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IMPORTANT DECEMBER RECRUITING DATES

12-1 – SAT Test

12-8 – ACT Test

12-19 – Football (mid-year JC transfer) initial signing date for NLI

12-26 SAT Registration postmark date for January 26th test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Elena Reed – Soccer – Elk County Catholic HS

Jesse Smartt – Football – Southern Fulton HS

Jeff Kerila – Football – Greater Latrobe HS

NCAA News

NCAA Takes Over Clearinghouse, NLI Program

In early November, the NCAA Eligibility Center officially opened for business, assuming the responsibilities formerly handled by the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and the National Letter of Intent program.

As with any transition of this magnitude, there will be glitches in the system in the early going. But the NCAA through its web site stated the file transfers have been completed on schedule and the association is confident final certification for all athletes will be finished on time.

The National Letter of Intent program, with its early and late signing periods in November and April for most sports and in February for football and soccer, has long been under control of the Collegiate Commissioners Association. But the CCA ceded control of the program to the NCAA earlier this year.

Most fans probably wrongly assumed that the NCAA has sponsored the NLI program all along but, until the change over, the only connection was through NCAA member schools who subscribed to the Letter of Intent program. For most involved, this transfer will also be seamless since no substantive changes have been announced for the Letter of Intent.

Clients should remember that ACT and SAT test scores must be reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center by writing code 9999 on the exam. Scores can no longer be reported by the student's high school.

The new web address for the NCAA Eligibility Center (the former Clearinghouse) is <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>

Here is the remainder of the contact information:

NCAA Eligibility Center

P.O. Box 7136

Indianapolis, IN 46207

Customer service hours - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.

Toll-free phone number (U.S. callers) - Customer service line - 877/262-1492

Phone number (international callers) - Customer service line - 317/223-0700

Fax number: 317/968-5100

Financial Aid News

FAFSA Forms For Senior Clients To Be Filed In January

We will begin filing FAFSA forms for 2008 grads on January 2, 2008. We file forms in the order we receive them from clients, with priority filing assigned to those who submit the form to us prior to December 15.

This month, every client whose form we received prior to December 1st will receive a copy of their form as an acknowledgment that they have qualified for priority filing. This notification also gives parents an opportunity to revise the form before it is filed. We will, of course, make corrections to forms even after they are electronically filed, but it is always preferable to have correct data before filing the first time.

If the family doesn't complete the form properly there may be a delay until we can track down the data we need, but if they would make a similar mistake on the paper FAFSA and mail it in, it would be returned to them for completion and they would go to the end of the line for processing. That can be a six-week wait at peak filing time! Being a CPOA client definitely has its privileges!!

After we have filed for them, your clients will receive a paper copy of their electronically filed FAFSA as confirmation. Most families will have to do nothing more unless corrections are needed or they wish to add more colleges to receive their FAFSA data. If they need to make corrections or additions, we will take care of that for them upon request.

CPOA clients should call our office if they have any questions about the FAFSA. The process can be intimidating, but we will take the time to assure parents of the importance of going through the FAFSA process, even if they think they are not going to be eligible for need-based financial aid. Almost all colleges require the FAFSA in order to consider the student for ANY type of financial aid, including athletic or merit-based awards. You may call or e-mail if you want a status update on any of your clients who are entitled to electronic FAFSA filing by CPOA. One reminder you should always issue to your clients is to file early. It is not necessary for the parents or student to file their 2007 income tax return prior to filing the FAFSA.

CPOA News

Metro index football camp

The following CPOA clients attended the recent Joe Butler Metro Index mini camp at the UPMC Southside training facility on Sunday, December 2nd:

Ben Sollenberger – Northern Bedford
Shawn Faulk – Hempfield
Jake Gibas – Greater Latrobe
Jake Hoffer – Mt. Pleasant
Dan Sivak - Mt. Pleasant
Harlen Funk - Mt. Pleasant
Mike Sawlsville - Mt. Pleasant
Sammy LaCava – Plum
Jordan Eck – Rye

All prospects showcased their talents in front of 218 scouts representing colleges from South Carolina to Maine.

Congratulations to Clients

Allison Schroeder, a senior track and field athlete from Ottawa, Ohio, will have the opportunity to compete for the national Wendy's High School Heisman Award. Allison is in the pool to be one of 12 national finalists for the popular prep award. She was chosen among 32,000 applicants. Allison is a client of Elliott Baume's from

northwest Ohio. According to Elliott, the schools recruiting the state champion hurdler are a “Who’s Who” of the top academic and athletic universities in the nation. The Wendy’s finalists will be announced in December. One male and one female athlete will be selected in December as the National Wendy’s HS Heisman winner. In addition to winning the state 300M hurdles championship as a junior, Allison was All-Ohio in the 4-by-400 and 4-by-800 meter relays.

Marva Hall notes that a former client of hers, Lesley Irvine, who just completed her fifth season as head field hockey coach at Stanford University, was named Nor-Pac Conference Coach of the Year for guiding the Cardinal to the NCAA Tournament and their best season in six years.

In addition, another client of Marva’s, Camille Ghandi, a freshman on the Stanford field hockey team, was named Nor-Pac Conference Rookie of the Year after finishing in the top three in scoring on the team!

Tom Elias has nominated Meagan Brennan, a golfer at Ohio Northern University, to join the CPOA Wall of Fame. Meagan holds virtually all of the Polar Bears scoring records. The senior from Mason, Ohio, finished the fall portion of the schedule as a three-time medalist and made the All-Tournament team at five tournaments. Meagan will be a four-year letterman and four-time All-Ohio Athletic Conference performer for a team that is ranked in the top 20 nationally in NCAA Division III according to the GolfWorld/NGCA coach’s poll.

Congratulations to these clients on their accomplishments. If you have similar successes to report, e-mail your editor at tstarr@hughes.net.

“Undercover” Franchisee Experiences Recruiting Up-Close

Gary Kadow, our long-time franchise owner in Cleveland, Ohio, has assisted lots of outstanding student-athletes with the recruiting process for many years. Recently, however, Gary was part of an “up-close and personal” experience, as he puts it, “...when I tagged along with a friend and her daughter on an unofficial visit” as they toured the campus and facilities at a “mid-major Division I school”. To protect his sources, who were extremely forthright with Gary in their comments on the way they recruit, we will not identify the university.

Gary e-mailed his account to us last month. It’s a story best told in his own words with a few minor edits by us for layout purposes.

Sunday was Danielle's first visit to a college campus. She plays soccer and just entered her junior year. Danielle was her varsity team's leading scorer as a freshman and sophomore. This year, she tore her ACL and meniscus after the 3rd game, and has been totally depressed.

This being her first college visit, I tagged along with Danielle and her mom. We had a meeting with the coaching staff at 9 A.M. on Sunday at the school's soccer complex. After about 30 minutes with the coaches, we took a two-hour tour of the campus, and watched

*the team play a game against a conference opponent at 1:00 P.M. After the game, we were told to report back to the office for another meeting with the coaching staff. \ To make a long story as short as possible, we were shocked that the school is **READY** to extend an offer to Danielle immediately! Remember that she's just a junior and this is women's soccer! All three coaches were present in the meeting, and they told Danielle she is one of three forwards they will bring in for the 2009 class. The school is bringing in only five recruits overall. **They already have their list of girls narrowed to 17 for 2009, and are extending offers now to their "A" list kids. If any are not interested or cannot make a decision, they will move down their list of 17 to find a player to commit.***

Here is what is shocking, even after years of working at our business:

This mid-level Division I program had their 2008 class picked and verballed since NOVEMBER of 2006!! They are bringing in 8 prospects for 2008, and all of these girls committed verbally a year ago! All are still committed though they cannot sign a Letter of Intent until February 2008. The 2009 class is all but picked out now too. They wanted to lock up their 2009 class BEFORE Thanksgiving of this year. Keep in mind, these girls cannot sign on the dotted line until February of 2009, 15 months from now. This is a non-revenue sport at a mid-major Division I. Imagine what it's like at schools at the highest level of competition in this sport, let alone what it's like in football and basketball!

As we visited with the coaches, I continued to ask questions. One was how they got leads. They got most names of 2009 girls from sources like recruiting services AND kids they hand picked and noticed at summer tournaments this past season. They have an "active list" they look at that tops out at about 300 names. They weed those down to the core of people they need as they get personally evaluated by the staff.

I think the real moral of the story is, it is so IMPORTANT to try to get kids in CPOA as sophomores or sooner, especially if they have aspirations of playing at the Division I level.

We all read about football and basketball commitments for sophomores and juniors in the newspaper, but it is happening more and more in ALL sports at the top level.

If the athlete is already a junior – or worse yet a senior – they must understand how far behind they are. Clearly it is no longer just football and basketball players who are making the super-early verbal commitments, nor is it being done only at the schools in the power conferences like the Big Ten, ACC, SEC, Big 12 and Big East. It's taking place across the board at the Division I level.

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 \$50 referral fee!**

Season End Updates

Attention all 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).