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## IMPORTANT APRIL RECRUITING DATES

- 4-1: Football (regular) final signing date for National Letter of Intent  
4-11: Basketball (late) initial signing date for National Letter of Intent  
4-11: All other sports (late) signing date for National Letter of Intent  
4-11: SAT late registration postmark date for May 5<sup>th</sup> test  
4-14: ACT Test  
4-27: SAT Registration postmark date for June 2<sup>nd</sup> test

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

- Collin Laffey – Mt. Lebanon – Tennis  
Josh Hemminger – Derry Area – Football  
Laura Kennedy – Ligonier Valley – Soccer  
Stephen Martinkovich – North Allegheny – Baseball  
Dylan Nowe – Greater Latrobe – Basketball  
Jeff Yunetz – Greater Latrobe – Basketball  
Aaron Hassett – Moon – Football  
Katrina Kelly – Connellsville – Soccer  
Shaun Shetka – New Brighton -Soccer

## 2007 CPOA PA College Signings

- Matt Riddle – Kiski Prep – Football –University of Dayton  
Elizabeth Robinson – Greensburg Central Catholic – Soccer – Duquense U.  
Ryan Goodman – Greater Latrobe – Wrestling – West Virginia  
Maurielle Blake – Freeport – Soccer – Carlow College  
Steven Moyemont – Mt. Pleasant Area – Football – Clarion  
Alex Bearer – Mt. Pleasant Area – Football – Duquense  
Ashley Bates – Greater Latrobe – Soccer – Chatham College  
Andrew Armstrong – Trinity – Baseball – University of Charleston  
Brent Heckel – Greater Latrobe – Football – Waynesburg College

Jessica Berardino – Peters Township – Softball – Muskingum College  
Mike Deems – New Brighton – Baseball – Thiel College  
Stefan Firmstone – Mt. Pleasant Area – Wrestling – Washington and Jefferson College

## **NCAA News**

Starting in 2007-08, the University of South Dakota will make it's debut as a Division 1 program making the jump from Division 2 for it's exploratory year in 07-08. The first official D1 season will begin in 08-09

**The University of New Orleans** released a strategic plan February 7 that calls for the addition of men's and women's soccer, men's swimming and diving, and softball within the next five years. The institution suspended nine of its 15 intercollegiate sports after Hurricane Katrina. The strategic plan offers two options, including one that would add the three programs and restore men's and women's tennis, women's golf, and women's cross country. A second, less expensive option would restore the tennis programs, women's golf, women's track and field, and men's and women's cross country. Officials hope to generate enough funding to choose the first option

**Kutztown University of Pennsylvania** will add women's lacrosse and women's bowling beginning with the 2007-08 school year, bringing the number of varsity sports at Kutztown to 23

**Principia College** is putting the finishing touches on a 15 million dollar athletic center.

**Riverland Community College** will field a softball team for the first time in three seasons this spring.

The **College of St. Scholastica** (D3) has named its first football coach in its 95-year history. Greg Carlson, former head coach at Wabash College in Indiana and currently a defensive line and linebackers coach for the Los Angeles Avengers of the Arena Football League, will lead St. Scholastica's new varsity football program. St. Scholastica will field a team in the fall of 2008.

## **BEING RECRUITED FOR THE IVY LEAGUE**

Some sports have a higher priority. Yes the football team and basketball team seeking a top recruit might get a little extra when it comes time to recruit a top player that the coach really wants.

Coaches are recruiting players from all over the country. Ivy league coaches will go to the 4 corners of the earth to find players that can gain acceptance to their school and have an impact on their athletic program. So not only are you competing with recruits in your own backyard, you are competing against recruits in Canada, England and every other country in the world.

Despite your academic talent and/or record in high school, there is a significant chance you do not get accepted simply because there are too many people applying to these colleges. Harvard, Yale and Princeton traditionally receive about 20,000 applications a year. Most of those applications come from talented well-qualified students many of whom will be rejected simply because there is not room to accept all 20,000 applicants. There was a rumor a few years ago that Yale rejected over 100 applicants that scored a perfect score (1600) on the SAT.

Since there is no national letter of intent at the Ivy League, college coaches will push early admissions as a way to secure your services and will also push you for verbal decisions. They may offer you a spot on their team but that offer might last a week or might last till you walk out of the coach's office where another player may be sitting in the waiting room.

Using the AI, athletic index, makes recruiting a bit easier because coaches know where certain recruits fall. The short version of the AI is that it is a ranking system that combines SAT 1 SAT 2 and class rank to give you a score. This AI is then compared to the mean AI's of non-athletes so the school has an idea of whom it is recruiting and the AI cannot deviate more than a set amount from the student-body. Ivy Football uses 4 bands for the AI to recruit and are allowed to recruit a certain number of players in each band. Since some schools are more competitive, teams have different AI bands, so Harvards lowest AI band is higher than say Dartmouth's lowest AI band.

Ivy coaches do not make admission decisions, admissions make admission decisions. Despite what the coach tells you, they may have little impact you your application when it comes time for admissions to review your application.

Your finances matter. Ivy schools claim they are need-blind but admissions and financial aid play a song and dance game with every applicant.

Early Decision matters. Harvard and Princeton recently dropped early decision but other Ivy schools still use it and some schools fill up to half their admission slots during the Early Decision application process. For the Dartmouth and Brown class of 2011, 120 early admits were recruited athletes at each University.

## **THE OTHER LETTER OF INTENT**

Many of you have heard of the National Letter of Intent, a legal document you sign with a university that signifies the awarding of athletic scholarship money and ends your recruiting process. All NCAA D1 schools and some NCAA D2 schools are members of the NLI. But there are also institutional letter of intents offered at schools that do not subscribe to the NLI...

From NCAA.ORG - An institution (including those institutions that do not subscribe to the National Letter of Intent program) may permit a prospective student-athlete to sign an institutional or conference letter of intent during the early signing period of the National Letter of Intent in those sports that have early signing periods; however, at the end of the early signing period, an institution may not permit a prospect to sign an institutional or conference letter of intent

until the regular signing period of the National Letter of Intent in the applicable sport.

## NAIA News

### **NAIA Names New President**

The new president of the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) says he will take steps to differentiate the smaller association from the NCAA, beginning with an emphasis on character.

Jim Carr, who worked as the chief legal counsel for the NAIA before assuming the role of president, says his association will never have the resources to compete toe-to-toe with the NCAA but there is a niche. He thinks he can attract much-needed corporate support and new members by emphasizing what he calls a "character driven" model of intercollegiate athletics.

Too often, Carr says, big-time college sports (read NCAA Division I) is known more for rampant spending, boorish fan behavior, and athletes who get in trouble with the law. By contrast, he says, most of his group's programs are lean, clean, and more focused on academics than athletics. "We're providing a strong model that's different than the entertainment-based model of the NCAA," Carr says. "And we believe there are more people out there willing to support us."

Spreading the NAIA's message is not easy. Many sports fans have never heard of the 282-member organization, which is made up of mostly small private colleges and universities. And those people who do know about it generally perceive it as inferior to the NCAA, which hampers recruiting. The NAIA has lost more than half of its membership since it peaked at 600 in the 1970s but the losses have slowed considerably over the past five years. Now that the NCAA has established a moratorium on growth at its smallest levels, Carr is focused on adding members, not on not losing them.

The "Champions of Character" program Carr has created encourages character-training seminars with an emphasis on sportsmanship. It even requires NAIA athletes to lecture to middle school age kids – and sometimes adult fans who get out of control – on the virtues of fair play. Before games, a player often stands up in uniform to urge the other participants, coaches, and spectators to act responsibly — no fighting, no taunting referees, no trash talk.

The NAIA is moving its national office from Olathe, Kansas to downtown Kansas City, MO to take advantage of foot traffic created by a new college basketball hall of fame and an 18,000-seat arena. The new president says the NAIA is in good financial shape, showing a modest profit for each of the past seven years. Still, observers point out the association's well-known penchant for loose rule enforcement and the inferiority complex as the NCAA's "little brother" among the hurdles still to clear.

Carr insists that the NAIA does not need additional members to have a strong presence in college sports. In fact, he says, he would rather see the association stay the same size or even become a little smaller than have members that do not share its principles. "Our primary mission and responsibility is to build people of character, to prepare young people for life as opposed to winning games," he says. "If you're not in it for that, you're not an NAIA school."

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## **CPOA PA News – Speaking Circuit**

- Mr. Rock will appear at the Chestnut Ridge HS on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM to deliver a seminar on HS Recruiting to the student body and their families.
- Mr. Rock will speak at Tom Alper's Kicking Camp on Monday June 18 at the Elizabeth Forward H.S.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:martin.rock@cpoapa.com) and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$50 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).