

UCSD athletic director Judith Sweet named first female NCAA president

January 10, 1991

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL NOON (PST) FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Media Contact: Bill Gannon, Sports Information, (619) 534-4211 or Pat JaCoby, University Communications, 534-7404

UCSD ATHLETIC DIRECTOR NAMED FIRST WOMAN NCAA PRESIDENT

Nashville, Tenn.--Judith Sweet, director of men's and women's athletics at the University of California, San Diego, today became the first woman president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the first president from a Division III school since the three division structure was established in 1973.

Previously NCAA secretary-treasurer, she was elected to the new post by delegates to the national NCAA convention at the conclusion of a four-day meeting here today. Her term is for two years.

Sweet has been director of athletics at UCSD since 1975, when she was one of the first women in the nation selected to direct a combined men's and women's intercollegiate athletics program. The UCSD program involves 23 varsity teams, with an almost even distribution of men's and women's teams. Since joining the NCAA in 1981, UCSD teams have won 11 national championships and 15 other teams have been national runners-up.

Sweet was elected secretary-treasurer of the NCAA in 1989-- the first woman to serve in that position. For the past two years she has been involved in some of the most important work the NCAA has handled, including distribution of the \$1 billion CBS-TV contract for the men's basketball tournament and working with a committee in reshaping the membership structure of Division I. Sweet served from 1986-88 as Division III vice president, the presiding officer of that division. She first began serving on panels within the NCAA committee organization in 1980, and by 1983 was named to the policy-making NCAA Council.

The NCAA president presides over the annual convention, giving the position extensive influence over the order of the annual agenda. The president also is a member of the council and the NCAA Executive Committee, the group with final word on all expenditures. The NCAA is the governing body for most of the nation's intercollegiate athletic programs, and has nearly 900 member institutions.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Sweet is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where she majored in physical education and mathematics and served as president of the Women's Recreation Association and national president of the Athletic and Recreation Federation of College Women. She earned a master's of science degree from the University of Tucson and a master's of business administration from National University, San Diego.

In addition to her NCAA work, Sweet has served on the board of trustees of the U.S. Sports Academy, the board of directors of the Council of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators, and the board of directors of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics. Last year she was selected by the Los Angeles Times as the Top College Sports Executive of the 1980's.

(January 10, 1991)