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## UNH Named in Top 20 of U.S. News and World Report's First Annual College Athletics Ranking

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UNH News Bureau

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DURHAM, N.H. , The University of New Hampshire has been named one of the top 20 universities in the country in U.S. News and World Report's first annual college athletics ranking.

The top 20 Honor Roll recognizes schools that did well across several categories, including graduation rate, gender equity, win/loss records and number of sports offered.

All 321 colleges and universities in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division I were surveyed for the 2000-2001 academic year.

UNH's graduation rate for athletes was specifically noted. The graduation rate for UNH student athletes is 80 percent. Other colleges in the top 20 include Stanford University, College of William and Mary, Georgetown University, Duke University and Syracuse University.

UNH athletes consistently rank high in the nation for their academic accomplishments, according to Marty Scarano, UNH athletic director.

"There is a long history and a deep commitment for our student athletes to perform well in the classroom as well as on the field," he says. "In 2000, our athletes were ranked best in the classroom among America East competitors, winning the Academic Cup with an average GPA of 3.02.

"While steadfastly adhering to high standards in academics, UNH athletes are competitive in their athletics programs both regionally and nationally, as

evidenced by our current number, one ranking in men's ice hockey," Scarano notes. "This honor from U.S. News and World Report is affirmation of all the hard work and dedication of our student athletes, coaches and administrators. We are justifiably proud of this distinction."

The rankings hit the newsstands yesterday. The cover story package also includes articles discussing each of the ranking categories, anchored by a story on the breadth and complexity of big-time college athletics programs and the athletic director's modern-day role that resembles the job of a corporate CEO.

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