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Coppin State Ejection Summary

The following is a summary of the incident surrounding the ejection for fighting of #8 Styles from Coppin State's game during week 7 against the Delaware Gamecocks.

The Referee for the game was Steve Kinney who during a phone interview informed the NCFA that #8 for Coppin State (Nicholas Styles) was blocked cleanly on a play very late in the 1st half. At the end of the play and without provocation, #8 unexpectedly started swinging punches at the opposing player and even at one point took off his helmet and raised it over his head in an apparent attempt to instigate the opponent to fight him. Mr. Kinney said that the officials feared #8 was going to start swinging his helmet as a weapon. Mr. Kinney stated that while trying to break up the fight one of his officials was struck directly in the face by a punch by #8. Mr. Kinney stated that it was his opinion that #8 was NOT trying to hit the official but rather the opposing player.

Nicholas Styles was ejected from last year's NCFA National Championship Game for fighting and was issued a 1 game suspension to start this season.

The NCFA has issued Nicholas Styles a 3 game suspension which means he won't be eligible to play again until the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championship Game should Coppin State qualify. This suspension was broken down as 1 game for fighting, 1 game for being a repeat offender, and 1 game for striking an official. While striking the official was deemed an accident by the Referee, this accident occurred due to Mr. Styles' failure to control his emotions and conduct himself with the level of sportsmanship expected of all NCFA student athletes. Had Mr. Kinney felt that this punch had been intended to hit the official, Mr. Styles would be looking at a much more severe suspension and possibly a lifetime ban from the NCFA. Mr. Styles cannot be on the sideline or on the field during the games while serving his suspension. He may continue to practice with the Coppin State team if the team so desires.

Sandy Sanderson
Commissioner
National Club Football Association