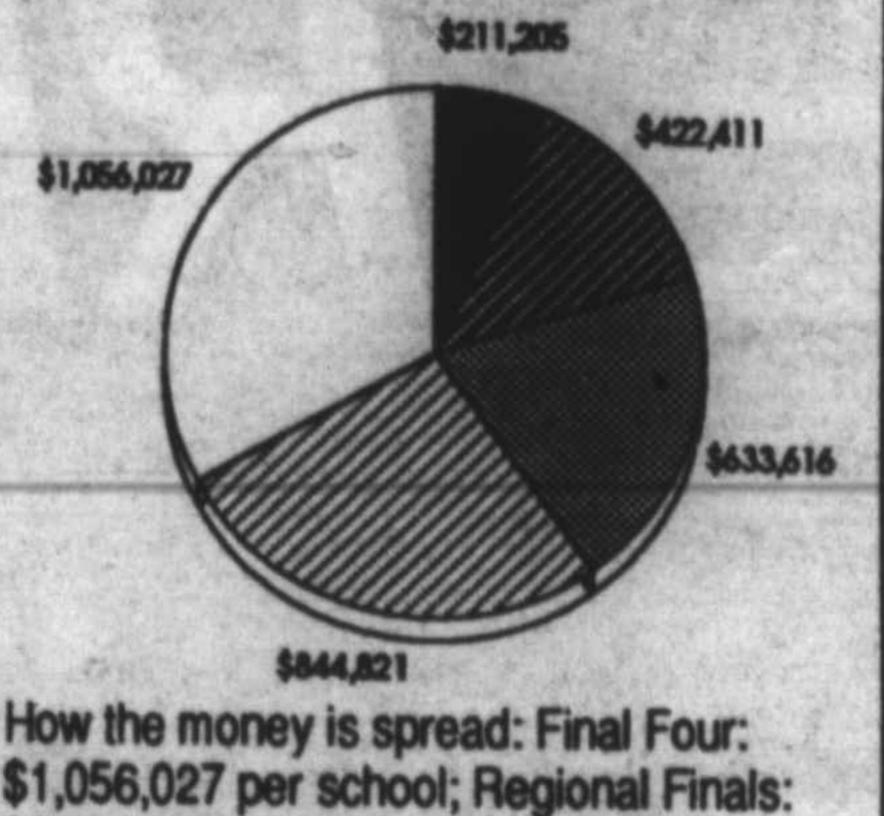
And now that most black colleges are NCAA, Jackson feels there won't be any enormous advantage," Corbett says. mass defections to NAIA. "There are a number of black college presidents who are integral members on NCAA committhe troops to bring the changes we want. out. But that will become much easier to do once more black college sports officials begin moving into the NCAA's inner

Jackson State head football coach W.C. Gorden is adamant about the Tigers bring to JSU will adjust, survive and pro- ing a bigger paycheck from the NCAA. and plan strategies for the future."

mising academic excellence for the sake tually lost to Louisville in the finals. school. And besides, there's no guarantee higher academic standards of their own."

has, economics is also a prime factor for there. colleges staying in the fold, explains Don Corbett, head basketball coach at North Carolina A&T.

A&T is a member of MEAC, a Division I conference. The MEAC champion gets an automatic berth in the NCAA



Division I Men's Basketball (1987)

\$1,056,027 per school; Regional Finals: \$844,821 per school; Regional Semi-Finals: \$633,616; second round: \$422,411 first round: \$211,205.

the school still comes out ahead moneywise. "Financially, the NCAA provides an money that was available at that time.

Last season, the Aggies earned \$211,000 for their first-round tournament for CSU. appearance. Like most conferences. tees," he says. "Personally, I feel that a lot MEAC has a revenue-sharing plan where of Division II schools are overreacting to post-season playoff money is divided has received for going NAIA, Joe is thorthe NCAA's academic guidelines. It's as if among conference members. A&T's take oughly convinced that the move was right martial law was declared. We had the was approximately \$90,000. "We don't for his athletic program. "What I like opportunity to cast our votes and we were come anywhere near that figure in ticket about the NAIA is that whatever you do defeated. Now it's a matter of marshaling sales during the season," Corbett points for regular students, you can do for your

There are sentiments, however, that question how beneficial it is for a black college basketball program to receive windfall income at the expense of losing consistently by big margins.

That's what normally happens. The remaining in the NCAA, regardless of MEAC and SWAC champions are almost - cational opportunity for the disadvanacademics. "We have no desire to go always seeded the lowest, which means taged. back," he insists. "We'll just continue to they face the heavyweights of college bastry and recruit athletes who meet the aca- ketball. Obviously, the pairings greatly demics requirements. My faith is very diminish the chances black schools have strong that the black athletes we try to of advancing to the next round and draw-

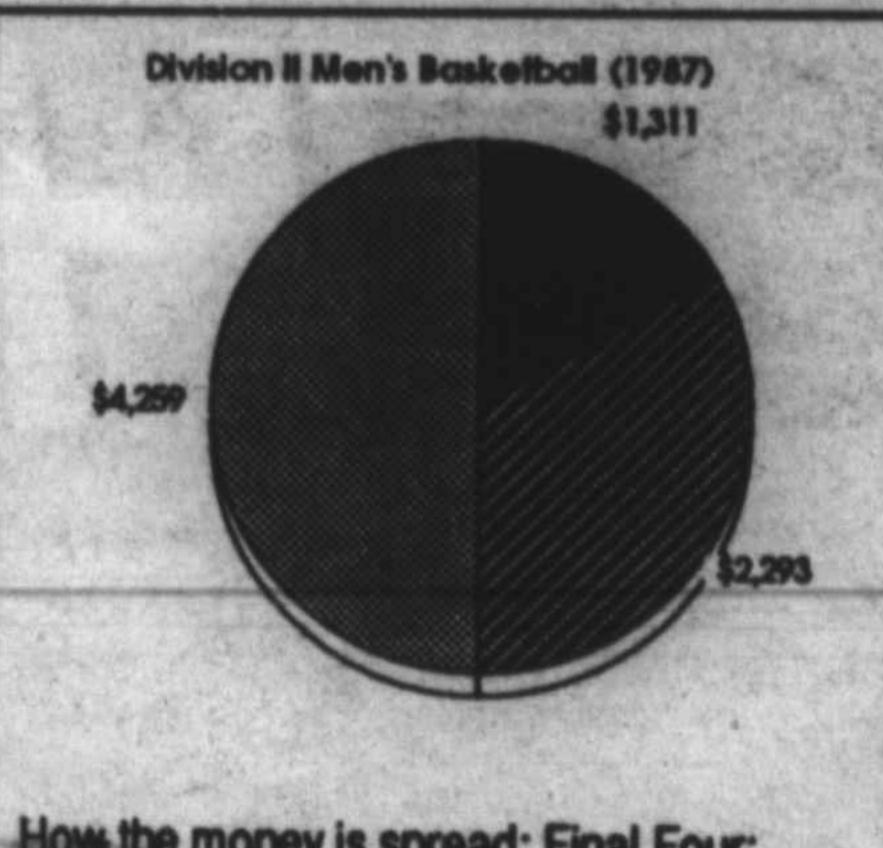
duce the test scores and GPAs. History

Alcorn State was the first black coltells us that we've survived all the other lege to play in an NCAA Division I bas- team CSU has a 2.63 GPA. Running back tests put before us. Black people have ketball tournament in 1982. A black col- Alvin Street was a first-team GTE Alllearned to deal with the inevitable now lege has yet to win a first-round game, America. Street is a finance major with a although Alcom came oh so close in '84, 3.8 GPA. He's being courted by many of The NAIA is not a viable alternative losing 57-56 to powerful Kansas. Missisin Gorden's mind. Making such a move, sippi Valley State did the same two years 1 draft choice in the NFL. he says, implies that a school is compro- later, bowing to Duke (85-78), who even-

of competing. "You wind up relegating That bit of history doesn't faze Cor- remains to be seen. CSU was able to yourself to recruiting inferior academic bett, whose teams have appeared in six decide quickly and decisively because students," he says. "In the long long run, straight NCAA tournaments. Division I they don't belong to a conference. If other the good athletes won't come to your black schools have the automatic berths to black colleges change over, it may take go, so why not compete? he asks. "It's just longer because they'll have to go through that the NAIA won't come up with some like the days of segregation when blacks the debates that go along with a confercouldn't eat in certain restaurants or stay ence vote. Aside from the prestige the NCAA in certain hotels. We have a right to be

> "We've got to maintain our Division quest until we fight through the barrier and get past the first round. It's going to happen at some point."

Joe is knowledgeable about what the tournament, which means that win or lose, Central State joined the NCAA in the first drop athletics completely.



How the money is spread: Final Four: \$4,259 per school; second round: \$2,293 per school; first round: \$1,311 per school.

The NAIA offers no payouts for post-season play. Teams are reimbursed for playoff

place was because of the television With the television funds no longer there, the NCAA has more minuses than pluses

In spite of the criticism Central State student-athletes," Joe says. "You can't say that about the NCAA."

Joe doesn't buy the notion that NAIA schools are stacked with good athletes who are poor performers in the classroom. And anyway, he adds, most black schools were founded to provide an edu-

"We're admitting the same kinds of students we always have," the CSU coach stresses. "Some have good grades and some are high-risk students."

On this past season's Marauders' squad grades weren't a problem. As a the major corporations as if he were a No.

Whether or not any black colleges follow Central State into the NAIA

But regardless of whether or not schools remain in the NCAA or rejoin NAIA, changes are in order as they seek methods to stay within the mission of the black colleges and remain competitive in the athletic arena.

If that can't be done, don't be sur-NCAA has to offer. The only reason that prised if some black schools are forced to