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IMPORTANT APRIL RECRUITING DATES

- 4-1:** Football final signing date for National Letter of Intent
- 4-3:** SAT registration postmark date for May 6th test
- 4-8:** ACT Test
- 4-12:** Basketball initial signing date for National Letter of Intent
- 4-12:** All other Sports initial signing date for National Letter of Intent
- 4-12:** SAT late Registration postmark date for May 6th test
- 4-28:** SAT registration postmark date for June 3rd Test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Ryan Goodman – Greater Latrobe – Wrestling
Brian Newmeyer – Greater Latrobe – Baseball
Jon Emert – Ligonier Valley – Football
Stefen Firmstone – Mt. Pleasant Area – Wrestling
Harlen Funk – Mt. Pleasant Area – Football
Mike Sawlsville – Mt. Pleasant Area – Football
Brittany Miller – Hopewell – Soccer
Teddy Mathis III – Canon McMillan – Track
Brad Rodgers – Norwin - Football

NCAA News

College Board Finds Thousands of Incorrectly Scored SAT's

A major scoring error on the SAT offered in October 2005 resulted in more than 4000 students receiving artificially lower scores, according to the College Board. About 600 students received scores that were too high, but the College Board says those scores will not be adjusted.

The testing agency said the company it sub-contracted with to scan the tests did not fully evaluate 27,000 of the nearly 500,000 exams. The computer error was at least partially blamed on "abnormally high moisture content" in some of the answer sheets.

The College Board said it would inform all colleges affected by any revised SAT scores.

Colleges Say SAT Mistakes May Affect Scholarships

At many colleges, dozens of administrators say the biggest impact of the mistakes made by the College Board in scoring the October SAT will be on eligibility for scholarships, not on admissions decisions. Schools make it a common practice to award students scholarship money based on their standardized test score. A high SAT or ACT score can mean thousands of dollars in free aid at many universities. Though a spokeswoman for the College Board says they do not encourage that practice, they recognize the reality.

According to an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a professor at Penn State University conducted a study last year that showed schools in 7 of 14 states polled offered merit scholarship programs based on SAT scores to determine awards, usually along with students' grade point averages. In the same *Chronicle* article, Christine Halloran, an assistant director of admissions at the College of New Jersey, called the scoring revisions a "nonevent" in terms of admissions because much of the decision-making "is based on the strength of the academic transcript." But she said that under the state's merit scholarship program, which is tied closely to how students perform on the SAT, about five students would receive better scholarships because the board had raised their October scores.

The New Jersey program offers a sliding scale of scholarships that depends on a student's class rank and SAT scores. In-state students in the top 5 percent of their graduating classes, for example, are eligible for full tuition, room and board, plus a laptop computer, if they earn a combined score of 1,500 to 1,600 on the math and reading portions of the SAT. If their scores are from 1,450 to 1,490, they receive tuition, a laptop and a \$2,000 stipend; from 1,400 and 1,440 they receive \$6,500 and a laptop. Those with lower scores receive less. Franklin and Marshall College, in Lancaster, Pa., which does not have a set cutoff for scholarship eligibility but takes the SAT scores into account, had one applicant whose score correction of more than 300 points meant the difference between a \$5,000 scholarship and one worth \$12,500!

Here is an example of how the recruiting of an athlete is affected. The *Chronicle* tells the story of a star lacrosse player in New York who received letters from more than 50 colleges last year. He was particularly interested in the University of Massachusetts, which has a strong lacrosse program. But coaches there told him that his spring SAT scores were not high enough, and he needed to raise them about 100 points to be considered. When he took the October SAT, he thought he had done well — until he got his scores. The results forced him to shift his search to other colleges, and he was accepted by the New York Institute of Technology, last year's national Division II lacrosse champion. Two weeks after making his decision, the athlete was told his October SAT was underscored by 170 points. "It was definitely upsetting," the athlete said. "People make mistakes, but this was a big one."

US Government Deals Title IX a Blow

The U.S. Department of Education has ruled that colleges can continue to rely on e-mail surveys of their students to prove that female athletes have enough opportunities to take part in sports -- and that the institutions are thereby complying with a key federal gender-equity law.

The ruling is a blow to advocates of Title IX who feel trying to gauge interest in sports via e-mail is passive at best and that many women will not take the time to reply and make their feelings known.

We first reported on this policy last year in the *Prospector*.

In a report delivered to Congress in March, department officials affirmed that a college or university is permitted to use results from a single e-mail survey to measure demand for women's sports. Previously, the department required colleges to meet stricter guidelines to prove they were complying with Title IX law, which bars sex discrimination at institutions receiving federal funds and requires, among other things, that men and women have equal opportunities to play college sports.

In defending its position, the Education Department said colleges and universities consider many factors when assessing whether they are providing enough opportunities for women, including levels of participation on intramural teams. It also said that colleges that rely on student surveys to prove they are in compliance with federal law are just as likely to add teams as colleges that use other means to show they are providing enough opportunities for female athletes.

Women's-rights advocates criticized the report's findings. The NCAA has also asked colleges not to rely exclusively on electronic surveys when measuring interest in women's sports. In a statement a lawyer for the National Women's Law Center said an e-mail survey was a "fine tool" for colleges to use in combination with other ways of assessing demand for women's sports, but alone it's not reliable enough. We'll see if this is the final word. A court appeal is possible. We will keep you posted.

State and Local Per-Student Spending Is at 25-Year Low

Despite a 3.5-percent increase in spending on higher education, state and local support per student hit a 25-year low in the 2004-5 fiscal year, according to a report published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The analysis, by a national association that represents state higher-education officials, found that growth in inflation and college enrollment had negated the upswing in spending on public universities. With enrollment and inflation factored in, per-student support actually decreased by 1.9 percent, to \$5,833 in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2005.

During that time, tuition increased by 7.7 percent per student.

This turnaround is quite amazing from just four short years ago.

At that time, state and local higher-education spending reached a 25-year high. In 2000-1, local spending amounted to \$7,121 per student, as measured in 2005 dollars. But since that time, enrollment has expanded by 14.3 percent, while inflation climbed by 14.2 percent.

Universities claim the cuts in state spending have caused them to scramble to make up the widening gap between receipts and expenses. Spiraling energy and health care costs plus less support from state governments have caused schools to consistently raise their "sticker prices" to families.

When will the current cycle end?

It might help to know that, despite the dire evidence over the past five years, state and local spending on higher education has generally held steady over the last 25 years, with temporary lags during recessions. But the report also shows that, over the last decade, state and local governments have not collected taxes at the rate they once did. The effective state and local tax rate -- tax revenues as a share of the state's total taxable resources -- has decreased from 9 percent to 7.8 percent. Tax-rate reductions and abatements, passed during stronger economic times, have made it difficult for public spending on colleges and universities to keep up with student demand for higher education when financial times have not been so robust.

Most observers agree the trend will reverse at some point but few will go out on a limb and predict when. If there is one thought to take away from this basic economics lesson, it should be that parents should do all they can to actively market their child-commodity to improve the odds of finding as much financial aid as possible and not count on the local, state or federal governments to bail them out anytime soon.

That's where we come in!

Johnny Can't Read? Report Says Not Very Well

Only 51 percent of last year's high-school graduates who took the ACT examination had the reading skills they needed to succeed in college or job-training programs, the lowest proportion in more than a decade, according to a report released last month by ACT, Inc.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, only 21 percent of black students, 33 percent of Hispanic students, and 33 percent of students from families with annual incomes below \$30,000 were prepared for college-level reading, the report said.

The report, which was prepared by ACT Inc., the nonprofit Iowa-based organization, is based on the scores of 1.2 million high-school students who took its college-entrance test.

Among other things, the report found that students' reading skills did not develop throughout their high-school years. According to ACT, the percentage of students who were on track to mastering "complex" reading assignments was higher in the eighth and 10th grades than in the 12th grade. More than half of the states in the USA define reading standards only through the eighth grade.

The report also said that a student's ability to read at a college level affected his or her performance in a range of subjects, including English, mathematics, and science.

ACT has also found that students who are ready for college-level reading are more likely than other students to enroll in college immediately after graduating from high school, to earn higher grades in college, and to return to college for their sophomore year.

We have confirmed with the NCAA that they have made a rare mid-year change in the Recruiting Calendar regarding when telephone calls may be made by Division I college coaches to high school juniors. For background, last year the NCAA changed the "General Rule" for the first phone call to prospects in all sports except football and men's & women's basketball to be made in the month of March of the prospect's junior year of high school.

At the most recent NCAA Convention, the Association changed the time period for the General Rule and the one for Men's Basketball, effective immediately. Here is the new rule:

In sports other than football and basketball, telephone calls to a prospect [or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may not be made before July 1 following the completion of the prospect's junior year in high school; thereafter, staff members shall not make such telephone calls more than once per week. (Revised: 1/9/06)

In men's basketball, an institution is permitted to make one telephone call per month to a prospect [or the prospect's parents or legal guardian(s)] on or after June 15 of the prospect's sophomore year in high school through July 31 of the prospect's junior year in high school. An institution is permitted to make two telephone calls per week to a prospect [or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s)] beginning August 1 prior to the prospect's senior year in high school. (Revised 1/9/06)

The phone call rule for football and women's basketball DID NOT CHANGE and remains as follows:

In Divisions I-A and I-AA football, one telephone call to a prospect [or a prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may be made during the month of May of the prospect's junior year in high school. Additional telephone calls to a prospect [or a prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may not be made before September 1 of the beginning of the prospect's senior year in high school; thereafter, such telephone contact is limited to once per week outside of a contact period. During a contact period, such telephone contact may be made at the institution's discretion.

In women's basketball, one telephone call to a prospect [or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may be made during each of the months of April and May of the prospect's junior year in high school. One call may be made on or after June 1 through June 20 and one call may be made on or after June 21 through June 30 of the prospect's junior year in high school. In addition, only three telephone calls to a prospect [or the prospect's parents or legal guardian(s)] may be made during the month of July following the prospect's junior year in high school, with no more than one telephone call per week; thereafter, staff members shall not make such telephone calls more than once per week.

It's unusual for the NCAA to make a rule change like this "effective immediately". Usually, they wait until August 1 of the current year before making changes effective so institutions have time to prepare for them, but that is not the case this time.

Keep in mind, you as a potential prospect can call coaches at your expense whenever you wish.

CPOA News

College Signings

The following CPOA PA clients have recently signed with the following schools:

Nate Kriger – Kiski Area – Duquense – Football
Bill Emmerson – Kiski Area – Benedictine College – Football
Ryan Radebach – Kiski Area – Robert Morris – Football
Clark Hoopes – Greater Latrobe – Robert Morris – Football
Jordan Kozik – Valley – Washington and Jefferson – Football
Karly Hresko – South Allegheny – IUP – Soccer
Marisa DeSalvo – Freeport – West Liberty – Volleyball
Tim Pliska – Norwin – Grove City – Baseball
Frank Nagy – West Shamokin – Penn State Behrend – Basketball
J.D. Gardner – Trinity – Washington and Jefferson - Football

In the News

Ryan Goodman –Greater Latrobe HS was crowned the 152lb PA State Wrestling Champion.

Stefen Firmstone – Mt. Pleasant Area HS qualified for the PA State Wrestling Championships at 189lbs.

Tony DeStefano, Greater Latrobe recently returned from a successful recruiting visit to Virginia Tech University.

Cassie Nath – Ligonier Valley HS named athletic student of the month for February.

The following CPOA PA clients will be attending the MSL Football Combine on April 8th at Cupples Stadium:

Jake Gibas – Greater Latrobe
Mike Sawlsville and Jake Hoffer – Mt. Pleasant
Adam Lewis – Ligonier Valley

Matt Olshewski will be in Europe Wrestling during the month of April.

CPOAPA Softball Showcase

Mark your calendars for June 20th, 2006 as this date will mark the 1st Penn – Ohio Women's Softball Showcase. The event will be held on the campus of Washington and Jefferson College. NCAA coaches from PA, Ohio, Maryland, New York and West Virginia have been invited.

Details on the camp are listed in the article below. Times of the event and registration specifics will be forthcoming this month.

CPOAPA to produce Showcase Camps in 2006

CPOAPA has partnered with **NEHSS/Top College Prospects Recruiting Showcase (TCP)** and will be running Showcase camps in Western PA this spring, summer and fall. Camps will include Softball, Baseball, Lacrosse and Soccer. These showcase camps will be open to all Western PA athletes.

Each TCP showcase includes 3 different parts - Speed Timing, Fundamental Skill Evaluation, and a Simulated Game Experience. Obviously, each showcase is customized for a specific sport. As an example, the Softball Showcase begins with baserunning drills and timing, has a combination batting practice/fielding practice, includes a pitching evaluation (including radar gun evaluation) and ends with a simulated game. Every player is guaranteed playing time!

Additional Features of an event:

Talent Evaluation:

Staff and Invited College Coaches evaluate participants during drills and game situations. Drills are developed and selected based on input from College Coaches -- giving them the opportunity to assess specific areas of fundamental ability Game situations enable our Staff and College Coaches to assess a student's talent in the flow of actual competition.

Example of Drills: Softball - Baserunning (Home to 1st, 2nd to Home) INF/OF Drills, Batting Practice

Example of Game Situations: Students are guaranteed at least 3 at bats and pitchers are guaranteed the opportunity to pitch to at least 6 batters.

Evaluation Report:

Information collected from the showcase, as well as academic, athletic and contact information provided by each student is combined to create a basic report. Students can forward the report to schools (by the student) to help start each student's visibility with college coaches! This report includes evaluation of fundamental areas (example - a Softball Pitcher is evaluated on 19 different fundamental areas!) that a student may use to understand what areas require refinement and development.

Recruiting Seminar:

Recruiting Tips - Each parent is offered the opportunity to hear a 60 minute seminar on the Recruiting Process. This seminar will provide parents with important insights into the the recruiting process. Armed with this information, parents will be able to start the recruiting process!

CPOA teams with Champion Lakes Golf Resort

Any organization or group (min. 4 individuals) wishing to play Golf at one of the areas premier courses, can take advantage of this special offer by calling Dale Gregoritch of Champion Lakes @ 724-238-5440 and mentioning that they were referred by Martin Rock of College Prospects of America.

GOLF OUTING INFORMATION FOR:

SCHOLASTIC/NON PROFFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Champion Lakes Golf Club will donate \$5.00 per golfer to the representative organization on any outing played on Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday (before noon), holidays excluded.

We will provide the following:

- Shotgun Start (depending on the size of the outing)
- Permissible to bring “donated” beverages
- Driving Range available
- On-site over-night accommodations at a reduce rate to those participating in the outing.
- Halfway house/beverage carts for snacks etc.
- Golf rates w/cart - \$39 weekdays & \$44 weekends (18 holes)

OVER-NIGHT GOLF PACKAGES

Valid Sunday, Monday & Tuesday nights – Holidays excluded)

THE BILL MAZEROSKI DOUBLE PLAY

- Unlimited Golf w/Cart for Two Days
- On-Site Bed & Breakfast Accommodation
 - Full Breakfast
 - Lunch
- \$5.00 donation to organization
 - Price: \$140.00
 - (\$120. Oct. 15th thru May 15th)

THE JERRY LYNCH THREE BAGGER

- Three days of golf w/cart
(2 unlimited at Champion Lakes)
 - 18 Holes at Partner Course
(Hidden Valley Golf Club, Tom’s Run Golf Course, Donegal Highlands)
 - Two Nights of Accommodations at on-site Bed & Breakfast
 - Two Complete Breakfasts
 - Two Lunches
 - \$5.00 donation to organization.
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- Reservations Required
 - Over Night Accommodations based on Double occupancy
 - Tax & Gratuity Not Included

CONTACT SHEETS

Remember to keep track of all questionnaires, calls, etc from college coaches with the contact sheets found in your STUDENT PACKET. Email me at martin.rock@cpoapa.com if you need additional copies!

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

Every CPOA PA Student-Athlete has received a NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete as part of the STUDENT PACKET you received when you joined the

program. In this guide, you find instructions on how to apply for your NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse Number. Eligibility is based on what core courses have been completed, SAT scores and overall GPA in core courses. NCAA approved core courses, by high school, can be found at <http://actrs7.act.org/ahs>.

STUDENTS APPLY FOR THEIR NCAA ECN AT THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REVIEW ELIGIBILITY AS EARLY AS THE SOPHOMORE YEAR TO ENSURE THE CORRECT COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED! For more information about the process, email martin.rock@cpoapa.com for a NCAA Guide or call 888-ASK-CPOA (CPOA Program Members Only).

INTERNET UPDATES

If you have update information for your Internet profile, please forward to martin.rock@cpoapa.com. Remember that you automatically receive (2) two free updates per year. If you've upgraded your program to receive unlimited updates you can send updates every day/week if you'd like. Updates take approximately 72 hours to be made online.

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Do you know of a high school student athlete with the ability to perform at the collegiate level? A teammate from high school? Club team? From the newspaper? If so, contact your CPOA representative at martin.rock@cpoapa.com and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$25 referral fee!**

Season End Updates

Attention fall sport athletes, your season end update forms which were mailed to you are **now overdue**. There are hundreds of coaches out there awaiting an update on your stats, awards and accomplishments from the past season. Please complete these and return to your CPOA representative immediately.

RECRUITING SEMINARS

CPOA Pennsylvania is planning to conduct several recruiting training sessions over the next few months. These sessions will include the basics of the recruiting process, how to choose the right college, review of NCAA rules and regulations, and how to best navigate this important process of college selection. Please let us know if you have interest in hosting one of these sessions for your teammates (students/parents) or teams/booster clubs (coaches).