



National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

Dear Football Fans:

Your support of intercollegiate athletics, and other activities programs offered by your favorite college or university reflects your belief in the young men and women who are being educated on our great campuses for leadership in tomorrow's world. Your attendance here today has important meaning for both the institutions involved and the participants.

There is nothing quite like the pageantry and excitement of American college football. It is the strong feeling of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics that football and other sports are an integral aspect of the Institution's total educational program. Over 70,000 student-athletes are annually involved in the varsity sports programs in the NAIA's more than 500 member institutions. We are very pleased that the Fall football program provides the vehicle for alumni and community involvement on campus, as well as a robust and desirable activity for the students.

The NAIA strives for a well balanced and comprehensive program of activities - one that meets the needs and interests of the total student population. Currently the NAIA conducts 15 national championships in 14 different sports. Women's championships and a Women's Division have been added to the NAIA program effective 1980 - 81, by vote of the membership.

The 1980 season marks the third year of a NAIA football playoff format that assures eight teams in Division I and eight teams in Division II an opportunity to compete for coveted national titles in each division. Texas A&I won the 1979 Division I crown, narrowly edging Central Oklahoma 20 - 14 before 9,300 fans in the nationally televised Palm Bowl in McAllen, Texas. The Palm Bowl attendance was more than double that of any other 1979 football playoff game among teams competing below the major level. Findlay College of Ohio, a finalist in 1978, exploded for a 51 - 6 win over Northwestern of Iowa in the 1979 Division II final game.



LeRoy T. Walker

I echo the sentiments of our entire membership when I say thanks to you for your loyal support in helping make today's football game an outstanding athletic competition in the best tradition of American higher education. Return often. Welcome to today's game and congratulations on being a participant in an event that is associated with the best features of American life.

LeRoy T. Walker
North Carolina Central University
President, 1980 - 81
NAIA

DIVISION II

Area 1—Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming

Area 2—Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah

Area 3—Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin

Area 4—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

1980 PLAYOFF DATES

DIVISION II

Quarterfinals — Saturday, November 22
Semifinals — Saturday, December 6
Championship — Saturday, December 13

DIVISION I

Quarterfinals — Saturday, December 6
Semifinals — Saturday, December 13
Championship — Saturday, December 20

SELECTION OF TEAMS

- Teams must declare their intent to participate in the NAIA championship football program by October 1.
- Teams must be ranked in the top 12 in the last regular-season weekly rating (Nov. 7 for Division II, Nov. 14 for Division I) to be considered for the playoffs.
- The top-ranked team from each of the four geographical areas (in each division) within the top 12 is automatically selected for the playoffs.
- The next four highest-ranked teams, **regardless of geographic area**, and not already selected, complete the eight-team field.
- No more than two teams from the same conference (within the same division) are selected for the playoffs.
- Teams may be paired according to geographic proximity to each other for the first round (quarterfinals) and members of the same conference would play each other in *quarterfinal or semifinal rounds*.
- Teams with four or more non-winning games will not be selected for participation in the playoffs.